

Friends of Worcester meeting minutes Meeting date: November 14, 2007

Review of Minutes. The minutes of the October 2007 meeting were approved and will be posted on the website.

President's Report. President Kim David noted that the response to handing out FOW literature at the polls last week was almost uniformly positive. Others who helped at the polls agreed that almost everyone recognized FOW and had positive comments. The group discussed whether FOW should make it a practice to hand out our literature at the polls and agreed that it is a valuable outreach activity. One person was appointed for each poll to coordinate volunteers for that poll. Kim will take East #2, Al Cucé will take East #3, Marie Amato will take West, and a volunteer is needed for East #2.

Kim thanked everyone who worked on the fall newsletter, from writing articles to handling the ads to helping with the labels.

We discussed whether FOW should sponsor a bench at Heebner Park. No decision was reached.

Kim represented FOW at the recent award ceremony hosted by Montgomery County Lands Trust. He also attended Natural Land Trust's presentation at Meadowood on the topic of open space preservation.

Kim thanked Rob and Wini Hayes for volunteering to host the Holiday Potluck party again this year. We discussed sending invitations to local elected and appointed officials.

The meeting dates for spring 2008 were set for the second Wednesday of the month, from January to May.

Treasurer's Report. An interest-bearing money market account has been opened with Vanguard. We continue to maintain our Harleysville National Bank account for everyday expenses.

Contribution and Support. We discussed the 2008 contribution letter. We anticipate sending the mailing to every household in the township – approximately 3050. Using a pre-printed return mailing envelope was discussed. Susan was asked to get a quote from our printer for personalized letters, pre-printed return mailers, and envelopes. We discussed whether to use volunteers to fold, stuff and label the envelopes, or to pay to have it done.

Fundraising/Hospitality. Marie Amato and Donn Atkinson were very successful in getting ads for the fall newsletter and were thanked for their hard work.

Township Reports.

Board of Supervisors. The township has awarded the bid for construction of the first phase of the Zacharias Creek Trail.

The D'Lauro estate lot line change was discussed.

North Penn Water Authority has extended public water along the north side of Skippack Pike as far east as Bethel Road. Concern was expressed that this might make land in this area more attractive to developers.

The township has applied for a Green Region grant from PECO to install trees and benches at Heebner Park as part of the Phase III plan. FOW has encouraged the township to make use of this grant source.

Planning Commission. Approval was granted for the Cucé lot line change to enable the landowner to qualify for the county Farmland Preservation Program.

Changes to the Kibblehouse development plans (conceptual, not engineered) were reviewed. The Planning Commission encouraged the developer to cluster the homes in order to preserve some of

the scenic viewsheds and agricultural soils, while avoiding the environmentally sensitive stream corridor.

The owners of the landscaping business at the corner of Grange Ave and Germantown Pike asked the Planning Commission to review a sketch plan of proposed improvements, including paved parking and outdoor materials storage on the Worcester portion of the property. Alternative designs were discussed.

Zoning Hearing Board. Nothing to report.

Joint Meeting. The next Joint Meeting of the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission is scheduled for December 3 at 9:30 a.m. in Community Hall, Fairview Village.

Newsletter. The newsletter was mailed on November 9 and delivered very promptly.

Outreach. Jennifer Strouse reported that FOW may be able to work with teachers and students at Worcester elementary school on a project for Earth Day or Arbor Day, both in April 2008. Possible topics include tree planting around the school and distributing tree seedlings in liners imprinted with the FOW logo. Jennifer will pursue these ideas.

Website. Nothing to report.

Current issues:

Open Space. The Farm Board will extend an offer to Oliver and Rosalie Smith to preserve their farm on Fisher Road, which is the site of the house built by Peter Wentz Sr. Several other conservation easements are in progress in the township and are expected to be completed soon.

Administrative Assistant's Report.

The guidelines for a possible grant program for conservation easement donors were discussed. A committee will be formed to prepare recommendations. A call for interested participants will be sent out.

Barbara McMonagle will ask Lettie Schultz whether we can donate the articles she gave us concerning Peter Wentz Farmstead, since we decided we are not the proper organization to keep and archive them.

FOW 2007 upcoming events and 2008 meetings:

Holiday Potluck Party

Thursday, December 27; 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the home of Rob and Wini Hayes, 3033 Fisher Rd.
RSVP 610-584-0371 to let us know what you can bring.

Meetings:

Wednesdays – January 9, February 13, March 12, April 9, May 14

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

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Caughlan