

## **Open Officers' Meeting, Forest Home Improvement Association**

**March 20, 2012**

Present: All Officers, with Treasurer Bill Arms via videoconference

New business

1. Meeting with Cornell re: Judd Falls jug handle:
  - a. Reviewed and approved letter to the community re Plantations Rd./Judd Falls Rd. Intersection. Also discussed potential temporary re-routing of TCAT buses during re-construction of said intersection. Teresa reported on her and Jon's meeting with Cornell on this topic, which was very productive, nonetheless noting that some of Forest Home's requested priorities have no CU funding available to that at this time.
  - b. Reviewed and approved follow up letter to Cornell on same topic.
2. Discussed status of petition to lower speed limit on Judd Falls Road.
3. Working groups
  - a. Small park:
    - i. Discussion of possible new paths in the neighborhood
    - ii. Discussion of potential CU interest in micro-hydro-electric generation at the old dam in front of the park: Jon reported that this was not at all economical, as it would likely lose \$30k-\$40k over time.
    - iii. Discussion of potential to use park for: two benches, community gathering space, placement of a gate in the surrounding fence.
    - iv. Discussion of who would mow any grass in the park; great skepticism as to volunteer mowing being a viable option.
    - v. Discussion of potential for low-maintenance landscaping (possibly mowing paths through otherwise unmown grass)
  - b. Lengthy discussion of street lighting with a particular focus on bulb types (metal halide vs. low-pressure sodium)
    - i. Metal halide was described as providing better color rendition and brighter light.
    - ii. Low-pressure sodium was described as better permitting eyes to adjust, and some people presented this bulb option as attracting and killing fewer insects

- iii. Discussion and extensive debate by community members of ecological impacts of these bulb types
        - iv. At least two members of the Board expressed a desire not to hassle the Town on this issue only shortly after the Town installed these lights.
        - v. Two members of the Board agreed that Jon would informally ask the Town what would be involved in bulb replacement, without actually requesting the same.
- 4. Discussion of contact from Groton re: protecting Fall Creek watershed. Board agreed that Ari would draft a brief letter to Groton reading, in essence:
  - a. The FHIA write in relation to Groton's consideration of hydrofracking (fracking). We express significant concern about the deleterious effects that fracking might well have on the ecology of Fall Creek, with potentially disastrous effects on the drinking water supply for our community (much of which is drawn from Fall Creek in concert with Cornell's water supply). As a fellow community located along Fall Creek, we strongly urge you to take account of impacts on downstream communities like ours when considering legal options available to your community that might eliminate these risks to your community and ours.
- 5. Noise issues: The Board discussed industrial noise emanating from Cornell's campus and the adequacy of previous noise studies conducted by Cornell. The Board noted that the Town may pursue a noise ordinance, and that if it does the FHIA would like the opportunity to provide input.
- 6. Brief discussion of FHIA web site, calendar, and addition of link to wiki.
- 7. Events
  - a. Planned April 21 cleanup, stating need for 10-20 trash bags, some trash tags, and possible meeting place for cleanup.

Executive Session: no action taken.