

Forest Home Improvement Association

President's Annual Report

October 2022 – September 2023

Once again, the Forest Home community has demonstrated its vitality, talent and good will during the past program year. Here are some of the activities conducted by our neighborhood volunteers:

Spring Roadside Cleanup

On April 18 numerous individuals cleaned up all the roads in Forest Home. Some continued the task on their own throughout the year.

Rebuilt Bridge at Flat Rock

Led by Forest Home resident Charlie Trautmann, the footbridge at Flat Rock was redesigned and rebuilt. He coordinated 135 people who contributed to the project, including 50 volunteer builders (20 from Forest Home) and raised \$60,000 from 20 donors to fund the undertaking. The rededication took place on June 10, 2023. New generations of Forest Home residents will now be able to enjoy the stream and the trails beyond the beautiful footbridge.

Hasbrouck Path Closure

Cornell announced that the gate to Hasbrouck off Warren Road would be locked for security reasons. After a huge outcry from faculty, staff, students and Forest Home residents, the decision was reversed, much to the relief of all who use the entrance regularly.

Vehicle Length Restrictions

Large trucks continued to clog up our narrow roads and sharp turns. The Town passed a law restricting long trucks on Sand Bank Road, but, for reasons that remain unclear, did not include Forest Home. Fortunately, the law was eventually modified to include Forest Home. We are still awaiting the results of that restriction.

Credit Farm Drive/Pleasant Grove Road Intersection Realignment

We were stunned to learn that the County Highway Manager had decided to keep the intersection as is and that the County and Town governments had agreed with him. Forest Home had been expecting the realignment for decades and Cornell had allocated the \$2.5

million to fund the work. This decision was seen by many as a betrayal of the public by our elected officials. After appearances at public meetings of over 2 dozen Forest Home residents, the County and Town announced they were going to conduct an independent study of the intersection to supplement the previous study done by Cornell. We are still awaiting the result of that new study.

RaNic Golf Course Situation

After publishing plans to add condominiums, a hotel and several for-sale private homes, the RaNic management changed course and offered to sell the property. The sale is still pending and the future of the golf course is very much in question. This is an important issue for Forest Home because extensive development of the 100+ acres could add substantially to traffic in our neighborhood.

Annual Picnic

The Annual Picnic on September 9 in the Forest Home Park was a great success, with just under 50 residents attending and enjoying good conversation, lawn games, superb pot luck food and, of course, ice cream.

Forest Home Walkway

Residents and pedestrian commuters to the Cornell Campus have been enjoying the renovated - and much safer – walkway. Town plans to add a bench and planter have been delayed by right-of-way issues with Cornell. The highly invasive Japanese Knotweed along the walkway still has not been treated despite plans to do so last fall and this growing season.

Behind-the -Scenes Activity

There are many contributions that occur quietly behind the scenes, but are important to the FHIA. Caroline and Bill Arms maintain the website and provide many of the alerts to residents. Bruce and Doug Brittain spend a good bit of time on the informal walkway from Crest Lane to Forest Home Drive, removing invasive species and improving the walking surface. They have been active also in monitoring the Cradit Farm Drive and RaNic situations. There are many more volunteers who leap into action when asked and are too numerous to be listed here. Finally, the officers of the FHIA – Charlie Trautmann, VP; Valerie Hans, Treasurer; and Connie Stirling-Engman, Secretary – contribute far more than their titles imply, assuring the smooth functioning of the Forest Home Improvement Association.

Respectfully Submitted,

Herb Engman

President, Forest Home Improvement Association