

Forest Home Improvement Association Open Officers Meeting

7 PM January 24th, 2013

Forest Home Chapel dining room

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Current officers: David Gross, President; Bill Arms, Vice President; Claudia Fuchs, Secretary; Montana Petersen, Treasurer; Bruce Brittain

Agenda

1. The **minutes** for the Executive meeting on November 15, 2012 were unanimously approved.
2. The **FHIA budget** is in good standing with an *income* of \$230 in dues added within the last 3 months and the Town refunded the \$200 deposit for closing the road for the Fall Block Party. Near future *expenses* will be \$200 for 2 years of website hosting and it was agreed to continue tradition with a \$250 donation to the FH Chapel for use of their space.
 - a. As a tax-exempt organization, the e-postcard 990-N deadline is May 15th. No news from the IRS on them losing our 2010 tax-exempt filing.
 - b. David and Claudia will solicit a request for dues from the FH community.
3. We thanked Bill and Caroline Arms for hosting a lively holiday party and to Lars Washburn's brass quintet for performing! **Upcoming events (parties)** for 2013 were discussed:
 - a. **Spring cleanup** is typically the last week of April. Previous years, helpers met at 9 AM at the chapel over refreshments. Trash bags and tags were passed out and helpers left to clean in groups. It was recommended that this year a formal ending be arranged. Jon Miller may have some further suggestions.
 - b. The **local history walk**, hosted by Bruce Brittain, will be in the warm spring when the ground dries up, but before the leaves come out (early April?). He will provide a date with a couple weeks notice.
 - c. The **Fall Block Party** may be held in the Small Park instead of closing Forest Home Dr. as the upstream bridge could still be under construction and the TCAT bus may still be detoured from Hanshaw Rd. Another option might be to combine it with an upstream bridge 100th anniversary party (postponed from 2009) before the renovated bridge opens to traffic in the fall.

Updates

4. David summarized his meeting with Don Rakow over the **plantations proposed Botanical Garden fence** bordering Judd Falls Rd., Plantation Dr., Forest Home Dr., and behind McIntyre Rd. The fence is still in the early planning stage and David suggested assessing if the proposed more aggressive deer management option over the next 6 months improves the situation. Nonetheless, if planning for the fence continues, close attention to aesthetics is important. David and Don walked around the perimeter and discussed design options. The Plantations will meet with individual neighbors along McIntyre if/when the plan advances in

addition to regular consultation with FHIA officers. The Plantations will likely need various permits from the Town as well.

5. Montana and David summarized the meeting of the **small parks subcommittee** and town representatives Herb Engman (Town Supervisor), James Webber (Highway Superintendent/Director of Public Works), and Rich Schock (Parks Maintenance Manager). The subcommittee will prepare a detailed park plan to give to the Department of Public Works, who will then do a cost analysis/engineering details. Finally, the Town Board must approve any plans as the parcel is leased, so contact with Cornell is also required. Montana, David and Herb Engman will meet with Don Rakow (Plantations Director) to elicit plantations help with planning and assistance in acquiring plant materials. The importance of having it fit in with other green spaces in and around Forest Home was emphasized. Lots of details were discussed, of note: parking may not be required; the lease states the Town maintain the space as they would any other park (mowing once a week).
 - a. During the summary of the Town meeting, the following was emphasized or added: Include a spot for lunches like Beebe Lake's Class of '36 overlook, create a heritage interpretive panel of Forest Home, elicit Soil and Water Conservation District help, focus on a single small project for each grant application.
6. David mailed a board-approved letter for **TCAT bus rerouting** via Thurston Bridge. TCAT has received the letter and passed the proposal on to its Operations Committee. The letter emphasized the safety hazards of large buses (estimated at 72 daily) traveling through Forest Home. Fortunately, both the Cornell Comprehensive Plan & County's Northeast Transportation Study identify Cradit Farm Rd. to Thurston Bridge as the official entrance to the core campus. Herb Engman, Town Supervisor, has indicated his support of the proposal and informed TCAT of his concerns about the associated safety hazards.
 - a. The night's conversation continued: Challenges with TCAT may center on the added cost of rerouting and ridership preferences. Support from Cornell is anticipated since the proposed rerouting conforms to their comprehensive plan.
 - b. David will meet soon with County Representative Peter Stein about the issue.
 - c. It was pointed out that not only do we have high bus traffic, but there is no TCAT bus stop in the neighborhood. One was located at Judd Falls Rd./Forest Home Dr. years ago. It is hoped that the smaller bus used for TCAT Route 41 might add a stop for Forest Home.
7. David informed the group that he would soon meet with Gary Stewart (Cornell Director of Community Relations) to maintain our **regular communications with Cornell**. (Update: The meeting has since taken place and the suggested larger meeting for FHIA officers has been arranged for mid-February with Cornell's Joe Lalley (Transportation), Gary Stewart (Community Relations), Don

Rakow (Plantations), and Mina Amundsen (Campus Planning).) The main discussion topics are transportation (buses & GPS, Credit Farm campus entrance), the Plantations, and our support of Cornell's Deer Management Program.

8. Ongoing discussions with the Town over area projects were discussed.
 - a. The **Town of Ithaca Comprehensive Plan** is now in a review process. A public meeting with the Ithaca committee will be on Monday, followed by an open Town Board Meeting. David will email the Forest Home community to solicit feedback. The sections on golf course zoning, the architectural standards committee, pursuing status as a local historical district, and traffic (no volume reduction) were discussed. Formal comments will be submitted by FHIA.
 - b. Bruce, as the local contact person for the **Upstream Bridge Renovation**, filled us in on the latest plan details. Cornell requests the work start after Reunion Weekend and finish prior to the fall freshmen move-in date. The project has not gone to bid yet. Once a bid is accepted, Bruce will notify the list-serve of the building timeline.
 - c. There was no further information from the town regarding the **Forest Home Walkway**. Bill will follow up with Bill Goodman. The DPW stated the **road signage** at the bridge intersections was fixed. It is better at the upstream bridge, but still inadequate at the downstream bridge.

9. In December, FHIA met with Nick Goldsmith, the Ithaca planner involved with the **Town of Ithaca Sustainability Initiative**. About 10 local residents attended the discussion focused on energy use and infrastructure and what Forest Home could take on as our own sustainability project. FHIA will host Nick again for a more widely promoted event towards the end of February with our neighbor Rod Howe (Town Legislator) facilitating a wrap-up discussion on any next steps.

10. The FHIA officers discussed the following **administrative topics**:
 - a. Though the bylaws cannot be changed until the next annual meeting, the role of Secretary is considered "**communications manager**" and Treasurer as "**administrative manager**". These titles more accurately describe the current officers tasks for this year.
 - b. Two new **street captains** are needed for Crest Lane and McIntyre Pl. Claudia will continue to solicit volunteers. Prior to email correspondences, street captains provided two-way communication within FHIA and they distributed materials on a more regular basis. They were also brought together to explore current issues in their respective areas. Claudia will assess doing this again.
 - c. **The Directory** is close to completion and needs editing. The street captains will be asked to review it in print form. Kim Ramm is working on the file and Claudia will help organize the editing.

No officer's executive session was held.

Meeting Adjourned