

## **Friends of Worcester meeting minutes      Meeting date: January 10, 2007**

The November 2006 meeting minutes were approved as written and will be posted at [friendsofworcester.org](http://friendsofworcester.org).

**Treasurer's Report.** We reviewed budget and financial information from 2006. A 2007 budget will be prepared by the officers and submitted for approval at the February meeting.

**President's Report.** Kim David welcomed several new attendees and thanked Wini and Rob Hayes for hosting a very enjoyable holiday party.

We discussed inviting our newly elected state representative, Jay Moyer, to a meeting to discuss and share our perspective on local issues of importance to FOW. Wini and Rob volunteered to invite Jay.

Kim David presented proposed goals for 2007, and a discussion followed. The goals were then approved, as were contributions to several nonprofit organizations that further FOW's mission.

Standing committees were reviewed and changes were made as necessary.

**Contribution and Support.** The annual fundraising letter is targeted for January 15.

**Fundraising/Hospitality.** Nothing to report.

### **Township Reports.**

**Board of Supervisors.** A township resident informed the board that she is considering donating a conservation easement on her 14-acre farm and asked whether the township would be willing to assist with some of the costs of the transaction.

The owner of the Worcester Golf Course informed the board that he is interested in selling the development rights on the golf course so that it can be preserved as open space. The board asked the township's Open Space Coordinator to work with the owner on possible preservation options.

The board reviewed a traffic study done on Weber Road following an earlier request by residents of that road. They also discussed recommendations for the traffic improvements at Woodlyn Ave and Valley Forge Rd.

**Planning Commission.** The Planning Commission reviewed revised plans for two developments: Hollow Rd and Meadow Lane (MJE builders), and North Wales & Morris Rds (Jojope LLC).

**Zoning Hearing Board.** The Betz-Genstar application to operate a used car lot at the old Exxon station corner in Fairview Village was approved with conditions.

T-Mobile has applied to build a cell tower on a farm at the corner of Berks and Bean Rds. The township ordinance allows cell towers only on municipally owned property. This tower will destroy the rural atmosphere of this area. FOW will monitor the status of the application.

**Joint Meeting.** The supervisors asked our county planner to look into the possibility of a trail ordinance that would require developers to provide for internal trails and/or connections to existing or planned trails, when appropriate. The sign ordinance was discussed. The next Joint Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 5, at 9:30 a.m.

**Newsletter.** The Newsletter Committee will meet to discuss a theme and possible articles for the spring newsletter.

**Outreach.** The committee will meet to discuss the stormwater workshop and will bring recommendations to the next meeting.

**Website.** The protected lands and development maps on the website continue to be updated. The Website Committee will bring to the next meeting goals and recommendations for website development in 2007.

**Current issues.**

**Open Space Initiatives.** The county announced its purchase of the 19-acre Rothenberger farm adjacent to Peter Wentz Farmstead, to buffer and expand the Farmstead. The county Farmland Preservation Program announced the pending preservation of the 100-acre Willow Creek Orchards, the first and only certified organic produce farm in Montgomery County, and also the 46-acre Schierenbeck horse farm. Currently, there are five Worcester farms ranked in the top ten in this program. New rankings will be issued in February 2007.

Worcester Township received a “Green Futures” Outstanding Achievement Award from Montgomery County Lands Trust for creative approaches to land preservation, including the recently enacted Growing Greener ordinances.

**Old Business.**

The survey is printed in the fall newsletter and posted on the website. Preliminary results were shared. The survey will be repeated in the next newsletter in order to get more responses.

In response to our “wish list” in the fall newsletter, FOW has received donations of a large coffee pot, a punch bowl, a projection screen, and several sets of saw horses. Thank-you notes were sent to the donors.

The WREN mini-grant application was reviewed and will be revisited when the Outreach Committee presents its proposal for the spring stormwater workshop.

**New Business.** FOW’s possible role in the township’s planning efforts for Fairview Village was discussed. It was noted that we need to focus on all our villages, not just Fairview. Susan was asked to draft a letter to the supervisors in support of a conceptual plan for all three villages.

Susan was asked to contact our insurance agent regarding a Health Department certificate for our food tent at the Horse Show.

**Administrative Assistant’s Report.** The Administrative Assistant produced the fall newsletter, handled donations, and kept the website updated.

**FOW 2007 meeting dates and upcoming events:**

**Meetings:**

Wednesday, February 14

Wednesday, March 14

Wednesday, April 11

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Caughlan