

Forest Home Improvement Association
Officers' Meeting Minutes
Date: March 20, 2014 7:30pm
Location: Forest Home Chapel

In attendance: Claudia Fuchs, President; Bill Arms, Vice President; Montana Petersen, Treasurer; Cindy Bowman, Secretary. Also in attendance: Bruce Brittain, Jonathan Lunine (8 Fairway), Sally Grubb, Bob Dolch & Phil Walker

Phil Walker – proposed that the Chapel parking lot on “Plantations land” be increased in size; the lot would need to expand toward the river; more parking is needed due to the popularity of the Sunday morning meetings, etc...;

Later suggestion by Phil: “I know of a town that has used the turf and we can ask how it’s holding up (with plowing, etc...).”

Bruce: regarding the proposed expansion of the parking area ~ no land is “Plantations land” – all the land is Cornell land; the Plantations maintains the land; if the town won’t let you plant at the edge – you may need to have parallel park along the street.

Sally – Todd Bittner said that the downstream parking lot has a 100-year lease town agreement (Cornell can revoke it in 2 years; the town can revoke the lease when?) ... The biggest obstacle will be getting the DEC backing because there’s a chunk of wetlands in our proposed plan. These are initial schematics so Todd has an idea of what will be impacted. We can’t avoid cutting down trees; if Todd will continue to talk with us, we will need to figure out how to fund the project. Also, the Chapel should have handicap parking. We have the full support of Herb E. It’s in the community’s interest to keep the Chapel vibrant, etc... .

Bill – suggested that the proposed expansion be for the Chapel first; at other times, the community is welcome to park there.

Claudia – my first reaction was that it would be nice to have more area to park in FH – however, that’s quite a large space on our main road frontage.

Bill – right now the parking lot is quite a rustic area. The two groups of people who could cause a lot of problems are: 1) the pro-wetlands people; and 2) those against turning any (rustic) land into a parking lot. What about Rich from the town parks? I think there’s a lot of goodwill toward the Chapel and that’s your strength. Herb will need to have all the drawings and plans to back him up at the town meeting. The town has liked that Forest Home has been consistent; whether the community is requesting sidewalks, etc... The prosperity of the Chapel is important to the community.

Bruce – Cornell has draconian setback rules; he also suggested possibly expanding the driveway the other direction toward Sheila and David’s house; Bruce also brought suggestions for turf block surface treatment. Rich Schoch (from town parks) might have something to say, as well.

Montana ~ parking was an issue with the town park; they didn't want any parking.

Bob Dolch ~ first and foremost aesthetics would be considered; also a place for the community to gather.

Claudia reported:

I had a meeting with Gary Stewart, head of Cornell Community Relations; it went very well and he offered Cornell's help: 8 - 10 students to plant the park; he asked if we could have a potluck for Hasbrouck apartment international students; every 2 - 3 weeks he has meeting with Lansing mayor, etc.; the entrance into Cornell at Cradit Farm entrance may be enhanced.

We received one teen willing to do neighborhood work.

Re: the burglaries - I've received lots of emails.

Things to bring to the Town:

- street signs and walking stripes at the downstream bridge;
- Bill brought up there's an old walkway up to Halcyon Hill;
- Claudia will draft memo on winter clearance and run it by Bruce;
- Montana asked whether they will regrade the shoulder and whether it will encroach on any of the grass? What's the future plan?
- Bill, please ask about the sidewalk history.

Montana gave an update on the garden; reviewed her plans; plant specimens ideal for rainwater run off; plantings will be done in groups and see how far the money goes. When plants are small, they'll all need to be protected; they are all deer resistant.