

Friends of Worcester meeting minutes Meeting date: September 13, 2006

The May meeting minutes were approved as written and will be posted at friendsofworcester.org.

President's Report. Kim David welcomed everyone back from the summer break.

Contribution and Support. Barb McMonagle reported that we are still receiving a few contributions from the spring newsletter.

Fundraising/Hospitality. Our food tent at the Horse Show made about \$600.

Township Reports.

Board of Supervisors. The Board formally adopted Worcester's Open Space Plan. The township can now proceed to decide how to spend its allocation of the county's open space grant money. John Cornell was hired as the new township manager in July.

The owner of Fairview Auto in Fairview Village presented his idea to develop the 14-acre parcel with over-55 residential, a WaWa type convenience store, and a bank. FOW will write to the Board to suggest that this parcel be developed as a village concept instead, with small shops close to the street and an emphasis on pedestrian access.

Planning Commission. No report.

Zoning Hearing Board. Sparango Development Co. applied for a permit to demolish a historic house on North Wales Rd because they were denied a zoning variance to build a second home on the same lot. FOW opposed the variance and also the demolition.

A variance was denied to subdivide land owned by the Hecks on Wentz Church Road with setbacks less than the zoning requirements. The township is working with the landowners to enable the land to be subdivided without a variance and without the landowner demolishing the historic barn that sits on the parcel.

Joint Meeting. At the September Joint Meeting, the Board and Planning Commission discussed the order of plan review (whether plans should be submitted to the Planning Commission before a zoning variance is requested); discussed revisions to the sign ordinance; and discussed the progress of the Comprehensive Plan update. The Historic Structures Preservation Committee reported their progress on the proposed historic preservation overlay ordinance.

Newsletter. The fall newsletter will be started this month. Barb McMonagle will be stepping down from the newsletter committee due to her other commitments.

Outreach. In June, FOW and the Farmers Union Horse Co. worked together to stage the first Worcester Day in conjunction with the FUHCo's annual Horse Show. It was a day-long event featuring activities at several Worcester locations, including the Worcester Historical Society's museum, Merrymead Farm, and Willow Creek Orchards. The day ended with a picnic on the grass behind Community Hall, a display by the Worcester Fire Company, and a township-sponsored square dance.

The FOW/FLP Stormwater Workshop will be held on September 30. Barb asked that everyone let her know what they can bring for the refreshment table.

Website. No report.

Current issues.

Open Space Initiatives. The county Farm Board has made an offer to purchase the development rights on 105 acres of Willow Creek Orchards farm. The county and state Farm Boards have reduced the minimum acreage for this program to 35 acres. This could allow additional Worcester farms to qualify.

Historic Structures Preservation Committee. The committee heard a very informative presentation from a representative of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, who discussed various options for historic preservation. The committee is now reviewing historic preservation ordinances in other townships. A historic inventory is being created.

Administrative Assistant's Report. Over the summer, the Administrative Assistant worked on the Horse Show, the Photo Contest, Worcester Day, and the upcoming stormwater presentation.

New Business

1. Demolition of historic structures. In July, a historic brick farmhouse, barn, and corncrib on Berks Rd were demolished because the applicant did not inform the township that the buildings listed on the permit were historic. This highlights the need for a historic structures preservation ordinance in the township.

FOW 2006 meeting dates and upcoming events:

Meetings – Wednesday, October 11
 Wednesday, November 8

Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. at Bean Road Nursery (corner of Bean & Whitehall Rds.)

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Caughlan