Forest Home Improvement Association Annual Meeting

7:00 – 8:30 PM

Oct. 20, 2026

Forest Home Chapel

In attendance: Connie Stirling-Engman, Herb Engman, Robin Blakely-Armitage, Tim Agnew, Charlie Trautmann, Michael Bend, Cindy Bowman, Pete Loucks, Jennifer Loucks, Jeff Holden, Nanette Blakely, Caroline Arms, Ari Lavine, Dani Novak, Valerie Hans, Ruth Mahr, Lars Washburn, Linda Barrington, Andy Galloway, Ellen Lane, guest Eric Levine

Meeting started on time at 7:00 PM with self-introductions.

7:15 PM Charlie reviewed the agenda. He distributed copies of the President's Report, and said it is posted on the FHIA website: https://www.fhia.org/minutes/. He also acknowledged people who have contributed to FH events and awards during the past year. These include Bruce Brittain for the Ithaca Preservation Award and the FH Chapel improvements to the building, honoring the historical integrity of the building and infrastructure improvements. In addition, paving enhancements were noted for Fairway and Crest Drive. Downstream Bridge improvements were also noted. Charlie recognized our officers.

Jeff Holden gave the Treasurer's Report for the fiscal year Oct. 1 2025 – Sept. 30, 2026, which is available on the FHIA website: https://www.fhia.org/minutes/.

Charlie mentioned that Sally Grubb of FH Chapel put out a request to FHIA for ideas of how to get more children involved in FH Chapel. Charlie said suggestions could be given to him and he'll send them to Sally.

Herb Engman ran through the officer election process. Herb asked for additional nominations, but there were none. All officers agreed to serve for another year: Charlie Trautmann – President, Jennifer Loucks – Vice-President, Connie Stirling-Engman Secretary, Jeff Holden Treasurer. Ruth Maher seconded the motion, and all were unanimously elected.

Herb introduced Eric Levine, the newly appointed for Town Supervisor. Herb described Eric's background in fiscal, personnel and organizational management.

Herb turned the meeting over to Eric Levine. Erik talked about his background on the Town Board, Alternatives Federal Credit Union (AFCU) and how the Town of Ithaca manages funds and

how well - planned things are. He talked about a major change coming up. Eric said that for the last four years, the City underbilled for the Ithaca Fire Department. The City now has to do a four - year recapture, with an increase in tax slightly over 20% this year. Eric just set up an Ad Hoc committee on First Emergency Response and the total for the Ithaca Fire Dept. is a cost of 6.5 million.

Ari Lavine asked what could be done differently? Employee health insurance contracts? Charlie asked if there are any non-fire related questions. Eric had a list of status of FH projects and offered to e-mail them to the people at the meeting – update from Joe Slater, Director of Public Works, related to bridge. There is money in budget to resurface remaining speed bumps. Valerie Hans asked if the downstream bridge is safe. Charlie replied that there is a state bridge inspection team and they're on it.

Charlie moved on with the agenda to Caroline Arms, who spoke about the FH Directory. Caroline explained that we have a paper directory instead of an online one because of security. She said the goal is to produce an updated directory every two years. She said we still need some street captain replacements to keep track of neighbors who move and newcomers. Ellen Lane offered to be backup street captain or fill in for Dani Novak. Dani agreed to continue as street captain but said he'll be away during the winter months. Lisa Wickham said she'll cover Fairway. Caroline said she'll deliver a draft of the directory to all street captains and she'll start on the new updated directory after the New Year.

Charlie moved on to STREETS '27 and turned the meeting over to Robin Blakely-Armitage.

Herb asked if traffic counts had been taken. Charlie said he thought they were taken on Oct. 8. Robin said cameras would analyze traffic patterns. There was some discussion about Fisher walkaround events and the sidewalk along Botanic Gardens on Judd Falls Rd.

Charlie asked "How has this Project Worked for You?", referring to the process, not the content at this time. He said discussion about the content will happen later. Those present gave feedback about the quality of the walking tours, which was mostly positive.

Charlie closed the meeting with a proposal to increase our contribution to the FH Chapel to $350.00 per year. He said we'll use Chapel more during the coming year, so the increase is justified. Andrew Galloway seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Submitted by Connie Stirling-Engman, Secretary FHIA