

**Forest Home Improvement Association Officers Meeting
December 1, 2010
Forest Home Chapel
Minutes**

Officers in attendance were: Jon Miller (president), Max Evjen (vice president), Beth Kelly (secretary), Bill Arms (treasurer) and Michael Bend (immediate past president). Community members in attendance were Bruce Brittain, Doug Brittain, David Gross, Abe Stroock, Mike Koplinka-Loehr, Dani Novak, Elizabeth Sanders, and Helen Spanswick

1. Community Bulletin Board (Wikispace or Facebook)

Dani Novak shared his experience using Wikispaces and how it might help residents share information without adding to the number of e-mails circulated. There is no cost and no password necessary and Dani already set it up for Forest Home at FHIA.wikispaces.com.

Discussion ensued weighing the benefits of Wikispaces versus Facebook and it was pointed out that Wikispaces doesn't require users to register with personal information as Facebook does, which is a factor for those not on Facebook. A decision was not made over use of one over the other as a community information sharing venue. Forest Home already has a Facebook page, but there aren't that many 'friends' using it at the moment. Max agreed to help facilitate and manage the use of both of these sites. This topic is still open to further discussion.

2. Holiday Party

Beth will get an announcement out for the upcoming party to be held at Mary Kane's house, 200 Forest Home Dr., on Sunday, December 12th. Volunteers are needed for set-up and clean-up.

There will be informal music making, caroling and the sharing of conversation over food and drink with all neighbors.

3. Alternative Transportation Working Group

Abe Stroock reported on the previous night's (11/30) meeting of the Alternative Transportation Working Group. Notes from this meeting are available upon request. A brief synopsis follows.

The main goals of the ATWG are to reduce volume and speed of vehicular traffic while increasing accessibility for alternative forms of transportation, particularly bicyclists and pedestrians. The group has identified a number of walkways, footpaths and crosswalks that may either be improved or added. The proposed walkways and crosswalks are consistent with elements of the FH Traffic Calming Plan. Some of these were presented to the Town by Michael Bend in the spring of 2009 while others need further discussion before requests are made to the Town, County or Cornell.

Bike lanes and mixed-use paths are being investigated for the following areas:

- Dairy Bar to Herb Garden Path
- Lower Beebe Lake path from Plantations Rd. to Martha Van
- Route from N. Campus to Warren Rd. and beyond

Some pedestrian facilities are included in the Upstream Bridge Project, although a plan for pedestrian-scale lighting was dropped by the Town. Also under discussion is the need for wider shoulders to accommodate foot traffic along upper Warren Rd. and the 200 and 300 blocks of Forest Home Dr. Widening these areas would require permission or formal easements from homeowners and, in some cases, community labor since they are beyond the realm of Town responsibility.

The ATWG would also like the community to consider seeking designation as a “greenway.”

Jon Miller mentioned the need to identify specific improvements to roadways that could be addressed when these roads are scheduled for an upgrade. David Gross mentioned his hope that some TCAT buses might be diverted from Judd Falls Rd. to North Campus via the Thurston Ave. Bridge.

Sidewalk snow removal was discussed. Helen Spanswick noted that Cornell cleared snow after the first storm only up to the entrance feature. It was agreed that the FHIA should ask Cornell and the Town for assistance in clearing sidewalks throughout the neighborhood. It was noted that there has to be a certain width for the Town to use its plows. For more information on these issues and future projects please contact foresthomenews@gmail.com.

Abe Stroock stressed the need to get feedback about the newly installed speed tables. FHIA is committed to distributing a questionnaire in the spring.

4. Energy Efficiency Campaign

Mike Koplinka-Loehr spoke about the Lighten Up Tompkins campaign through Cornell Cooperative Extension. This is a program to raise awareness and track energy usage around the county. The project will start with the distribution of bags at each house with a compact fluorescent light bulb and info on entering a raffle and making an energy efficiency pledge and filling out a survey. The officers agreed to be involved and to send an e-mail to notify neighbors of the bags and the process. Mike will leave the bags at the Chapel for the street captains. Dec. 6th is the raffle date.

5. Light Pollution

Discussion took place about the lighting that will accompany the lamp posts on the stone pedestals next to the entrance speed tables. Elizabeth Sanders had e-mailed several articles about the effects of light pollution, especially as it affects insect populations and birds. Bill Arms

said that the articles were poorly researched, having few primary sources, and most of the examples were from gas station lights that are very tall and emit long streams of light. These long streams of light are detrimental to moths and other insects, but the lamps under discussion are not high, are directed downward and will have energy-efficient, low-wattage bulbs.

The officers concluded that the addition of lights at the entry features was not sufficiently troubling to justify a request for removal by the Town. There was some discussion of whether the Town would take out streetlights that stand close to the new fixtures. It was noted that Town Supervisor Herb Engman expressed support for this at the annual meeting, and that Town Engineer Dan Walker has committed to assessing the lighting situation once the new lamps are installed. Jon Miller will follow up with Walker.

6. Holiday Wreaths on Entrance features

There was discussion about Alan Fletcher's proposal to have holiday wreaths adorn the entrance feature lamp posts/pedestals. It was agreed not to pursue this.

7. Plantations Open House

Don Rakow of Cornell Plantations informed Jon Miller that an open house for Forest Home is in the works at the new Brian Nevin Welcome Center on Plantations Road. This will give neighbors a chance to tour the facility and enjoy some refreshments. Announcements will be forthcoming.

8. Noise Levels from Cornell

Building noise is an ongoing concern, with the central issue being that current guidelines allow new buildings to add a certain amount of noise beyond existing levels, so each new building project effectively raises the acceptable baseline. What is required is a fixed baseline and an agreed maximum acceptable noise level. Trevor Pinch and the Britains will request a meeting with Cornell environmental compliance officer Steve Beyers to get the ball rolling again.

Mention was made of California noise laws as something to which to compare our situation.

Adjournment