



# THE FOWWOS NEWS

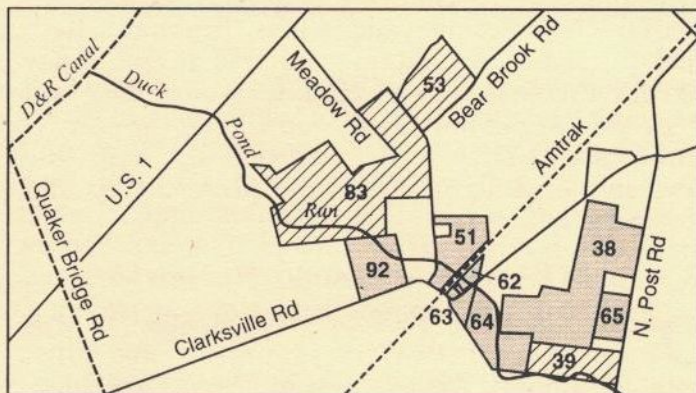
Newsletter of *FRIENDS OF WEST WINDSOR OPEN SPACE*

Vol. 2, No. 3 • AUTUMN 2001

In this issue: Open Space Task Force Continues ☞ New Funding Source ☞ New Grovers Mill Pond Task Force ☞ President's Message: Do You "Dig" Trees? ☞ Properties Added to Inventory

## NEW FUNDING FOR MANEELY PURCHASE

A new source of funding has been made available to help in the Township's purchase of the Maneely properties (numbers 53 and 83 on the map below). Because of their location in the watershed of the Duck Pond Run, these properties are eligible for low-interest loans at one-half the market rate made available by the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust Fund. This fund generally supports infrastructure improvements that contribute to the preservation of water quality in the State. This is the first instance in which the funds have been made available for an open space purchase because of its probable influence on water quality.



With the usual open space purchase, the Township is eligible for a total of 65 percent in reimbursements, 50 percent from the State plus 15 percent from the County. The remaining 35 percent—the Township's share—comes from the revenue of the local open space tax. For this property, the low-interest loan will help finance that share. The specific amount in this case has not yet been determined.

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## OPEN SPACE TASK FORCE TO CONTINUE

The Mayor's Open Space Acquisition Task Force will be back in business after the first of the year. Mayor Shing-Fu Hsueh has made known his intention of continuing this group that has played such an important role over the past two-and-a-half years in identifying open space properties for preservation.

Membership on the new Task Force will include Bill Benfer, who has been a major contributor to its past success through his efforts in negotiating sales with property owners. Others who have already been named are two representatives from Township Council, Jackie Alberts and Kristen Appelget, and two members of the FOWWOS Board of Directors, Helen Rancan and Dick Snedeker. Yet to be designated are one member each from the Environmental and Recreation Commissions, the Planning Board, and the general public. One member of the Township professional staff will also be appointed to bring the total membership to nine.

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## FOWWOS ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER 30

The annual meeting of the FOWWOS membership will take place on Tuesday, October 30 at 7:30 p.m. at the West Windsor Municipal Building in Room A. The agenda will include the election of officers for the coming year and the appointment of new directors to replace those whose terms expire at the end of 2001. In addition, several changes in the by-laws will be proposed for approval by the directors. All members in good standing are encouraged to attend. ☞



# Friends Of West Windsor Open Space

P.O. Box 73 West Windsor New Jersey 08550 (609) 799-4868

## Board of Directors

Mike Schuit, President	Jackie Alberts
Helen Rancan, 1st Vice President	Ken Carlson
Bob Murray, 2nd Vice President	George Levin
Ted Begun, Treasurer	Alison Miller
Harley Pickens, Assistant Treasurer	Bill Neff
Elliot Kleiman, Secretary	John Sabino
Rhea Rogers, Assistant Secretary	Dick Snedeker
Robert Kenny, Esq., Counsel	

## In Memoriam

Bernt Midland (1927-1998), Founder  
Gil Gilmore (1922-1998)  
Ron Rogers (1929-1999)

E-mail: [ek61@juno.com](mailto:ek61@juno.com) or [FOWWOS@yahoo.com](mailto:FOWWOS@yahoo.com)  
Web site: [www.princetonol.com/groups/fowwos/](http://www.princetonol.com/groups/fowwos/)  
Meetings: First and third Tuesdays at  
Town Hall, 7:30 p.m.

The newsletter *The FOWWOS News* is produced three times a year by Dick Snedeker and Alison Miller, co-editors  
FOWWOS is a nonprofit organization incorporated under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code

## NEW GROVERS MILL POND TASK FORCE

Mayor Hsueh has set a high priority for the project to rehabilitate Grovers Mill Pond and dam. Accordingly, he has appointed a new Task Force whose job will be to get the project moving and to see it through to a conclusion.

A plan to rebuild the dam and to deepen the pond was proposed in early 1993 by a previous Task Force, and the Township took initial steps to start the project. However, when the new government took office later that year the project was given a low priority, and it has languished ever since. For the past six years progress has been halted due to a dispute with the owners of the nearby Grovers Mill building.

As reported in the Spring-Summer 2000 issue of *The FOWWOS News*, the project has two parts, both of which will be accomplished in close sequence to minimize disturbance in the area. First, the dam must be rebuilt to bring it into compliance with Federal dam safety standards. The first order to do this was given by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection in 1979.

The dam is the 400-foot long earthen embankment under Clarksville Road as it approaches the mill. It extends on the pond side up to about five yards into the pond and about 10 to 15 yards beyond the road right-of-way on the downstream side. It was constructed in its present form in 1931, although its original smaller predecessor was built during Colonial times.

The dam and its five-sided concrete spillway are in poor condition as a result of continued erosion and a total lack of maintenance for decades. Rehabilitation and upgrading of the dam involves removal of all vegetation from its slopes, plus regrading and stabilizing those slopes to make them erosion resistant. Without these improvements, the dam poses an ever-increasing danger of failure.

Several studies have shown that the only viable solution for long-term rehabilitation of the pond is deepening to discourage weed growth from the bottom and to remove the nutrient-laden silt. At present, the pond is approximately half-full of silt and has an average depth of about three feet. The deepening will establish a new depth of about ten feet, which is judged to be sufficient to discourage bottom growth except around the edges where the depth will be less. The deepening project will be done by excavation with the pond water level lowered temporarily. Several other man-made lakes in this area have been successfully restored in this way.

The new task force comprises seven members: Dick Snedeker, Chairman, and Harley Pickens, Vice-Chairman, both of the FOWWOS Board of Directors, plus Annabelle Kim of the Environmental Commission, and Chris Brennan, Beth Feehan, Ruth Finkelstein, and Don Rizzo. They met for the first time in mid-September and will meet on a regular basis until the project is completed. They will work closely with the Township engineering and legal professionals and Mayor Hsueh. ☺

## FOWWOS FINANCIAL REVIEW

During the year 2000, a total of \$22,039 was received by FOWWOS in unrestricted gifts. An additional \$2858 came from employer matching gift programs, and the Clean Streets Program brought in \$2162 more. Our thanks to all who contributed. We also received a grant of \$204,962 from the State Green Acres program. This money provided the major share of the \$278,828 given by FOWWOS to the Township toward the purchase of the Liao-Lin property on North Post Road. FOWWOS's all-volunteer efforts have also been applied to fundraising for the Ron Rogers Arboretum. The FOWWOS directors look forward to increased opportunities to help West Windsor in its open space preservation effort. ☺

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:  
DO YOU "DIG" TREES?**

The Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association is coordinating a tree planting effort at the Liao-Lin property at 9:30 a.m. on the following four Saturdays this fall: October 13, October 27, November 3, and November 10. The property is located on North Post Road across from its intersection with Jacob Drive. For more information on the tree planting program contact Jessica Milose of the Watershed Association by telephone at 609 737-3735 or by e-mail at [jmilose@thewatershed.org](mailto:jmilose@thewatershed.org).

When you attend the tree planting please park on Jacob Drive and not on the gravel driveway next to the Liao-Lin property. Wear work gloves and long pants and bring a shovel if you can. Volunteers of all ages and abilities are welcome. Scouts from West Windsor Troop 40 are using this opportunity to help earn their Forestry Merit Badge. You can stay anywhere from one to several hours, but don't be late since the trees tend to go fast!

As the Watershed Association has highlighted, replenishing woodlands by tree planting helps the absorption of runoff, thereby protecting our soils from erosion and our waterways from freezing. They also filter pollutants such as excess fertilizers used on lawns and farms, and help the recharge of groundwater. Of course, trees also moderate extreme temperatures, and provide habitat for birds, insects, and other wildlife. They are also pleasing to look at. We look forward to seeing you there.

The Liao-Lin property (no. 39 on the map on p. 1) was purchased by FOWWOS with your help in June of 2000 and then transferred to the people of West Windsor to be preserved forever as open space. Approximately half of its 29 acres are wooded and half open. As the map shows, it is traversed along one side by Duck Pond Run. It is therefore an important element in the watershed of that stream.

FOWWOS would like to take this opportunity to thank the Watershed Association for this important service they are providing for our community. ☺

**SEPTEMBER 11TH MEMORIAL FOR ARBORETUM**

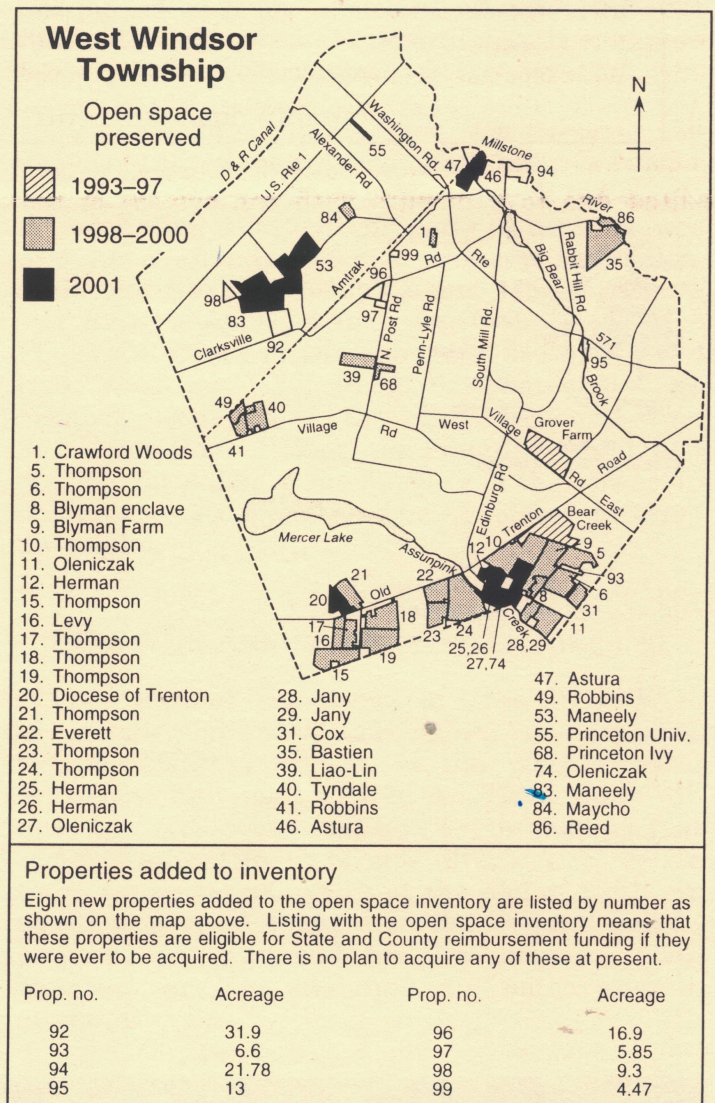
FOWWOS is accepting donations for a September 11th memorial pool feature being planned for the Ron Rogers Arboretum. Checks should be made out to FOWWOS to protect tax deductibility and marked "Sept. 11 fund." More details on the memorial will be given at the annual meeting on October 30th. ☺

**EIGHT NEW PROPERTIES ADDED TO INVENTORY**

The Township Council has approved the addition of eight new properties to the West Windsor open space preservation inventory. These will now be added to our open space plan on file with the State Green Acres program. This means that should any of the properties ever be acquired by the Township they will be eligible for State and County reimbursement funds. Land purchased by the Township that is not listed beforehand with Green Acres is not eligible for such funding assistance. Listing in the inventory implies no specific intention to purchase.

The inventory now totals 99 properties, 38 of which have been acquired or otherwise preserved. Most of the inventory parcels are at least five acres in area. Many of those that have not yet been acquired may not be available for some time, since their owners are currently in residence.

The map below shows the location of the eight parcels by inventory number. There have been no new acquisitions since the last issue. ☺



*New Funding, cont.*

The announcement of the new funding source was made last month at a gathering of State, County, and West Windsor officials held at the Princeton Presbyterian Church on Meadow Road adjacent to the Maneely property. Mayor Hsueh explained the benefits of the new source for West Windsor's open space preservation program. This program is widely recognized as the most effective in the State.

Totaling 209 acres, the two Maneely parcels constitute the largest open space purchase to date. Because of their location in the north-western part of the township, they have been under consideration for active recreation development. Currently there are no recreation facilities in that part of the township.

Seven additional properties in the West Windsor open space inventory would be eligible for

funding assistance from the new source because they lie in the Duck Pond Run drainage basin. These properties are shown on the map as nos. 38, 51, 62, 63, 64, 65, and 92. They comprise a total of 210 acres. At the present time, several are under active consideration for purchase. No. 39 on the map is the Liao-Lin property, which is already owned by the Township. ☞

*Open Space Task Force, cont.*

Although a number of new acquisition possibilities will be pursued, the work of the Task Force will now center on how best to utilize the property that has already been preserved. To date, nearly 1,500 acres in 39 parcels have been preserved as open space. Of this, nearly 450 acres are open and available for active recreational use. Several hundred additional acres are available for passive recreation. The remainder is preserved as farmland, which is not available for recreation. ☞

*To join FOWWOS*

Send name and address to:

FOWWOS  
P.O. Box 73  
West Windsor, NJ 08550

Enclose dues check made out to FOWWOS for one of the following memberships:

Regular (family)	\$25.00 per year
Silver	\$50.00 " "
Gold	\$75.00 " "

Membership dues and contributions are fully tax deductible.



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Windsor  
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Space

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