

Friends of Worcester meeting minutes Meeting date: April 11, 2007

Review of Minutes. Kim David asked for an update on Jay Moyer attending an FOW meeting. Susan Caughlan responded that she sent Jay an email invitation to attend our May 9 meeting. It was noted that once this is confirmed, we'll issue some special invitations to attend this meeting, and also get together some talking points.

President's Report. Kim David reported that the FOW Board of Officers met with representatives of Heritage Conservancy to discuss FOW's possible role in preserving some properties in Worcester. Heritage is able to hold conservation easements, something that would be difficult for FOW to do. FOW can be a beneficiary on the easement. The next step is a meeting with one or more supervisors to gauge their approval and possible participation in a proposal for a particular parcel. Rob Hayes is setting 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. Out of approximately 300 letters mailed, we have received responses from about 100. This is more than in previous years and seems to demonstrate that FOW's visibility and credibility are increasing.

Fundraising/Hospitality. Maria Amato and Don Atkinson were successful in securing full advertising for the spring newsletter. Don has been personally approaching potential supporters at Meadowood, with good results. It was suggested that we hold a meeting at Meadowood, since many residents are unable to travel to our meetings, especially at night.

Township Reports.

Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors has agreed to coordinate Worcester Day. A presentation was made by the school district to use part of the Army Reserve base as a bus depot. The public response to this suggestion was overwhelmingly negative, due to traffic, noise, and economic considerations.

Planning Commission. No meetings were held since the last report. The Planning Commission will begin work on the Comprehensive Plan and the Historic Resource Preservation Ordinance.

Zoning Hearing Board. A variance to allow two lots to share an undersized flag driveway on Kriebel Mill Rd was continued for 90 days, at the applicant's request.

Joint Meeting. No meeting was held. The next Joint Meeting is scheduled for June 4.

Newsletter. The newsletter is targeted for mailing on April 23. There will be a label party on Saturday, April 21, at 1 p.m. at Bean Rd. Nursery. Several additional articles were discussed. An article on the turnpike widening project will note the following issues: noise barriers, maintenance/emergency ramps, and stormwater management areas. It was noted that as with the slip ramp, these are community-wide issues with impact beyond just residents adjacent to the turnpike.

Outreach. The FOW/FLP stormwater workshop will be held Wednesday, May 23, at 7:30 p.m. in Community Hall. Wini Hayes resigned as committee chair. Kim David volunteered to join the committee and asked Doug Rotondo to join as well. It was suggested that a poster be placed at each polling place on Election Day, for publicity.

Website. It was suggested that a writeup on the Army Reserve base reuse planning process be posted on our website. Susan will prepare this. We will also develop information on the turnpike widening project to be posted. We will provide updates as we work with the turnpike officials on the issues. We will develop a form for visitors to tell us their concerns about the project.

Current issues.

Historic Preservation. The inventory of historic structures was started, but the Board of Supervisors asked the committee to put this on hold temporarily. The ordinance has been submitted to the Planning Commission for their review. At the April 2 work session, the committee gave the Board of Supervisors a report on the value of a historic inventory. The committee will be working on public education efforts.

Open Space. At the April 18 Board of Supervisors meeting, there will be a presentation about the possibility of the township acquiring the Army Reserve base, at no cost, for use as a public park.

New Business.

Barbara McMonagle asked for volunteers to help with the Horse Show shopping, setup, staffing, and cleanup.

FOW 2007 meeting dates and upcoming events:

Meetings:

Wednesday, May 9

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

Events:

FOW Food Tent at the Annual Farmers Union Horse Show, Saturday, June 2, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Caughlan