

Forest Home Improvement Association Open Officers Meeting

7 PM March 28th, 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, Peter Stein, County Representative

Agenda

1. The **minutes** for the Executive meeting on January 26th, 2013 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 was filed. 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. **Upcoming events** for 2013 were discussed:
 - a. **Spring cleanup** set for 10 AM on Saturday, April 27th to meet at the FH Chapel for directions and trash tags/bags. Discussed social at end, but most people end at home.
 - b. The **local history walk**, hosted by Bruce Brittain, scheduled for Saturday, April 13th and April 20th rain date.

Updates

4. David summarized the **meetings with Cornell** representatives. See posted meeting minutes on **transportation**. Conversation discussed FH zoning regulation of a 5 ton weight limit, elaborated further with Peter Stein, below.
5. The **deer intervention** hunt near Varna got 11 deer with 4 bucks.
6. **Peter Stein**, County Representative and TCAT advisory board member, was present for a discussion on **improving pedestrian safety in FH**, specifically reducing large vehicle traffic.
 - a. One new avenue is to improve signage and enforce the existing 5 ton weight limit on most FH roads (except local delivery), typically a 6+ wheeled vehicle. The history of the regulation was discussed: a 1980 local law #250-8 with a TCAT and fire department waiver. The FH traffic-calming plan details the locations. The upstream bridge has a 15 ton structural weight limit and the downstream bridge has a 50 ton structural weight limit.
 - b. We discussed support for having Pleasant Grove Rd. feed directly into Cradit Farm Rd. with a T-intersection as recommended in Cornell's recent comprehensive plan. As Pleasant Grove Rd. is a county road, we asked

Peter to bring this up at a committee meeting with the Highway Department (Ithaca Tompkins County Transportation Committee)

- c. Peter is a member of the TCAT Board and met with staff on our behalf. He was informed that our routing suggestions through campus would cost an extra \$2k a year and would alter their tight route timing.
 - d. Peter asked to see the safety issues in person (specifically Judd Falls & FH Dr. intersection) in late spring.
 - e. Snow removal was discussed. The Town plows the county roads and the Highway Superintendents said the area sidewalks are too narrow to shovel with their equipment.
 - f. All are encouraged to share photos of FH safety issues and send David the name of any charter bus service you see in FH.
7. An update on the **small park** planning was given.
- a. Two Plantations staff members, Irene L. and Krissy B., are working on a detailed schematic for the park to be shared soon with the Town park manager. The park's fence will be removed and the road edge regarded. Update: 3'-4' of crushed stone edging may be laid down. Town will submit an up to \$5k beautification grant to purchase plants.
 - b. Bruce will look into the Hasbrouck connection with the land. Hasbrouck donated farmland to Cornell specifically for women students. (Update: it was indeed part of his farm)
 - c. Montana will submit the Adopt-a-Park form with FHIA as the sponsor.
 - d. An **open neighborhood meeting** will be scheduled to discuss park design.
8. Bruce updated us on **FH infrastructure projects**.
- a. The Town is planning a \$250k curbing, landscaping & amenities project on FH Dr. near Flat Rock entailing repaving and improving the shoulder. The Town may be interested in a walkway around the retaining wall corner near the speed hump to the end of the trail in the Plantations.
 - b. The upstream bridge renovation may start in June/July and continue through end of Fall/Winter. The textured shoulder along the roadway is back in the plan.
9. In February, FHIA met again with Nick Goldsmith, the Ithaca planner involved with the **Town of Ithaca Sustainability Initiative**. Update: the proposed FHIA committee has been officially supported with Rod Howe, Michael Bend and Jon Miller co-chairing. There is discussion of using Fall Creek as a location for energy demonstration.
10. The FHIA officers discussed the following **administrative topics**:
- a. Realtors requesting use of the FHIA news listserv.
 - b. **The Directory** still needs editing.
 - c. Some community members asked about rental zoning regulation enforcement.

No officer's executive session was held.

Meeting Adjourned