

Forest Home Improvement Association Officer's Meeting
August 10, 2011, 8:00 pm
Forest Home Chapel

Minutes

Officers in attendance: Jon Miller (president), Max Evjen (vice president), Beth Kelly (secretary), Bill Arms (treasurer) and Michael Bend (immediate past president). Community members in attendance: Bruce Brittain, Doug Brittain.

1. Review of Traffic Calming Phase I Survey results

Jon Miller presented a breakdown of responses to the survey that was distributed to residents this spring about the speed tables and entry features installed last winter. Thirty-nine of 54 respondents thought speed was a problem prior to the installation of the new features. Of those who thought speed was a problem, 36 thought that the speed tables have been effective at reducing speed. Twenty-five of the 30 respondents who live on Judd Falls Rd, Forest Home Drive and Warren Rd thought speed was a problem (two did not and two gave no answer). The most common positive comment (mentioned by six respondents) was that the features strengthen awareness of the neighborhood. As for comments critical of the features, 12 respondents thought there was too little space for pedestrians at the entry features, nine said there were too many signs, nine said the speed tables don't slow traffic enough, and eight thought the new features made bicycling more dangerous. Responses to the question about rerouting of TCAT buses were split, with 24 in favor, 19 against, and 11 with no opinion or neutral.

The officers agreed to ask the Town to improve bicycle and pedestrian facilities around the speed tables and entry features, especially where safety was compromised in the installation. Another priority is to construct a walkway parallel to Caldwell Rd. from the corner of Forest Home Drive to Plantations Rd. Walkways on Warren, Caldwell and Forest Home Drive toward Flatrock were also discussed.

2. Request to move light at end of Downstream Bridge

Teresa Craighead of Fairway Drive sent a note asking the FHIA to consider asking the town to improve the illumination of the crosswalk at the base of Pleasant Grove Hill. The nearest streetlight is located across the street, by the little park by the downstream bridge. It was noted that NYSEG, in response to a complaint from 200 Forest Home Drive, had installed blinders on the light and that the light no longer illuminates the crosswalk. The officers authorized Jon Miller to ask the Town either to redirect the existing light onto the crosswalk or to move the light to the pole on the north side of the intersection.

3. Proposal to petition local government to turn off street lights at night

Dani Novak of Halcyon Hill Road asked the FHIA to consider petitioning local government either to turn streetlights off with a timer or dim them after a certain hour. It was noted that some residents rely on this lighting to travel home on foot or on their bicycles late at night or in the early morning. Also, current technology does not allow for dimmers on streetlights (this is not true for LED lights, which are beginning to catch on elsewhere). A brief discussion followed about whether the FHIA needed to address the question of excess lighting in general. It was decided that lighting is not a pressing concern in the neighborhood.

4. Sustainable Tompkins

Sustainable Tompkins is offering \$750.00 grants for energy-saving projects. The deadline is the end of the month. Elizabeth Sanders of The Byway suggested that the FHIA might apply for funds to support the improvement of sidewalks, which encourage walking and provide an alternative to driving. The officers didn't feel that they could put together a specific request prior to the deadline. Aside from a further look into the feasibility of a micro-hydroelectric generator in the creek, which is currently in discussion with Cornell, no other project came to mind where the neighborhood would be likely to qualify.

5. Fall Block Party

The annual Fall Block Party was scheduled for the 200 block of Forest Home Drive on Saturday, September 24, with a rain date of October 1. A permit is required from the Town to block off the road. Bill Arms will submit a request along with a \$50.00 fee. After permission is granted, an announcement will be sent out to the community. Michael Bend will contact the face painter who was hired last year for \$75.00. Michael will also buy ice cream. Tables will be set up for dish-to-pass refreshments and Michael will bring his iPod and dock. Some discussion followed about inviting neighborhood musicians to perform live. Beth agreed to follow up.

6. 2011-2012 Directory

Michael Bend has been updating the directory over the course of the year. Neighbors have been asked by email to make any necessary changes, and a request for updated information accompanied the traffic calming surveys that went out in June. Michael will print an updated directory, which will be distributed by the street captains along with an announcement about the annual meeting in October.

7. Date for Annual Meeting

The annual meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 26, at 7:30 pm at the Forest Home Chapel basement. Officers discussed the need for new people to serve as officers. In accordance with the by-laws, Michael Bend, as immediate past president, will head the

Nominating Committee. He agreed to send out a request for nominations via the e-mail list. Voting will take place at the annual meeting and the officers will be announced at that time.

8. Old Business

Bruce Brittain reported that there has been no progress on the upstream bridge renovation due to lack of organization from the County. The annual inspection of the bridge revealed the need for repair. It was hoped that the renovation (and associated roadway and sidewalk improvements) would finally happen next year.

Some residents have expressed displeasure that the new parking facility at Martha Van Rensselaer Hall was called the Forest Home Garage. After a brief discussion it was decided not to issue a complaint.

Jon Miller and Michael Bend reported on a meeting with representatives of Cornell (planner Mina Amundsen, community affairs officer Gary Stewart, facilities manager Joe Lalley) about (1) traffic associated with building projects along University Ave (Martha Van Rensselaer, Millstein, Johnson Art Museum), (2) general efforts to reroute Cornell traffic away from Forest Home, and (3) excessive lighting at the Plantations' new parking lot. Mina Amundsen said there should be no additional traffic associated with the new garage at MVR. Joe Lalley said permit holders would be instructed not to travel through Forest Home to get to the garage. He gave August 18th as the target date for the reopening of University Ave. He also said he would look into reducing the lighting at the Plantations lot. Finally, he agreed to contact municipal officials about providing updated information to GPS companies to discourage traffic through Forest Home.

9. Adjournment