

Forest Home Improvement Association
Annual Meeting
October 23, 2012, 7:30 pm
Forest Home Chapel
Minutes

1. Welcome and introductions

Welcome by outgoing President Teresa Craighead. Full group introductions of 30 residents in attendance.

2. Plantations presentation regarding deer fencing

Botanical Garden deer protection strategy: Presentation and Q&A by Cornell Plantations Director Don Rakow, Jim Mack, Horticultural and Grounds Operations Manager, and Cornell Wildlife Mgmt specialist Paul Curtis.. These Cornell representatives outlined the Cornell efforts to deter deer damage over the years, the unprecedented deer damage of this past summer, and the Plantations' proposed deer exclosure plan. The core campus deer population has stabilized but has not had significant reductions. Plantations deer damage has increased despite use of repellents. Extensive community Q&A proceeded, in which the Cornell representatives explained the layout of the proposed exclosures, assured free ongoing public access using cattle-style grates, and assured attractive fencing in more visible areas. Cornell also assured that no exclosures are expected or intended by Cornell in any other Plantations properties, and especially not in or around the Arboretum. Residents shared disappointments in the shortcomings of the deer management program and expressed concern about the aesthetic impact of the proposed fencing.

3. Treasurer's Report.

Treasurer Bill Arms reported a healthy financial status for the year, reflecting revenues of \$910 and net expenditures of \$504.

4. President's Report by President Teresa Craighead.

- FHIA community actions including: anti-fracking advocacy letter to Groton; support of residents' preference for temporary rather than permanent easements for upstream bridge reconstruction; and support letter for Cornell's Deer Management Program.
- FHIA advocacy for Judd Falls Rd. reduced speed limit, as now completed!
- FHIA advocacy for successfully-completed temporary upstream bridge repair pending permanent repair.
- FHIA advocacy for replaced streetlight lens at base of Pleasant Grove Rd.
- FHIA advocacy for successfully-completed improvements by Cornell to pedestrian walkways near Beebe Lake.
- FHIA advocacy for assorted projects with the Town, particularly focused on pedestrian access and safety
- FHIA advocacy to seek alternatives to Cornell closing (or limiting) pedestrian access through the Byway Meadow. The fencing has since been installed nearer Fall Creek.
- FHIA advocacy for successfully-licensed small park near downstream bridge. The Town has licensed the land for this park from Cornell for a term of 99 years.

-FHIA advocacy for reducing TCAT buses in FH by recommending re-routing through Cornell campus via Cradit Farm Rd. An e-letter was sent to TCAT with a follow-up phone call.

5. Secretary Ari Lavine reported that the Forest Home Directory, with the kind volunteer formatting of Kim Ramm, is expected for release by the holidays.

6. Town Supervisor Herb Engmann reported on:

- anticipated upstream bridge reconstruction next summer
- Hanshaw Rd. reconstruction next summer, with sidewalk
- replacement of Hasbrouck bench by Cornell at the small park
- recommendation that the FHIA advocate for public works projects via the Public Works Committee for best results
- The town could help in FHIA advocacy for adjusted TCAT bus routes (out of Forest Home) citing \$50,000 per year Town contribution to TCAT's budget
- Comp Plan focused on three growth areas: King Rd., near Cayuga Medical Center, and around East Hill Plaza. Each walkable to a major employer, which is a guiding principle in future development of the Town.

7. Community Brainstorm:

- tree limbs at risk of falling.
- support for multiple neighborhood gatherings throughout the year.
- sign pollution: reduce number of unnecessary street signs
- potential for community tag sale
- inclusion of renters in community
- offer leadership of community classes
- concern regarding uneven asphalt and need for crushed stone shoulders
- bury telephone lines
- community energy generation (especially solar) in Forest Home
- integrate fundraising for charity into our community events
- offered History Walk in the spring

8. Announcement of Nominated Officers for election:

David Gross as President

Bill Arms as Vice President

Claudia Fuchs as Secretary

Montana Petersen as Treasurer

The full slate of candidates was unanimously elected with hearty thanks to outgoing President Teresa Craighead for her tremendous contributions across the year.

9. Closing remarks by incoming President David Gross in recognition of the unique qualities of Forest Home, the FHIA civic history, and the balance of perspectives needed in our community.

10. Adjourn