

## **Friends of Worcester meeting minutes      Meeting date: September 10**

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

**Treasurer's Report.** Secretary Barb McMonagle reported that some of the funds in the money market account will be moved to an account that pays a higher interest rate.

**President's Report.** President Kim David reported that the Executive Board met to discuss several issues. The topic of forming a Worcester land trust was debated, and the feasibility report prepared by Susan was reviewed. The board concluded that too much is involved in taking this step, and it was decided not to proceed for now.

The board decided to form a new standing committee, the Open Space Committee. This committee's mission will be to identify and assist landowners who are interested in preserving their land. Kim asked Susan to chair the committee. Barb McMonagle volunteered to serve on the committee as well.

The board also formed a committee to review the feasibility of creating an Advisory Council for FOW. This Council would consist of prominent residents who could lend their support and expertise as needed. Rob Hayes will chair this committee, and Michael Simeone will assist him. The committee will begin by determining fundamental issues such as what FOW would expect of the Council members and how they could assist the organization.

**Contributors/Supporters.** Kim David thanked Barb McMonagle, who has coordinated FOW's Food Tent at the Horse Show for years, and Jen Strouse, who has volunteered to take over these duties after assisting Barb this past year to learn the ropes. Barb reported that we made \$310 from the Food Tent and noted that the Horse Show is an opportunity for visibility in the community as well as a fundraiser.

**Fundraising/Hospitality.** We discussed how many ads to sell in the newsletter in order to meet our funding goals. It was decided that a page and a half would be a good target. We can average this over two issues.

**Turnpike Expansion Project.** Tony Gay reported on a meeting held August 1 with Sen. John Rafferty, Rep. Jay Moyer, Supervisor John Harris, and residents of The Enclave development off Bethel Rd. Barb McMonagle attended for FOW. Tony had prepared an analysis and critique of the turnpike's Noise Study, which recommends sound barriers through only a small part of Worcester, not including The Enclave. Jay Moyer and John Rafferty assured residents that they are working with turnpike officials to get more sound barriers in Worcester. The location of stormwater basins was also discussed. One basin is proposed to be located in community open space belonging to The Enclave HOA. Another basin is proposed to be located in an area that has headwater springs feeding the Stony Creek Watershed. The residents expressed concerns about the damage to water quality from oily runoff, as well as the potential for hazardous material to enter the watershed in the event of an accident or a spill on the turnpike.

John Harris suggested that residents, FOW, and other community organizations write letters to the turnpike, with copies to Sen. Rafferty and Rep. Moyer, pointing out the problems with the Noise Study and the location of stormwater basins. Susan will contact Ducks Unlimited to ask them to get involved, if they are not already.

FOW will send a representative to the Turnpike Commission's Sept 25 Open House Plans Display. FOW will then send a letter to the Commission concerning the sound barrier and stormwater basin issues.

### **Township Reports.**

**Board of Supervisors.** The board has approved the township's contribution of 15% of the cost of preserving the 16-acre McGrane farm in the county Farmland Preservation Program.

T-Mobile has filed an application to build a cell tower behind Worcester Township Community Hall in Fairview Village. The board discussed their preference that the tower be built on a different township-owned property in the area, such as the parcel adjacent to Mt. Kirk Park. No decision on the tower location was made.

The township engineer reported the results of traffic studies at several intersections in the township. The PennDOT requirements for an all-way stop sign were met at Stump Hall and Green Hill Roads, and approval will be requested from PennDOT. The requirements were not met at Berks Road and Shady Lane. The traffic light at Water Street and Valley Forge Roads is expected to be completed by next summer. The intersection at Hollow Road and Skippack Pike was studied as if the Meadowood entrance were located opposite Hollow Road; even so, the requirements for a traffic signal were met only “marginally.” The report will be submitted to PennDOT for further action..

**Planning Commission.** The Planning Commission reviewed revised plans for a subdivision on the Kibblehouse Farm on Weber and Berks Roads.

**Zoning Hearing Board.** The applications to build a large basketball court on Kriebel Mill Rd and to use the house on the corner of Hollow Rd and Skippack Pike as a counseling center were discussed. The counseling center hearings are in progress and may last another few months. The basketball court application is on hold for the moment.

**Joint Meeting.** The September Joint Meeting was cancelled. The next Joint Meeting of the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission is scheduled for Monday, December 1, at 9:30 a.m. in Community Hall, Fairview Village.

**Newsletter Committee.** The theme for the fall issue will be “What Does Open Space Mean to You?” Articles were discussed and assigned. The proposed mailing date is Monday, November 10. Preliminary ideas for the spring 2009 issue were also discussed.

**Outreach Committee.** No report.

**Website.** Susan asked for help in controlling the email spam from the website. Maeve volunteered to assist, and Dave Cardy will also be asked for his advice.

### **Current Issues.**

**PECO Substation** – Susan reported that PECO recently submitted its application to the PUC to build the substation, even though discussions with the township and neighbors have been ongoing for over a year. The Public Utilities Commission held a hearing on this application in August. No decision has been rendered. The Residents Advisory Committee formed by PECO has been meeting to discuss issues such as the location of the access road, screening of the buildings, fencing, and issues that impact adjacent landowners. FOW is working with PECO, township, and county representatives to insure that there will be room for a future trail around the site, along the powerline corridor.

**Township Parks and Recreation Committee** – John Harris announced that the township is ready to announce the formation of this committee and will be notifying residents who volunteered to serve on it. The committee will be asked to look at possible future uses of properties such as the North Penn Army Base (slated to be acquired by the township from the Army once it is closed), Nike Park, and the property adjacent to Mt. Kirk Park, as well as the possibility for connecting the township’s parks via a trail network.

**Administrative Assistant’s Report.** Susan completed a spreadsheet analysis of Zoning Board decisions from 2006 through June 2008. Concerns regarding the ZHB’s decisions were discussed. Susan and Kim will research this further.

**New Business.** No new business was brought up.

**FOW 2008 meetings:** Wednesdays, October 8 (in the Board Room of the Schultz Community Center at Meadowood) and November 12 (at Bean Road Nursery). Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Caughlan