

## **Friends of Worcester meeting minutes      Meeting date: September 12, 2007**

**Review of Minutes.** The minutes of the May 9, 2007, meeting were approved as written.

**President's Report.** Kim David led a discussion of what FOW would like to accomplish this fall. The fall newsletter will be one item. We discussed focusing our education and outreach on acquainting newer residents with FOW's mission and program. Meadowood was suggested, and FOW has made presentations at Meadowood in the past. There was discussion on how to reach residents in the newer developments. It was decided that an outreach goal for fall 2007 would be to take our open space program to the newer neighborhoods in Worcester.

We also discussed how to reach out to whoever will be the incoming supervisor in January 2008.

We discussed the possibility of FOW starting a grant program to provide funding for the transaction costs that a landowner incurs when donating a conservation easement. It was decided to include this possibility in a newsletter article this fall. [Clarification: No program has been started at this time. The idea will be discussed at future meetings.]

**Contribution and Support.** Barbara McMonagle reported that FOW netted approximately \$500 from the Horse Show. This event is mainly to keep FOW visible in the community rather than to raise money. [Clarification: The Horse Show is also a fund-raising event.]

**Fundraising/Hospitality.** Marie Amato reported that she and Donn Atkinson have been contacting potential advertisers for the fall newsletter. Donn has been promoting memberships at Meadowood with great success.

### **Township Reports.**

**Board of Supervisors.** The agricultural and trail easements on the 47-acre Schierenbeck farm were completed this summer. The trail easement runs along the edge of the property and will not interfere with the farming activities. An agricultural and trail easement on 100 acres of Willow Creek Farm is expected to close before the end of this year.

The Zacharias Creek Trail is under construction pending the issuance of permits from DEP.

The North Penn Army Reserve Base planning process has been completed. The township will apply to acquire the property at no cost for future use as a park and community center. The transition will take place over the next few years.

Two residents have recently donated conservation easements on their properties, one to The Conservancy of Montgomery County and one to Natural Lands Trust. In one case, the township decided to cover the transaction costs of the donation, to make it possible for the resident to complete the donation and also to encourage other residents to do the same. Township Open Space Coordinator Susan Caughlan is the point of contact for residents who are interested in donating a conservation easement.

The Turnpike Commission recently completed a new survey concerning noise walls. The results are not yet available.

A few questions were asked regarding the PECO substation construction. The township has requested that the building be designed to look like a barn. However, there are several components to the substation, not all of which are buildings. (Visit FOW's website at [friendsofworcester.org](http://friendsofworcester.org) and click on the PECO substation link on the home page to see more information on the substation plans, including an artist's rendering of the possible design.)

**Planning Commission.** The Planning Commission reviewed a sketch plan for a new building to be constructed on the Ford Electronics/Visteon property on Berks Road. They also reviewed land

development plans for a used car lot at the former Exxon station in Fairview Village. The Comprehensive Plan is still in the process of being revised, and the historic structures overlay ordinance is under review.

Zoning Hearing Board. The T-Mobile application to build a cell tower on residential property was withdrawn after the township supervisors authorized the township's attorney to oppose the variance.

Joint Meeting. The September Joint Meeting was cancelled. The next Joint Meeting is scheduled for December 3.

Newsletter. Possible newsletter article topics were discussed, and several people volunteered to write articles. The newsletter committee will continue to develop article ideas and decide on a timeline for the fall newsletter.

Outreach. See the discussion under President's Report. Wini Hayes will look for venues for the proposed outreach presentation.

Website. An Open Space Fact Sheet has been added to the website, as well as a survey form for visitors to voice their concerns about the turnpike expansion project.

**Current issues.**

Historic Preservation. See the report under Planning Commission.

Open Space. See the report under Board of Supervisors.

**New Business.**

Barbara McMonagle noted that the FOW bank account earns minimal interest. Options were discussed. Barb was asked to look into an interest-bearing account with Vanguard.

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

Meetings:

Wednesday, October 10  
Wednesday, November 14

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

Events:

Holiday potluck party in December – date/time/location TBA

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Caughlan