

Friends of Worcester Meeting Minutes **Wednesday, September 9, 2009**

President's Report. President Kim David welcomed everyone back from the summer and announced that the board, with the assistance of several more members, spent the summer working on FOW's first Five-Year Strategic Plan. The purpose of such a plan is to act as a road map, to keep the organization on track going forward.

President Kim David also discussed the possibility of having a speaker at a future business meeting. Someone from one of the proposed partner groups in the Five-Year Strategic Plan (e.g., a land trust) would be a possibility. The Plan will help us decide who to invite to a meeting as a speaker. Kim also discussed the goal to grow our active membership by having each attendee bring one person to a meeting and engage them in support of open space.

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

Current Issues.

Five-Year Strategic Plan. Board member Wini Hayes reviewed the process that led to the development of the Five-Year Strategic Plan. Ten people, including the FOW board members, met in the spring to review FOW's Mission Statement. A Vision Statement was added, and the group reviewed the opportunities and threats to the organization. The draft Plan was divided into six sections, and each goal was discussed in depth. President Kim David thanked Wini for her work organizing the final document. We discussed whether to post the completed Plan on the website. No decision was reached.

It was suggested that the fall newsletter include an article on the goals included in the Plan. We looked at which committees would fit within each goal and discussed possibly re-working the committee structure to better align with the proposed goals.

New Business.

Environmental Advisory Council. – Susan Caughlan presented a brief overview of the work of an Environmental Advisory Council (EAC). It is an advisory body to the Board of Supervisors, much like the Planning Commission, but specific to environmental issues. An EAC can do community outreach and education, project implementation, and plan review. The EAC's mandate can be as broad as the Supervisors wish and can encompass such as stormwater, landscaping, and energy-efficient lighting. More information on EACs can be found on the Pennsylvania Environmental Council's EAC Network webpage, <http://www.eacnetwork.org/>. It was agreed that the group will look at this information to learn more about EACs and continue the discussion at future meetings.

Newsletter. The Newsletter Committee will review the proposed theme and articles for the fall newsletter and meet as necessary during the next month. The newsletter is targeted to be published in late October.

Land Preservation Committee. Susan Caughlan reported that the Moran project is currently in the Commissioners' hands. The Montgomery County Open Space Board recommended that the Commissioners approve a grant of approximately \$1.1 million to match existing state and township funding to acquire a conservation easement on the 81-acre property. It was agreed that FOW will send a letter to the Commissioners in support of this project.

Another volunteer is being sought to serve on the Land Preservation Committee. Training will be provided.

Website. A volunteer is needed to work with the Education & Outreach Committee on content and postings for the website.

Education & Outreach Committee. -- Committee Chair Jen Strouse reported that the committee will be meeting later this month to discuss projects for the fall.

Horse Show. – This year’s Farmer’s Union Horse Show on June 6th was a fun and successful event. A final financial report was not available, but everyone agreed that we made money and continued an enjoyable tradition.

Township Reports.

Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors approved a township contribution to help fund the preservation of the Cucé farm on Wentz Church Road through the state/county Farmland Preservation Program. The state and county will be paying for approximately 85% of this project.

The board heard a presentation by Chairman Art Bustard concerning the possibility of solar power for the township and maintenance buildings. The board decided to commission a study to determine the suitability of the location to generate the amount of power that would be required.

Planning Commission. The Planning Commission has begun discussing a Village Ordinance.

Zoning Hearing Board. No appeals of note were heard over the summer.

Joint Meeting. No Joint Meeting was held in September. The next Joint Meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 7.

Contributors/Supporters. Susan Caughlan reported for Barbara McMonagle. To date, we have received approximately 200 contributions, with almost 10% being new members. We are on target to meet our budget for contributions.

Administrative Assistant’s Report. Susan Caughlan reported that several Worcester farms are working their way through the county Farmland Preservation Program. The township has applied to the county Open Space Board for funds to complete the Zacharias Trail into Evansburg State Park and from Hollow Road to Heebner Park.

FOW 2009 meetings:

- *Wednesday, October 14*, at Solaris Grille, 2665 Skippack Pike (corner of Berks Rd and Skippack Pike).
- *Wednesday, November 11*, at Meadowood Retirement Community (tentative). Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Caughlan