

## **Friends of Worcester meeting minutes      Meeting date: March 14, 2007**

**Review of Minutes.** Kim David clarified that Worcester Day is not a FOW event, and that the township will be asked to take on the organization of this community event. It was decided that FOW will have an information table at the WHS Flea Market on Saturday, May 5. The group agreed that FOW should send letters to a few landowners who have previously expressed an interest in land preservation, asking them to consider preservation as they plan for the future. With these clarifications, the February 2007 meeting minutes were approved as written and will be posted at [friendsofworcester.org](http://friendsofworcester.org).

**President's Report.** Kim David reported that the FOW Board of Officers will meet with representatives of the Heritage Conservancy to discuss how FOW can work toward land preservation in Worcester. Rob Hayes was asked to set up a similar meeting with representatives of Montgomery County Land Trust.

**Contribution and Support.** We continue to have a positive response to our annual contribution letter. Susan presented a map of the geographic distribution of our contributors in the township. The group discussed whether we should try to expand our pool of contributors. This question will be revisited in the fall. A suggestion was made to investigate accepting credit cards or Paypal, to make contributing easier. It was noted that the larger local organizations do not offer this option, possibly because of the cost.

**Fundraising/Hospitality.** Maria Amato and Don Atkinson visited all the advertisers for the spring newsletter and identified at least one additional advertiser for the fall newsletter.

### **Township Reports.**

**Board of Supervisors.** The traffic light at Woodlyn Ave and Valley Forge Rd is still under discussion. The board asked the Historic Structures Preservation Committee to suspend the ongoing historic survey so they could study the reasoning behind conducting such a survey. The committee will supply the requested information.

**Planning Commission.** The Planning Commission will be concentrating on updating the Comprehensive Plan. Some concerns were expressed that important ordinances, such as historic preservation and trails, could be forced to take a back seat until the Comprehensive Plan is finished. Susan was asked to write a letter to the Planning Commission, expressing FOW's concern that these ordinances not wait that long.

**Zoning Hearing Board.** Nothing relevant to FOW was heard at the last meeting.

**Joint Meeting.** Matt Schelly, our county planner, gave an overview of the newly completed Open Space Plan. Several minor changes to ordinances were discussed.

**Newsletter.** The newsletter is targeted for mailing in late April. Article topics were discussed.

**Outreach.** Several dates have been proposed for the stormwater workshop. The committee will meet to select a date and discuss the content of the presentation.

**Website.** The committee presented its goals and recommendations for 2007. They would like to post more community-related news and links, to bring visitors back to the website more frequently. A FAQs page was proposed for development in the future.

### **Current issues.**

**Historic Preservation.** Concern was expressed that discussion of the ordinance by the Planning Commission not wait until the Comprehensive Plan has been completed. FOW will communicate this to the Planning Commission. An article in the newsletter will be geared toward developing support for the historic resources survey.

Open Space. Donations of conservation easements were discussed, including how the township can facilitate them. Susan was asked to write to the Board of Supervisors to express FOW's view that the township should be willing to hold a conservation easement if a landowner wishes to donate one.

Other. Representative Jay Moyer will be invited to attend an upcoming meeting to discuss issues of interest to FOW, including open space, historic preservation, the slip ramp, and publicly owned property (such as Evansburg State Park, Grateford Prison, Norristown Farm Park).

**New Business.**

The application for a zoning variance on a 13-acre parcel on Kriebel Mill Road was discussed. Concern was expressed that subdivision of this parcel into two lots would allow future subdivision to subvert the Growing Greener ordinances. The availability of an alternative to subdivision was discussed. It was agreed that FOW would send a representative to the ZHB meeting to support the neighboring landowner's opposition to the variance.

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

Meetings:

Wednesday, April 11

Wednesday, May 9

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Caughlan