

Friends of Worcester Meeting Minutes Wednesday, May 12, 2010, Worcester Golf Club

Review of Minutes. The minutes of the April 14 meeting are pending review.

Guest Speaker. President Kim David introduced Crystal Gilchrist, Executive Director of the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy, who attended to talk about the Conservancy and its work. The Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy has a two-fold mission: to promote environmental awareness through its educational programming (for ages 2 through 100+) and to do hands-on conservation work. All of the education and conservation programs relate to water in some way. Current projects include many for storm water containment, and stream bank and riparian buffer restoration (critical areas for filtering impurities to keep water clean).

Crystal asked to partner with FOW for a creek restoration on the D'Lauro property. The creek begins on this property and is overgrown with non-native, invasive plants. The project will entail removing multiflora rose, replacing it with native plants and shrubs and possibly adding signage explaining the importance of a riparian buffer. This project would be a collaboration with Perkiomen Watershed, FOW and the National Lands Trust. PWC would apply for the grant, National Lands Trust would coordinate the work with volunteers. FOW would be asked to help provide volunteers. There were several questions regarding the time frame and scope of the project. Crystal explained that the removal of invasives can occur at any time once the project is approved and funded. Planting is timed for Fall; the project would require 50-100 native trees. The project area is approximately 1-1/2 acres, linear, along the creek. The property owner is responsible for maintenance with very little required once plants are established.

Agnes Ferrara made a motion, seconded by DeeDee McCann, that FOW agree to participate in the creek restoration project. The motion passed.

Crystal stated that PWC's primary focus is restoration of headwater areas. She suggested that, as a first contact for Worcester Twp. FOW could recruit those people interested in environmental restoration projects, storm water management and rain gardens to help with this project..

Executive Committee Reports.

President's Report. President Kim David distributed copies of the current 5-year action plan with updated 1-year goals.

Kim reported on a request to the township from the developer of Stony Creek who would like to lower the age requirement for residency from 55 to 45 years old. The request has been approved by the Planning Commission. Discussion was evenly split between those supporting the proposal and those opposed. Since no consensus was reached, it was recommended that residents voice their personal opinion at the Supervisors' meeting.

Kim noted that FOW will set up a self-serve information table at the Historical society as well as at polling stations for the May primary election.

Education & Outreach Committee.

Newsletter. Michael Simeone reported that the newsletter is ready for final approval. Mailing date is Saturday, May 22.

Website. Dave Cardy has set up Paypal on the site and is waiting for confirmation that it is working.

Arbor Day: Maeve Vogan reported that this program was a great success.

Farmers' Union Horse Show: Jen Strouse reported that plans and set-up volunteers are in place. She requested help with afternoon staffing and break-down. She reported that FOW will serve a breakfast sandwich this year, since lots of people arrive early in the morning. Wini Hayes suggested contacting the Farmers' Union to ask them to include this information in an email blast.

Current Concerns:

Board of Supervisors. The new Township Manager started work in April. It was agreed that he would be invited to FOW meetings and that the board would invite him to breakfast/lunch.

Zoning Hearing Board. The Reimel case was presented to the board. A decision should be made in August.

All other agenda items were tabled due to time constraints at the Worcester Golf Club meeting location.

FOW 2010 Meetings and Events:

Meetings:

Wednesday, September 8, 7:30 pm, Bean Rd. Nursery

Wednesday, October 13, 7:30 pm

Wednesday, November 10, 7:30 pm

Events:

Farmers Union Horse Show and FOW Food Tent, Saturday June 5, Heyser Field, begins 8:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna L. Haskins