



# **FRIENDS OF WEST WINDSOR OPEN SPACE**

## **Meeting Minutes**

May 28, 2024 – 7:30PM – Zoom (Video Chat Application)

### **Members Present**

- Mike Schuit (Trustee)
- Alison Miller (Trustee)
- Eileen Murphy (Trustee)
- Bob Murray (Trustee)
- Paul Ligeti (Trustee)
- Theresa Liu (Trustee)
- Benety Goh (Trustee)
- Agriya Bansal

### **Call to Order**

- We were given adequate notice (10 days) for this meeting.

### **Treasurer's Report**

- Mike read the Treasurer's Report on Frank Lavadera's behalf (Frank couldn't attend); it was approved.

### **Ronn Slinn Pavers**

- Before Dan Dobromilsky retired as West Windsor's landscape architect, he was working on pavers in honor of Ron Slinn.
- A few FOWWOS members contributed money to this;
- Further discussion deferred to next meeting, for when Frank is present.

### **Nash Park**

- Mike expressed two concerns about the FOWWOS contract to install a plaque in Nash Park:
  - FOWWOS' board never formally approved of the contract.
    - Secretary's note: The contract was interpreted as approved by FOWWOS by email vote in February 2023.
  - Dates of performance (i.e., when work would be done) were not written into the contract.
- FOWWOS signed the contract on March 28, 2023.
- A few weeks ago, Ilene Dube was in contact with the artist (Gyuri Hollosy) who was supposed to give her some completion dates, but he did not do so.
- Mike's recommendation: FOWWOS is holding money for this artist; whenever he completes it we will turn over the money to him.

### **Clean Streets**

- One West Windsor mother asked us if, in the case that her children live in West Windsor but clean up in Plainsboro, will FOWWOS be compensated under the Clean Streets program?

- The answer is “no” because Clean Streets is for work in West Windsor, but Mike will pay up to \$100 personally in order to encourage them.
- Becky suggested that maybe FOWWOS can sponsor Clean Streets vis-à-vis students in the WWP school district.

### **Farmers Market**

- FOWWOS was present this past weekend; had a grand old time. Thanks to everyone who helped.
- Mike has a strategy of attracting people to the booth by asking them where their house is on the map.

### **June 15 County Executive Presentation**

- Dan Benson will be giving a presentation at the West Windsor Library on current dynamics of Mercer County open space and predictions/vision for the future.
- Ilene Dube, although not a FOWWOS trustee anymore, is still organizing this.

### **Tatamy's Swamp Trail**

- The idea is to use the existing access roads (between Penn Lyle-North Post and North Post-Clarksville) where they meet/come near to Jacob Drive, and turn them into a walking/biking trail through the woods. This trail would (1) further connect residents to multiple areas of West Windsor, (2) showcase a wildlife habitat, and (3) emphasize the history of the indigenous Leni Lenape – in particular, the historic figure Moses Tunda Tatamy.
- Would pass through multiple properties owned by West Windsor Township and perhaps a Home Owners Association property or two.
- Would pass by a pump station that is being shut down.
- Entrance on Clarksville Road would ideally branch off a sidewalk connecting the trail to the new railroad bridge that is to be constructed in the coming years.
- According to Bob Murray, the Township is interested in the project.
- Perhaps Green Acres funding is also available for this.
- There are some water and wetlands issues.
- Crossings at Penn Lyle and North Post Road could include lighted crosswalks.
- This would be a multi-year project.
- FOWWOS should identify the 3 or 4 people who should be in attendance at our preliminary meeting with the Township.
- Perhaps involving a local school to do archaeological surveys.
- Mike suggested involving Jerry Foster. Bob Murray can reach out to him.
- This would involve collaboration with the Township and possibly informing Amtrak as well.

### **Girl Scout Project**

- Agriya presented her idea for a meditation/relaxation garden in Community Park. It would involve planting native plants and trees between the skate park and Bernt Midland Boulevard, also incorporating a Little Free Library, benches, and possibly a table.
- She is already working with West Windsor Township (Dept of Public Works, Landscape Architect, etc.)
- Garden will incorporate variety of plants that provide greenery throughout the year.
- Agriya is a Girl Scout “Juliette” – a girl scout without a troop; her mother is her advisor.
- Paul suggested that QR Codes in the garden not use laminated paper and instead use metal or another long-lasting material. Also adding written text in addition to the QR codes.
- Mike asked Agriya to develop a budget and give to FOWWOS.
- Perhaps FOWWOS can fund this project; it has provided minor funding to past community projects.

## **Maps**

- Bob mentioned that Sam would like to make sure that all of FOWWOS's maps are up to date. We should take the time to make sure that we have the current open space maps.