

**Forest Home Improvement Association Officer's Meeting**  
**February 2, 2011, 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm**  
**Forest Home Chapel**  
**Minutes**

Officers in attendance: Jon Miller (president), Max Evjen (vice president), Beth Kelly (secretary), Bill Arms (treasurer) and Michael Bend (immediate past president). Community members in attendance: Bruce Brittain, Doug Brittain, David Gross and Abe Stroock.

**1. Approve Minutes from December Meeting**

Minutes had just been completed and all officers had not had a chance to review them. It was agreed that approval would take place over the week ahead.

**2. FHIA Budget and Finances**

Treasurer Bill Arms presented a proposed budget which was e-mailed to each officer prior to the meeting. The budget was approved by all the officers and will be posted on fhia.org.

Bill also presented a financial report. At present the FHIA has a bank balance of \$1,739.00. The website expense was estimated to be \$80/year for the past 2 years (yet to be paid). Beth will e-mail Wendy Petti for the exact figure owed. So far, \$1,000.00 has been received from dues.

Many households still have not paid their suggested \$30.00. Last year was the most successful year for dues collection with \$1,505.00 total collected. This is attributed to the street captains going door to door delivering the questionnaire for the new directory and collecting dues at the same time. Residents can send their dues to Bill Arms or Jon Miller. It was noted that the money in the bank is intended social events and neighborhood activities, and that people planning such events should be aware that funds are available.

**3. Holiday Party Review & Ideas for Upcoming Events**

The holiday party took place at Mary Kane's house on Dec. 12th. There was a crowd of around 30-40 neighbors and ample food, drinks, music and conversation. The carol singing was supplemented with instrumental participation from Dara Anissi on guitar, Ari Lavine on cello and Beth Kelly on flute. Thank you Mary Kane once again for hosting this wonderful event!

It was announced that Jan Haldeman had arranged for Rhiannon Crain to give a talk at the Forest Home Chapel on the arrival of springtime birds in the area and how to make your backyard more friendly to birds.

Jon Miller volunteered to give a talk about his radio series recently broadcast on Marketplace which profiles workers in the global economy. Bruce Brittain offered to lead a historical walking tour of Forest Home in late April. Michael Bend offered to give a talk about reading and parent

involvement with education. Max Evjen offered to talk about Redshift Productions, which uses narratives and performance to illustrate scientific topics. Michael will coordinate a calendar for these and other events using Google calendar. May is the month scheduled for the next music event at the Chapel.

#### **4. Traffic Calming Survey**

There was discussion of the upcoming traffic calming survey that was mentioned at the annual meeting in October 2010. It was agreed to keep the survey to a few questions with room for comments, and to include both objective and subjective questions. Questions might touch on safety, quality of life, aesthetics, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, landscaping and future priorities. Bill Arms will begin drafting a survey for review by the officers. Street captains will deliver it as a paper ballot. An e-mail will be sent notifying the community of the forthcoming survey.

Jon Miller agreed to request volume and speed data from the Town Supervisor, so we can compare it to data collected in April and May 2005. David Gross suggested waiting until we have these data before sending out the survey. Michael Bend agreed. Bruce Brittain mentioned that the traffic count should be conducted when schools are in session so the results are comparable to those from 2005.

#### **5. Signage Concerns**

Ruth Mahr (not present) communicated her concern to Jon Miller that there are too many signs around Forest Home and now with the speed tables and entrance features there are yet more signs. Michael Bend asked if it was aesthetic concern for her and it was confirmed that it was.

Michael added that one of the 'No Parking' signs on Judd Falls Road was removed when a speed table was inserted there. Jon noted that on Judd Falls the two speed tables are close together making the signs look somewhat compounded there. It was noted that many signs were removed several years ago and the ones that remain are generally required by law. It was agreed that the FHIA can not make a general request to the Town or County to reduce signage, but that residents are encouraged to identify specific signs that are not needed.

#### **6. Lighting Concerns**

Elizabeth Sanders asked Plantations director Don Rakow to put the lights outside the new Plantations welcome center on a timer so they would not shine all night. Jon Miller also mentioned this to Don. Elizabeth has written several emails to the officers and the Town complaining that the new entry feature lamps add too much light. Doug Brittain mentioned that at the moment they each contain one bulb and a reflector. Bill Arms mentioned that Cornell is too brightly lit especially around Forest Home Drive and Beebe Lake. It was agreed that the FHIA should press the Town to eliminate any streetlights made redundant by the new entrance features. The Brittains noted that it would not be easy to eliminate the streetlight near the entrance feature on Warren Road without changing the lighting pattern all the way down the hill.

Jon Miller will talk to Andy Anderson of Cornell Facilities about the possibility of eliminating the streetlight near the Beebe Lake entrance feature.

### **7. Tin Can under Judd Falls Rd.**

The 'tin can' underpass under Judd Falls Rd. is nearing the age of replacement. Everyone agreed that Forest Home needs to keep involved with this discussion as it affects aesthetics and traffic flow through the neighborhood. It was agreed that we would make it clear to both the Town and Cornell that we would like to be included in the planning process.

### **8. Street Captains**

A short discussion followed on whether to have street captains deliver hard copies of important announcements to those households without e-mail. Bill Arms suggested that officers assign a neighbor to deliver announcements to these members of the community. This was accepted by the group.

### **9. Alternative Transportation and Other Initiatives**

Abe Stroock asked the officers to help develop a list of relatively simple and inexpensive projects from those projects identified by the Alternative Transportation Working Group, and to present it to the Town in the form of a proposal. Another list would be presented to Cornell.

The list for the Town would include creation of new crosswalks in several places and the repainting of old ones throughout the neighborhood, and the widening of pedestrian walkways from the downstream bridge to Warren Rd. and along Warren Rd. hill. The list for Cornell would include the creation or improvement of bike and mixed-use paths.

Michael Bend stressed that easements and expense are major concerns for the Town with respect to widening walkways, based on the Coddington Rd. precedent.

Jon Miller reported that he is working with the ATWG to organize the master list of desired improvements into short-term and long-term objectives. Jon will talk to Don Rakow regarding the path behind Warren Hall and how it is maintained and the walkway from Beebe Lake to the Byway. Don has already said that snow removal cannot be extended to the bridge.

It was agreed to gather list of areas that need snow removal in the winter and present these to the Town and see if the Town is responsible. At the moment the Town only plows the 2 bridges and the Forest Home Walkway, but many other stretches of walkway are in need of snow removal to accommodate pedestrian traffic through the winter months.

### **10. Possibility of Drawing Electric Power from Fall Creek**

J. Miller reported on his conversations with Cornell engineering professor Jeff Tester about the

possibility of installing a micro-hydroelectric turbine in the creek behind The Byway to supply energy to one or more houses in the areas. Prof. Tester had assigned two students to produce a feasibility study as part of a class project, and the students concluded that a small facility (perhaps 10 kw) would indeed be feasible by the dam above the waterfall behind 4 The Byway.

Jon is pursuing this with Prof. Tester, who is an alternative energy specialist affiliated with the Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future.

## **Adjournment**

**Executive session followed**