

Forest Home Improvement Association

Meeting of FHIA officers, December 12, 2007, 7:00-8:30pm. FH Chapel

Present:

Trevor Pinch, President; Michael Bend, Vice President; Amita Verma, Treasurer; Harriet Brittain, Secretary; Darcy Binns, Immediate Past President.

Minutes:

TP welcomed new officers to FHIA. Upon request clarification of role of officers discussed: to serve the community, gather and distribute information of importance to the community, and represent FH to outside.

Agreed that minutes of officers' meetings be kept and posted on the web.

1. Christmas party and other events.

Scheduled for Sunday 16th at 3:00, at MB and Valerie Hans' house.

MB requests permission for FH funds for paper goods and soda. Approved.

FHIA confirmed that invitations go to FH residents only this year.

Other possible social/community events:

Lecture series

- a) Valerie Hans to lecture on her book, *American Juries* in January.
- b) Sturt Manning (professor of Classics at Cornell) has offered to lecture on dendrochronology, with possible follow up taking borings of wood in peoples' houses.
- c) Chrissy Faust, (head of the Wild Flower Garden) to give a presentation on gardening with native plants.

Service project

AV suggested possibility of a community service project, especially involving children. Possible ideas: can drive or other Ithaca volunteer work, or more locally, leaf raking/weeding for older residents; car washing.

Action: DB to investigate a good cause.

Embroidery Club

Next meeting due to take place in May/June.

Action: MB to ask if Valerie can pursue this and work with current organiser, Ellen Lane.

Block Party:

AV expressed interest in organising a block party for the whole community, to be held on Fairway Drive in the summer. TP indicated that funds would be available to assist with this.

Men's club:

MB will think about this one. Alternative to all female "embroidery club"

2. Community emails and posting on the web

a) FHIA Emails:

MB supplied handout with details of FHIA gmail account.

Role of secretary to send out community emails. HB suggested that email notification go to community when new web postings are made, with the option to unsubscribe if residents wish.

Action: HB accepted role as sender of FHIA communiqués.

A number of residents without email access.

Action: DB agreed to call those people to let them know about the holiday party.

b) Webmaster:

Position currently vacant (job being done by MB).

Action: AV volunteered to be trained in the role of web poster.

Clarification: 2 out of 5 officers of FHIA needed to approve an item for posting on the website. Residents can seek to post their own items by applying to the officers.

3. Committees

Outline of past position of committees and chairs with regard to officers' meetings. According to Robert's Rules Committees must be appointed by the assembly (quorum is 15), and answer to the officers. Formerly committee chairs attended officers' meetings without votes. Rather than having just unelected chairs present it was agreed it would be even better to open up most meetings to the whole community.

Action: officers to set up 4 public quarterly meetings open to the whole community, in early March, early June, early September and October (October being the Annual Meeting). All other meetings of officers arranged as needed with committee chairs invited as relevant. Officers reserve the right go into closed session at public meeting if sensitive issues are on the agenda.

Action: DB to check bylaws/Robert's Rules to clarify this position.

4. Traffic

- a) DB's letter of transmittal of the TC report: agreed that this should be posted on the web as soon as possible, and a second letter sent from new president, TP, to clarify FH endorsement of the TC plan. After some discussion AV moved that if we did not want to ask for more time to consider the TC plan, then, despite mixed reactions by community to some of the features suggested, the officers should reiterate to the Town of Ithaca FH's firm support of the plan. New officers to address themselves to the Town and clear up any confusion arising at the community meeting in November.
- b) Judd Falls/MacIntyre Petition: in this light the petition was seen as further evidence of the community's determination to see progress on the issue of traffic calming, and not in conflict with the TC report.
- c) Action: TP to draft letter to Town supervisor; TP and MB to meet with Judd Falls/MacIntyre group.

5. Park

Officers learned of proposal from Carrie Koplinka-Loehr to turn potential FHIA community park into an Eco park. It was agreed that this should be pursued.

Action: TP to invite Carrie K-L and Marie Mitchell to investigate this further.

HB raised concern about development of site and agreed to assist with development of plans.

Action: TP to let Town Supervisor know that we are looking into possibilities.

6. Dues and Expenses

a) Dues

Agreed to keep dues fixed at current rate of \$15-\$30 per year. Review of what dues pay for (Chapel donation, web-posting; social events; newsletter)

Action: MB to send email reminder for Holiday Party and request for dues, to be paid to officers at party.

b) Expenses

Clarification of policy: Agreed that explicit permission from officers required to spend money on FHIA account. For recurring expenses over a period of time a budget must be approved. All receipts must submitted as soon as possible, and within the current fiscal year (which ends at annual meeting).

7. AOB

None

Harriet Brittain
Secretary FHIA
December 13, 2007