

Forest Home Improvement Association
Annual Meeting
October 21, 2009

President Michael Bend called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm in the Forest Home Chapel meeting room, with 24 community members in attendance. Residents who also reside on the town and county boards were present (H. Engmann and M. Koplinka-Loehr, respectively). All present were asked to introduce themselves and identify their place of residence.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Pres. Bend summarized some of 2008-09 activities, including the holiday and renewed block parties, Jay Boulanger's update on the Cornell Deer Program, and Bob Stanton's talk on the history of the Warren family. Suggestions for the upcoming year included a walking local history lesson, possibly led by Bruce Brittain, and more family-friendly activities.

LEAFLETTERS and WELCOMING COMMITTEE

An updated map of all homes in Forest Home is available (hard copies available). A sign-up sheet asking for volunteers to serve as neighborhood liaisons was distributed.

Ed Oyer summarized the work of the welcoming committee. He and his group have assembled a packet of local information they provide to new residences. Many of their documents are not yet in electronic format, and it was suggested these be digitized so that all can be made available on the web.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION WORKING GROUP

The minutes of this active group's meetings are available on the FH website. Ed Oyer expressed concern that we do not yet have a secure, centralized file for our extensive paper archives.

WEBSITE

Much progress has been made, thanks in large part to the efforts of Wendy Patti and many contributors. It was suggested that this platform be used to announce needs for and providers of neighborhood services, e.g. baby-sitting, lawn care, pet walkers. The issue of security was discussed, and access to the FH directory of residents will be by password.

TCAT ROUTES

David Gross summarized the route changes enacted by TCAT (routes 40 and 41 are out), but indicated that there are still about 68 traverses by large buses each day along the Judd Falls – downstream bridge – Pleasant Grove corridor, some of which are out of service buses.

DEER REPORT

All available permits for culling on Cornell Plantations lands have been sold.

CONCERNS ABOUT RENTAL AND UNMAINTAINED PROPERTIES

Herb Engmann summarized his conversations with Bruce Bates, the code enforcement officer, regarding the difficulties in enforcing occupancy codes. Subtle pressures from neighbors sometimes are effective, but excess occupancy is an inevitable problem in neighborhoods proximate to college campuses.

TRAFFIC CALMING

An exciting year, with the rapid progress towards Phase II, now scheduled to be done in 1010. There is some concern that the quality of speed table materials may need to be lowered to meet budget estimates.

UPSTREAM BRIDGE RENOVATION

Bruce Brittain updated the attendees on the slow but steady progress towards the bridge replacement. Though originally scheduled for summer, 2010 construction, this timetable may be moved back a year owing to the many delays in budget authorization at state and county levels. What effect such a delay would have on the traffic calming plan is uncertain.

TOWN STREAM SETBACK LAW

The current drafted legislation recognizes the existing proximity of some FH homes to the Fall Creek shoreline, and will grandfather them in as exempt from the guidelines.

TAX EXEMPT STATUS FOR FHIA

We do not qualify as a tax exempt organization. To achieve such status would likely cost much more than our annual budget.

TREASURER'S REPORT (submitted by M. Bend)

This year's income was \$782, expenses \$1195, leaving us with a balance of \$3626.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The nominating committee put forth a slate of candidates:

President	Michael Bend (incumbant)
Vice President	Drew Noden (incumbant)
Secretary	Beth Kelly
Treasurer	Bill Arms
Past President	Trevor Pinch

There being no additional nominations from the floor, the proposed slate was voted without dissent.

Pres. Bend thanked community members for their support throughout the year then adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Drew Noden, FHIA-Vice President.