

Friends of Worcester meeting minutes Meeting date: January 14, 2009

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

Treasurer's Report. Barbara McMonagle presented a proposed budget for 2009. It was approved with one adjustment.

President's Report. Kim David reported that our February 11 meeting will be held at Meadowood, in the Boardroom (in Schultz Community Center).

We discussed annual goals for FOW. The board will review the goals further at their upcoming retreat.

We reviewed the standing committees and made adjustments as needed. Jen Strouse will head the Outreach Committee and Barb McMonagle will head Fundraising/Advertising.

FOW has been asked to send a letter in support of the township's nomination for a Government Leadership award by the PA Land Trust Association. It will be drafted for Kim's review.

Kim thanked Rob and Wini Hayes for hosting a very enjoyable holiday potluck at their home last month.

Current Issues.

Turnpike Expansion Project: We discussed the need to contact Senator Rafferty to keep the noise wall issue at the forefront of his efforts with the Turnpike Commission. Wini volunteered to do this. We will also contact newly elected Representative Matt Bradford to acquaint him with FOW. Rick DeLello will be asked to do this.

School District Facilities Report. Wini Hayes and Michael Simeone reported that the stadium lights issue involves much more than just the lights installation. The report recommended moving the bus depot to create enough room for a stadium complex with additional parking, new bleachers, and artificial turf. Since district revenues are down due to the economy, it is felt that this issue is not immediate.

Moran Land Preservation. Following the township's approval of its contribution, MCLT will apply to the county for approximately \$1.3 M in grant funding.

Worcester Golf Course. The landowner sued the township following denial of his conditional use application. He is reported to be ready to negotiate a compromise, but no details are known.

New Business.

Evansburg State Park: Susan reported that the township has been advised by the manager of Evansburg State Park that the park has received direction from Harrisburg to facilitate connections between Worcester Township and the parks' proposed central trail. Details will be worked out, but this is a major about-face in park policy and will insure that Worcester's hiking and horseback riding trails can connect to Evansburg's system.

Barbara McMonagle reported that there is an updated interactive soils survey database for PA on line at the NRCS website, <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm>

Newsletter Committee. Susan Caughlan presented the proposed 2009 newsletter theme, a return to our core message -- Saving Land Saves Money. It is proposed to conduct a Cost of Community Services study to determine those costs specifically for Worcester Township. The results are planned to be released in the fall newsletter. The spring newsletter article topics were discussed, and several people volunteered to write articles.

Land Preservation Committee. Two brochures were circulated for comment, one to be handed to landowners when a committee member meets with them to explain their options for land preservation, and the other to be mailed to prospective landowners as an introductory piece. Michael Simeone volunteered to review them.

Advisory Council Development Committee. Rob Hayes reported on the committee's meeting to discuss the pros and cons of such a council. These points were discussed and will be reviewed by the board during their retreat.

Website. The Outreach Committee plans a survey in the newsletter and also on the website.

Outreach Committee. Jen Strouse reported on several outreach initiatives planned by the committee for this year. The committee plans to deliver welcome baskets to new residents of the township on a monthly basis. Susan will supply the committee with monthly reports of new township residents.

The committee proposed that we approach the township about improving the Worcester Township signs at the “gateway” entrances to the township (Germantown Pike, Valley Forge Rd, Trooper Rd, etc). The group agreed that this is a good idea.

The committee plans to participate again this year in the elementary school’s Arbor Day celebration.

We discussed outreach efforts at the polls this spring to increase community awareness of the importance of working continuously to support open space initiatives in the township

The committee proposed updating our powerpoint presentation on open space and presenting it at Meadowood..

Township Reports.

Board of Supervisors. At the November 19 public meeting, the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update was presented. The board approved preliminary plans for the Montgomery Presbyterian Church expansion. The township’s acquisition of Heyser Field using Green Fields/Green Towns funding was approved. The township’s contribution of \$337,238 toward the purchase of a conservation easement on the 81-acre Moran property was discussed and tabled.

At the December 1 public work session, the board approved paying up to \$1,500 to cover the transaction costs for Cindy Haines’ donation of a conservation easement on her 14-acre farm. The board also approved the township’s contribution of \$337,238 toward the purchase of a conservation easement on the 81-acre Moran property. A report was presented regarding possible configurations at the intersection of Valley Forge and Woodlyn Rds. The township elected to proceed with making Woodlyn one way westbound at an estimated cost of \$5,200 instead of making the road a cul-de-sac from Dell Rd at an estimated cost of \$36,800.

At the December 17 public meeting, the board approved the Comprehensive Plan Update. The board approved the minor subdivision plan for Heyser Field which will enable the township to purchase 7 acres of the property for public recreational use.`

Planning Commission. The Planning Commission reviewed a revised sketch plan for the Kibblehouse tract. Meadowood has submitted plans to renovate two existing residential clusters and construct additional homes.

Zoning Hearing Board. There was no report.

Joint Meeting. The next Joint Meeting of the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission is scheduled for Monday, March 2, at 9:30 a.m. in Community Hall, Fairview Village.

Contributors/Supporters. We will label the annual contribution letters on Saturday, Jan 24, starting at 8:30 a.m. at Bean Road Nursery.

Fundraising/Hospitality. Marie and Donn were thanked for their recent work on the newsletter ads. We discussed the current rates for newsletter ads and decided that they will remain the same for 2009.

Administrative Assistant’s Report. Susan’s report to the board on the possibility of forming a municipal land trust was discussed. It was agreed that the officers will discuss this with Art, in response to his request that we investigate this possibility.

FOW 2009 meetings: Wednesdays: February 11 (to be held at Meadowood in the Boardroom) and March 11. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and are held at Bean Road Nursery unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Caughlan