

Minutes

Forest Home Improvement Association

Annual Meeting via Zoom

October 21, 2020

In attendance: Caroline Arms (President), Jeff Holden (Vice President), Constance Stirling-Engman (Secretary), Heather Beasley (Treasurer), Bill Arms, Michael Bend, Doug Brittain, Bruce Brittain, Chris Ellis, Ruth Mahr, Emily Mahr, Pete Loucks, Tom Campanella, Jonathan Miller, Claudia Fuchs, Valerie Hans, Randy Little, Cindy Bowman

For the agenda, see:

https://fhia.org/wp-content/uploads/Minutes/2020/FHIA_2020_Annual_Meeting_Agenda_20201021.pdf

The meeting began promptly at 7:00 PM, with President Caroline Arms starting a round of introductions. Residents went one by one and described the length of time they have lived in Forest Home and a bit about themselves.

Next, Caroline gave her President's Report, which had already been distributed via email.

The report started with a review of social events during the past year, which have been modified because of the pandemic. A highlight was the Scavenger Hunt, which replaced the annual fall picnic in Forest Home Park. Caroline and others remarked that the Scavenger Hunt was a success and served to bring residents together and get them outdoors – or otherwise involved – at a difficult time. The prospect of a virtual holiday event was raised, with Michael Bend and Connie Stirling-Engman agreeing to collaborate on how this might be accomplished. Additional events and activities included the annual spring cleanup and ongoing FH Park maintenance.

The next topic was the printed FH Directory. Caroline emphasized that she and Jeff Holden will be looking for help to get the new and updated Directory out by the end of 2020.

An update on local issues began with the status of the Town of Ithaca's Forest Home Walkway Improvement project. Caroline said that while she doesn't have access to final plans for the Walkway, she was informed by the Town of Ithaca that she'll receive advance notice of the next meeting to discuss these plans. Residents will be able to attend the meeting and Caroline will keep people informed.

The Cradit Farm/Pleasant Grove Redesign Project was mentioned next. Caroline said that some residents may have already attended Gary Stewart's recent public information meeting on this topic. Caroline added that Cornell expects to offer another public meeting at which the redesign plans will be available.

On the topic of oversize trucks in FH, Caroline urged residents to contact David Kuckuk if they see oversize trucks attempting to get through the S-curve, since he is keeping tabs on these incidents and the damage that is often caused.

Related to the S-curve, it was mentioned that a temporary solution is in place. A heavy metal railing has been installed along the S-curve to shore up the eroding area and provide some protection to the adjacent property owned by John Foote. Discussion followed about the possibility of incorporating GPS coordinates warning truck drivers about the S-curve into their driving systems. Apparently, in order to do this, it is necessary to buy a more sophisticated type of GPS and most truck drivers don't want to do that. General weight limit signage is in effect in FH. Many residents said it is still inadequate and said that even the Town of Ithaca agrees that signage needs to be updated. Some updates to existing signs installed last June. The need for additional signs is on the Public Works agenda and we will be informed of upcoming meetings that include this topic.

Caroline opened the meeting to questions.

Jonathan Miller asked what are the most important issues residents should be aware of now.

Caroline replied that work on the FH Walkway is probably a priority. She said that the major issue under discussion right now is whether the walkway will include steps or be a gradual incline (no steps.) Considerations around the choice include ease of snow removal, getting equipment in there and accessibility for things such as bikes and strollers.

Heather Beasley gave her Treasurer's Report next, with a brief aside for recognition of Caroline's exemplary service over the past two years. Heather and others remarked on Caroline's skillful leadership and diligence and reminded her to look for a gift certificate from Cayuga Landscape.

Heather's Treasurer's Report included highlights about dues collection and expenses. She reported that even though the Association collected fewer dues this past year, we had fewer expenses. She said that expenditures were lower than usual this year, primarily because we didn't have an annual fall picnic. Heather concluded by giving the balance in the FHIA checking account.

Michael Bend moved the meeting on to present the slate of officers for 2021. Valerie Hans was nominated to be our next Treasurer. Constance Stirling-Engman will continue as Secretary and Jeff Holden will stay on as Vice-President. Caroline Arms agreed to stay on as President in the absence of a nomination for a replacement. Bruce Brittain moved to accept the slate of officers and Doug Brittain seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

Caroline emphasized that she had not wanted to continue as President and hopes that someone else will step up and offer to fill this position soon. Many others agreed that it is important to have officer turnover and generate fresh ideas. Caroline said that in the meantime, until a replacement is found, she will delegate tasks and ask for more help so that she isn't burdened with all the responsibility. Michael Bend and Connie Stirling-Engman repeated that they will come up with a plan for a virtual holiday event.

The issue of the FH Directory followed, with discussion about the importance of a coordinated effort to get data as clean as possible, and then generate the printed directory. Jeff remarked that his plan is ready and the data only needs to be broken down into chunks for checking. He said street captains must follow up with delivering updated information to either him or Caroline. Caroline mentioned that some residents have been changing their emails, which happens, and that all information is voluntarily provided. For example, some people don't want their phone numbers in the directory. Constance mentioned that there are new neighbors living next door to her now and she will ask them if they want

to be included. Everyone agreed that it would be great to have the updated directory distributed by the end of 2020. Claudia Fuchs and Jonathan Miller offered to assist with gathering data.

Finally, Jonathan Miller talked about his experience with installing heat pumps in his home. See his slides at: https://fhia.org/wp-content/uploads/Minutes/2020/Heat_pumps_at_122_Judd_Falls_Rd_JM.pdf

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM

Respectfully submitted by Constance Stirling-Engman

Secretary

FHIA