

Friends of Worcester Meeting Minutes **Wednesday, April 8, 2009**

Review of Minutes. The minutes of the March meeting were discussed. They were approved and will be posted to the website.

President's Report. President Kim David reported that the FOW Board held a retreat to prepare a 5-Year Strategic Plan. A report on the plan will be submitted at a future meeting.

The following dates (second Wednesdays) were set for the fall meetings: September 9, October 14, and November 11.

Current Issues.

WHS Flea Market. The sign-up sheet was completed for our information table at the Flea Market.

Arbor Day. Outreach Committee Chair Jen Strouse reported on the details for this year's program at Worcester Elementary School. An email will be sent out for volunteers for Potting Day.

Turnpike Expansion Project. Susan reported on an update from the Shady Lane/Oak Terrace neighborhood concerning resident involvement in the effort to gain noise barriers for this stretch of the project.

TDRs. A question was asked about the action item from the discussion on this topic at the March meeting. It was decided that FOW will send a letter to the Board of Supervisors encouraging them to develop a TDR ordinance to enable landowners to preserve their properties while directing development to areas identified in the Comprehensive Plan.

New Business.

Tree Tenders Workshop. Maeve Vogan attended this workshop and reported that it is more applicable to areas where trees are needed.

Trail Towns Conference. Barbara McMonagle reported on a conference held in March to inform towns how to benefit from business that could be brought in by nearby trails. The possibility of attracting such business to Worcester's villages was discussed.

Newsletter. Article topics were discussed. It was suggested that the concept of trail towns be included because of the potential for village growth in accordance with the guidelines of the Comprehensive Plan. An announcement will also be included concerning the new Community Events column on the website.

Website. In response to several requests to send emails to the FOW list announcing community events, we have developed a Community Events column on our website. Any organization is welcome to submit information on their public event. Susan was asked to draft a policy regarding the use of the FOW email list.

Outreach Committee. Committee Chair Jen Strouse reported that five welcome packages were delivered to new residents this month.

Township Reports.

Board of Supervisors. The township approved the purchase of a trail easement on the McGrane farm, which is being preserved in the Montgomery County Farmland Preservation Program this year. This easement will allow the cross-township trail to continue on its proposed route from Evansburg and Heebners Parks to Nike Park.

The board discussed the cell tower that is proposed to be built on the Dyka property adjacent to Mt. Kirk Park. The installation will include several cabinets for equipment.

A historic restorations architect presented a powerpoint on the Willison Smith pioneer house owned by the township along the Zacharias Creek Trail. The windows are in need of repair in order to keep rain from damaging the interior and structure of the building.

The board heard a proposal from a landowner on Berks Rd north of the turnpike to install ground-mounted solar panel collectors on approximately 4 acres of the property. The power would be sold to PECO. The board made no decision on the proposal.

Planning Commission. The Planning Commission discussed a sketch plan for land development on the Kibblehouse property on Weber and Berks Roads, and had a village planning discussion.

Zoning Hearing Board. The board heard an application to expand the Cedars Country Store restaurant. Neighbors expressed concern about the expansion and the impact of the restaurant on the nearby homes. It was noted that we need a volunteer to attend Zoning Board meetings and report on them.

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

Contributors/Supporters. Secretary Barbara McMonagle reported that our contributor base for 2009 is up 11% over last year. An updated budget report as of 3/31/09 was circulated.

Administrative Assistant's Report. Susan reported on the recent Montgomery County Farm Board meeting, at which the rankings were announced for this year's applicants and those from previous years. Three Worcester farms ranked high enough to be approved for appraisals or re-appraisals, putting them in the running for possible offers later this year.

FOW 2009 meetings: Wednesdays: May 13 (to be held at Worcester Golf Club, 1600 Green Hill Road); September 9, October 14, November 11. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and are held at Bean Road Nursery unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Caughlan