



THE FOWWOS NEWS

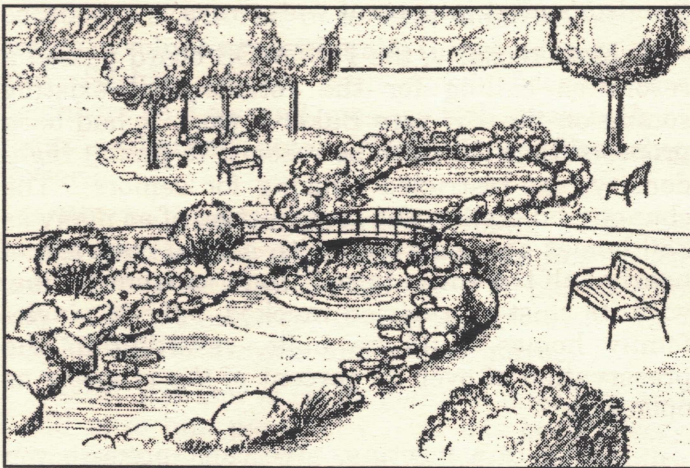
Newsletter of **FRIENDS OF WEST WINDSOR OPEN SPACE**

Vol. 3, No. 1 • WINTER 2002

In this issue: Recreational Trails and Bikeways & September 11 Memorial & Come to a Directors' Meeting & President's Message: Good Luck Mr. West Windsor & Grovers Mill Pond Update

PROGRESS ON SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL

Work has begun on the September 11 Memorial at the Ron Rogers Arboretum. Following the formal ground breaking on November 20, 2001, contractors moved to the site and began excavation of the two reflecting pools that highlight the design. By mid-January, the excavation had been completed and the pool liners put in place together with the boulders and smaller rocks that border the pools. In addition, the underground electric and water supplies have been installed. Much of the labor and materials have been donated through the generosity of several businesses, including Edgewood Properties, SGS Communities, K. Hovnanian, Elizabethtown Water, and The Green Scene. (A full list of all contributing businesses will be published in the next issue.) Work on the footbridge between the pools will begin soon. The sketch below depicts the memorial approximately as it will appear when completed, with the upper pool flowing into the lower and the bridge spanning the cascade of bubbling water between them. &



RECREATIONAL TRAILS AND BIKEWAYS COMMITTEE FORMED

In line with the FOWWOS objective to encourage appropriate use of West Windsor open space, a recreational trail and bikeways committee (RTBC) has been formed. At its first meeting in November it made known its primary mission: to create, fund, and implement a township-wide plan that would enable adults and children to travel safely throughout the township without reliance on automobiles. The RTBC is co-chaired by FOWWOS director Ken Carlson and FOWWOS member Ken Naglak. So far, the RTBC has recruited 15 members from West Windsor and is open to any others who would like to join.

The RTBC fills a clear need for a pedestrian and bicycle advocacy group. The township has not had such a group since the Pedestrian and Bicycle Access Advisory Committee in the 1980's. The RTBC sees itself as a support group not only for pedestrians and cyclists, but also for a wide variety of constituents: runners, rollerbladers,

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FOWWOS MEMBERS: COME TO A DIRECTORS' MEETING—WE NEED YOU!

When the FOWWOS directors gather for their twice-monthly meetings at Township Hall they may be the only ones there. Although the meetings are open to all, attendance by others including FOWWOS members is usually sparse, if there is any at all. There are several ways to explain this: either the members are content with the job the directors are doing, the members feel that paying their annual dues is a sufficient show of support, or the members feel that not much of interest happens at the meetings anyway.

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Friends Of West Windsor Open Space

P.O. Box 73

West Windsor

New Jersey 08550

(609) 799-4868

Board of Directors

Mike Schuit, President
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Bob Murray, 2nd Vice President
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Harley Pickens, Assistant Treasurer
Elliot Kleiman, Secretary
Rhea Rogers, Assistant Secretary

Robert Kenny, Esq., Counsel

Ted Begun
Ken Carlson
George Levin
Alison Miller
John Sabino
Dick Snedeker

In Memoriam

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

E-mail: ek61@juno.com or FOWWOS@yahoo.com
Web site: 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
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Recreational Trails, cont.

and nature lovers, adults and children alike. The group intends to reach out to other organizations with a potential interest in recreational trails and bike paths, both within the township and regionally.

The committee is now defining its near- and long-term objectives, and hopes to work closely with the township to build upon the circulation plan element contained in West Windsor's draft master plan. The RTBC enthusiastically supports the Township Council's approval of funds for a pedestrian bridge over Big Bear Brook that will give access to Community Park from Rabbit Hill Road. Among near-term projects is the addition of bike lanes to roads that can easily accommodate them, such as Edinburg Road, Lanwin Boulevard, and South Mill Road. The PSE&G right-of-way also might be used for recreational purposes, as might others such as the Duck Pond Run sewer easement. Regionally, there are several bike trails under development that will impact West Windsor. These include the Capital-to-Coast Trail and the Crossroads-of-the-Revolution Trail. Longer-term goals are to develop pedestrian- and bicycle-safe crossings over the Amtrak line and to develop multi-use paths in some of the recently acquired open space parcels.

The RTBC meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays each month at 7:30 p.m. at Township Hall. All are welcome. ☺

REFORESTATION AT THE LIAO-LIN TRACT

Reforestation of a portion of the township-owned Liao-Lin tract on North Post Road has been completed. The project, which drew many volunteers from the area, was coordinated by The Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association with the assistance of FOWWOS. The newly planted trees are protected from foraging deer by plastic tubes. A sign identifying the project was erected by FOWWOS. ☺

FOWWOS Members, cont.

As meetings go, we like to feel that ours are worth attending, since they give us the opportunity to show the membership that we work hard to help West Windsor preserve and use its open space to everyone's advantage. It has been a hallmark of the FOWWOS board that decisions have been reached after much healthy debate, but with a feeling of mutual cooperation and focus that makes progress easy. We would like to share that sense of purpose with others, and benefit from their ideas and comments as well.

Within the past year the FOWWOS board has affected township policy in support of several open space preservation efforts. Because of FOWWOS's influence, the draft master plan contains strong statements supporting open space preservation in its elements dealing with land use. In addition, the FOWWOS board has persuaded the Township Council to endorse both of the historic open space corridors that will one day cross the state as the Capital-to-Coast Trail and the Crossroads-of-the-Revolution Trail. Portions of these trails will follow the Assunpink Creek and the Millstone River, respectively, two of West Windsor's most important waterways.

Most recently, the FOWWOS board passed a resolution calling for the retention of existing zoning on the 157-acre Baker Farm. It had been proposed that the farm be rezoned to permit high-density, age-restricted housing for seniors. The change would allow the construction of as many as 286 homes on small lots, with a total coverage of nearly half the entire farm. Under current zoning, with its cluster provision invoked, only 26 single-family homes could be built, resulting in the preservation of over 80 percent of the property as open space.

Come to a meeting. We can't promise you entertainment, but we'll definitely appreciate your participation. ☺

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:
GOOD LUCK MR. WEST WINDSOR**

FOWWOS wishes our treasurer Bill Neff all the best as he and Barbara begin a new chapter in their productive lives in Pennsylvania. They have lived in West Windsor for 29 years, where they raised their son Bill and daughter Nancy. Bill was a member of the planning board for 13 years, including five as chairman, and has been a member of the FOWWOS board for over three years. He also served for 12 years on the Juvenile Conference Committee for West Windsor. As founder and publisher of the *News Eagle*, West Windsor and Plainsboro's weekly newspaper for three years in the late nineties, he was a strong advocate of West Windsor's 1998 open space referendum. From the Grover Farm preservation to the Liao tract reforestation, Bill has been a key influence in saving our open space. As the following quotes attest, Bill has had an important hand in shaping the great community we live in:

"I appreciate and recognize Bill's longtime volunteerism and contributions and his gracious manner."—Mayor Shing-Fu Hsueh.

"Bill was a great boss, a lot of fun, and committed to the *News Eagle*."—Sue Parris, Penns Neck.

"Attribute to Bill a unique West Windsor feature: its landscaped berms and meandering sidewalks. He also came up with the concept of bypass roads around Dutch Neck, saving the character of that village. Carnegie Office Center was approved when he was chairman of the planning board. When I think of West Windsor, I think of Bill Neff."—Sam Surtees, Director of Community Development.

"West Windsor will lose a bit of its soul when Bill Neff leaves town. One of the 'doers' in West Windsor, we will be the poorer for his departure because we will have to find someone else to organize volunteers and make things happen. Bill and Barbara have been good friends and neighbors to Lois and me—we will miss both of them."—Charlie Morgan, West Windsor Township Council.

"Bill, as planning board chairman, holds the record for the longest marathon planning board meeting in West Windsor history: 7:30 p.m. to 5:30 a.m.—CAP Associates' Countryside."—Bob Murray, FOWWOS director and former mayor.

"West Windsor is really going to miss him and I will miss him personally. He has been a very valuable member of the West Windsor community for many years and we wish him and Barbara luck."—Carole Carson, former mayor. ☺

SARNOFF TO DONATE 12 ACRES TO FOWWOS

The Sarnoff Corporation of Penns Neck has decided to donate a 12-acre portion of its property to a nonprofit organization for the purpose of open space preservation. Sarnoff's first choice of recipient was FOWWOS, and the directors have readily agreed to accept the gift.

The property in question has frontage on Washington Road (Route 571) just south of the Eden Institute building, and spans Little Bear Brook. Portions are environmentally constrained as wetlands and floodplain, although a significant area would be available for development if Sarnoff had decided to keep it. Since the 12 acres would have been given away in any event, the FOWWOS board decided that the best choice would be to keep ownership in the community. Thus a small additional part of the Penns Neck area will be preserved.

FOWWOS must now decide on the ultimate disposition of this gift, that is, whether or not to keep it, or to give it to the township or some other local organization. Whatever the final ownership, the 12 acres will be added to the growing list of West Windsor acreage preserved as open space. ☺

STARS PROGRAM 9-11 CONTRIBUTION

Pictured below is Head Teacher Eileen Cevera's class in the STARS Program at the Community Middle School. FOWWOS extends its thanks to the students for their generous donation to the 9-11 Memorial Fund. ☺



FOWWOS MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE

The time has come for all FOWWOS members to renew their annual memberships. Reminder notices will be sent out soon. We hope you will all continue to support the important work of preserving West Windsor's open space. FOWWOS is the only organization dedicated to that task. Much progress has been made, but much remains to be done, and we need everyone's help. Please renew as soon as possible. ☺

FOWWOS TO HELP PURCHASE 22-ACRE SITE

The FOWWOS board of directors has approved the donation of \$50,000 toward the purchase by the state of the 22-acre Y & R Associates tract on Millstone Road overlooking the Millstone River. This very desirable property, for which the developer has approval to build six homes, is being purchased with the help of the Delaware and Raritan Greenway, a well known local nonprofit organization that will broker the deal. The property will become a link in the Crossroads-of-the-Revolution Trail. Several other township properties are already earmarked for that trail. The state will cover approximately 70 percent of the cost, with the remaining contributions coming from the county, the township, and FOWWOS. As a result of its donation of funds, FOWWOS will receive a \$50,000 matching grant from the state that will be applied to the purchase. ☞

GROVERS MILL POND UPDATE

At its last meeting, the Grovers Mill Pond Task Force heard from Mayor Shing-Fu Hsueh that he was hopeful of soon resolving the longstanding dispute with the owners of the mill building over rehabilitation of the earthen dam, part of which lies on their property. The dam, which supports Clarksville Road at the north end of the pond, must be repaired before work to clean up the pond itself can begin. Several engineering studies over the past two decades, including one by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, have called for its reconstruction to meet current dam safety standards. The dam was built in its present form in 1931, but it has been neglected and its condition has deteriorated badly. According to today's standards, the capacity of the dam-spillway system is only one-third of that required for dams of this type. ☞

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To join FOWWOS

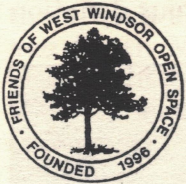
Send name and address to:

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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