

Friends of Worcester Meeting Minutes Wednesday, November 10, 2010, Meadowood

Guest Speaker. Kim David introduced Drew Gilchrist, Director of the Center for Conservation Land Owners and the Natural Lands Trust. Natural Lands Trust (NLT) is the region's largest conservation organization, saving thousands of acres of forests, fields, wetlands, and streams each year. Their goals are to save natural areas for generations to come; steward landscapes to support a healthy environment; and connect people to the natural world around them. Drew explained the history of NLT, which was formed in the 1960s by the Philadelphia Conservationists to hold land purchased for preservation by the Federal government and Philadelphia Conservationists. NLT currently is responsible for over 22,000 acres. They have 41 preserves and 275 properties. They hold conservation easements and assist states, municipalities and other conservancies to protect land and manage open space. The Center for Conservation Land Owners works with land owners to manage their open space. Drew explained some of the problems in managing open space including fragmentation, deer, invasive plants and storm water. Drew talked about many of the local preserves with public access and encouraged FOW members to make use of the trails and recreation areas they include.

Review of Minutes. The minutes of the October 13 meeting were edited and approved. They will be posted to the website as revised.

Current Issues.

Growing Greener II. There was discussion regarding whether FOW should take a political position to support this program and if lobbying in support of it would jeopardize FOW's 501(c)3 status. Drew Gilchrist talked about the bill passed by the PA State House regarding the Marcellus Shale (which includes a tax funding Growing Greener II). The bill has not yet been passed by the PA State Senate. Wini Hayes will draft a letter to Michael Libor, Esq., requesting clarification of these issues. Barb McMonagle reminded the group that FOW already has supported reinstating the Growing Greener program.

Township Reports.

Board of Supervisors Maeve Vogan reported that the board approved the memorial bench/tree program. She suggested the Outreach Committee could work on funding of a bench or tree in memory of past FOW members.

Zoning Hearing Board. Maeve reported that the Terra Landscaping case was presented. Terra Landscaping requested a commercial use for some of their property that is zoned residential/agricultural. The portion of their property in question is not in Worcester Twp., however Worcester Twp.'s solicitor was present at the meeting to oppose Terra's request.

Planning Commission. Rob Hayes reported that the Planning Commission continues to work on Fairview Village planning. They also discussed a signage ordinance.

Open Space.

Barb and Kim will be interviewed as part of the video for the Moran property preservation.

Education & Outreach Committee.

Newsletter. A plan of action was discussed for the Spring issue. Topics to be discussed in February 2011 for a mailing date in April. Donna will coordinate the next issue.

Open Discussion.

Wini opened a discussion regarding activities/events that might be planned to attract new members. Kim suggested that the January meeting be used for strategic planning to address this and other issues.

FOW 2010-2011 Meetings and Events:

Meetings:

Wednesday, January 12, 7:30 pm, Bean Rd. Nursery

Events:

Tuesday, December 28, Potluck Christmas party at home of Rob and Wini Hayes, 6:00 pm (RSVP to Wini)

Respectfully submitted,

Donna L. Haskins