

Friends of Worcester meeting minutes Meeting date: November 8, 2006

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

President's Report. We received a thank-you letter and a contribution from the Friends of Lower Providence for partnering with us on the recent stormwater workshop.

FOW has accomplished the goals we set for 2006. Everyone is asked to bring suggestions for 2007 goals to the January meeting for discussion.

Treasurer's Report. We reviewed income and expenses for the first 10 months of 2006 as compared to 2005. We also compared our 2006 budget to year-to-date actual expenses. Contributions will be tracked as to their source (spring and fall newsletters and the annual contribution letter).

Contribution and Support. A new mailing list was distributed, and Barb McMonagle divided up the list for a future phone chain.

Fundraising/Hospitality. The annual fundraising letter is targeted for January 15.

Township Reports.

Board of Supervisors. Residents of Weber Road presented complaints about traffic to the Board. Their requests included closing the road and installing speed humps. The Board is reviewing a recent traffic study of the intersection at Woodlyn Avenue and Valley Forge Road and will choose from the recommended options, which include closing Woodlyn Ave and making it one-way. The Board wants to see the trees on the west side of Valley Forge Rd preserved if at all possible.

Planning Commission. The Planning Commission is working on revisions to the sign ordinance.

Zoning Hearing Board. The Betz-Genstar application to operate a used car lot at the old Exxon station corner in Fairview Village was continued to the November meeting for a decision. Friends of Worcester's recommendations for conditions were forwarded to the Zoning Board for their consideration.

Joint Meeting. The next Joint Meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 4, at 9:30 a.m.

Newsletter. The committee thanked everyone who worked on the newsletter.

Outreach. It was suggested that we repeat the stormwater workshop in the early spring, perhaps in the evening instead of on a Saturday. Susan was asked to contact Friends of Lower Providence to see whether they are interested in partnering with us again.

Website. Recent additions to the website include the FOW survey and the White Paper on Open Space Preservation.

Current issues.

Open Space Initiatives. Nothing new to report.

Historic Structures Preservation Committee. The committee was asked to re-look at the draft demolition ordinance, to consider whether the township should be allowed to deny a permit or just delay it.

Another historic home and barn have been demolished – the Farley farm on Berks Road. The township attempted to work with the current owners to prevent demolition, with no success. The Historical Society tried repeatedly to contact the owners but were unsuccessful.

Survey Questions. The survey is printed in the fall newsletter and posted on the website.

New Business. A grant is available from the League of Women Voters to support watershed-related education and outreach efforts. Susan presented information to the Board for their consideration.

A discussion on the structure and function of municipal land trusts took place. Susan was asked to find out more information about this kind of land trust.

Administrative Assistant's Report. During October, the Administrative Assistant worked on the fall newsletter.

FOW 2006 meeting dates and upcoming events:

Meetings: None until January 2007

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

Holiday Potluck: Thursday, December 28, at 7:30 p.m. at the Hayes' home.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Caughlan