

THE FOWWOS NEWS

Newsletter of *FRIENDS OF WEST WINDSOR OPEN SPACE*

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THE CLEAN STREETS PROGRAM NEEDS YOU

What is known as the Clean Streets Program has far more potential as a source of funds for FOWWOS than has been realized to date. The program involves the simple act of picking up trash along township roads, disposing of it, and claiming what amounts to a monetary reward for FOWWOS as a result of your actions. The program is run by the Department of Community Affairs of the State of New Jersey.

Each year, the state allocates a certain amount of money to the township to support the program. For 2005, the amount is \$15,000. In West Windsor, FOWWOS serves as the township's agent by publicizing the program and encouraging its members to take part. Each time someone participates by picking up trash, disposing of it, and filling out a form to record the act, the township pays FOWWOS from the state-supplied fund.

The payment is on an hourly basis and relies on the honor system to make it work. For participants 16 years of age and older, the

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

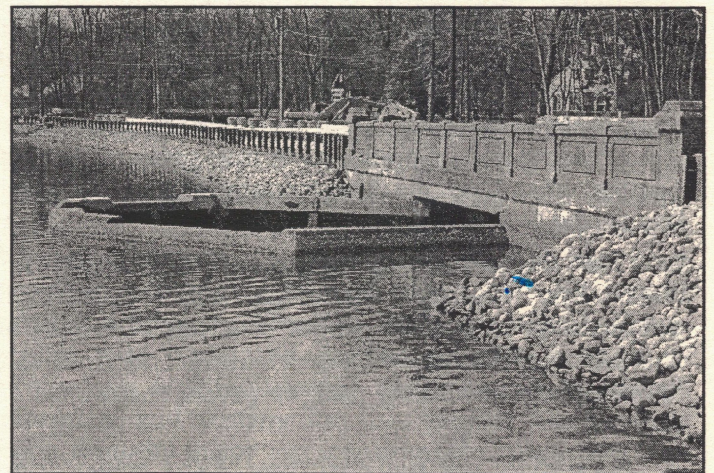
Members of FOWWOS who have not renewed their memberships for 2005 are urged to do so as soon as possible. Dues notices were sent out in February and many have been returned. For these renewals, FOWWOS expresses its thanks. But we hope that everyone who was a member last year will rejoin us this year and help continue our quest to preserve as much as possible of West Windsor's remaining open space. There's still time. ☞

UPDATE ON GROVERS MILL DAM

Although slowed by the cold and snowy weather in recent months, work has progressed on the rehabilitation of Grovers Mill dam. The pond-side embankment has been nearly completed, and the new guiderails have been installed. When the county resurfaces Clarksville Road later this spring, pedestrian walkways will be marked along both sides of the new pavement, and a bike lane on the pond side. Once the county's resurfacing work is completed, the township will consider ways to add further to pedestrian safety and to make the area more attractive. Textured asphalt along the walkways, similar to that used for the new crosswalks in the Berrien City area, is one possibility. Also, parking will be prohibited along both sides of the dam.

The downstream embankment will be covered with a layer of topsoil, and ornamental grasses will be planted. This will provide a green cover of

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River stone adorns the new pond-side embankment of the dam.



Friends Of West Windsor Open Space

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

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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.fowwos.org
Meetings: First Tuesday 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, E.I.N. 22-3419086

AS A NONPROFIT WE MUST OBEY THE RULES

The laws governing the existence of nonprofit organizations such as FOWWOS under Section 501(c)(3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code are very clear concerning the limitations on how they must conduct their affairs. These laws cover such matters as involvement in public issues of the political variety and finances. From time to time it is desirable to inform our members about what these limitations are.

Our Certificate of Incorporation, dated January 25, 1996, states:

1. The purposes for which the organization is organized are to promote and work for the preservation of open space and conservation of natural resources in and around West Windsor Township in the State of New Jersey; to encourage and assist the local governmental bodies in their open space and conservation programs; to raise funds for financing the acquisition of land for park and open space purposes, and generally to effectuate the acquisition of real property and interest therein for such purposes; to foster the knowledge and study of ecological and natural resources conservation in all segments of West Windsor Township; to encourage farmland preservation; and to engage in such other charitable and educational enterprises related to the preservation of open space and conservation of natural resources as the membership may elect from time to time.
2. The corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, literary, scientific, and educational purposes provided for under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and does not contemplate pecuniary gain or profit, incidental or otherwise.
3. No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, trustees, officers or other private persons except that the corporation shall be

authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of its purposes.

4. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the preparation or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. The corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

The Certificate of Incorporation goes on to specify that bylaws be provided to guide its operation and that it be under the control of a board of trustees. It is clear that organizations such as FOWWOS have a well-defined purpose which must be adhered to, *including abstaining from support of any political candidate or issue*. The trustees of FOWWOS have always fully complied with these provisions. ☺

NEW GREEN ACRES GRANT PROPOSAL

An application has been filed by FOWWOS for a \$400,000 state Green Acres matching grant to assist in the preservation of three new properties on West Windsor's potential open space list. The properties are the Conover property on Windsor Road and two properties owned by the Hall family, both on Village Road East.

The Conover property, listed as No. 7 on the West Windsor open space eligibility list, covers

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

FOWWOS ENTERS ITS 10TH YEAR

This year marks the tenth anniversary of FOWWOS, whose founders met for the first time in October of 1995. We were incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit less than a year later. We are proud that we have assisted the township in preserving over 1500 acres of open space in that short time. We look forward to closing on more properties in the near future, and will continue our efforts as long as there is open space to save.

At its annual meeting last month, the FOWWOS board elected to extend the terms of trustees Ken Carlson, Carole Carson, Bob Murray, and Mike Schuit, who will serve through February 2008. Ron Slinn, who has a background in forestry, was elected to fill the seat vacated by Beth Feehan, who will be spending her time overseeing the West Windsor Farmers' Market. He will also serve through February 2008.

At the meeting, the trustees also reelected the current officers to serve for another year. They are: Mike Schuit, president; Helen Rancan, first vice president; Bob Murray, second vice president; John Sabino, treasurer; Harley Pickens, assistant treasurer; Elliot Kleiman, secretary; and Paul Murphy, assistant secretary. In addition, Bob Kenny will continue as FOWWOS legal counsel.

We are looking for another interested West Windsor resident to fill an additional vacancy on the board. We have only two criteria: you must want to help preserve open space and be highly motivated. If you think you have what it takes and are willing to make the three-year commitment, please come to the next meeting. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the West Windsor municipal building. ☺

RON SLINN JOINS TRUSTEE BOARD

New FOWWOS trustee Ron Slinn was born in Australia and came to West Windsor in 1970 from Durham, NC, where he was Associate Professor of Forest Economics at Duke University. Now semi-retired, he was a vice president of the American Paper Institute until he formed Slinn & Associates, a consulting firm in the field of forest products. He remains principal of that firm.

In West Windsor he is currently leader of the Retirees Group, vice chairman of the advisory council to the West Windsor Senior Center, a member of the West Windsor Lions Club, and advisor to the West Windsor Shade Tree Commission. He lives in the Penns Neck area of the township. ☺

Grovers Mill Pond, cont.

low-maintenance material on that side. Additional finishing will be done on the concrete surfaces of the bridge.

A stone wall will be erected in the gap between the north end of the bridge and the mill building. The base courses are already in place. This wall will provide an attractive safety barrier at that point.

The horizontal portions of the new guiderail are solid timber, which was chosen as a more attractive substitute for the standard galvanized steel highway version, which dents easily and usually remains in an unsightly condition for many years without repair. The end portions of the guiderail are required to be steel by design standards, but they are made of Core-Ten, a variety of steel that permanently retains its dark brown rusted color. This blends into the surrounding natural colors better than the galvanized variety. Also, damage is less obvious.

A new, operable sluice gate will be installed on one face of the five-sided spillway to allow the water level in the pond to be raised or lowered as desired for maintenance or during certain flood conditions. In addition, the concrete of the spillway will be resurfaced. Damage to the concrete bridge railings may be repaired by the county.

The strip of property on Cranbury Road bordering the pond in front of the old Grover house at the north end of the dam is owned by Mercer County, and it is hoped the county will provide some maintenance there in the form of removal of dead trees and other debris.

Unfortunately, there is not yet a schedule for restoration of the pond. It was nearly two years ago that Representative Rush Holt announced that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would provide a matching grant of \$500,000 to the township for the job. The township has allocated enough to match that, plus an additional amount. But the estimated cost would require a still larger amount, and other funding sources are needed. Although the Corps of Engineers has begun having soil testing done in the pond, it has been unwilling to discuss their plans for the project with the Mayor's Grovers Mill Pond Task Force, which was appointed for the express purpose of promoting and facilitating the restoration. Much planning and testing for this project has already been done by other environmental contractors and engineers, yet the Corps of Engineers has shown no interest in learning what, in the end, might save considerable effort and expense. ☺

Clean Streets Program, cont.

township rewards FOWWOS at the rate of \$10 per hour. For those under 16, the rate is \$5 per hour.

Several years ago, community groups such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts were frequent participants in the program, but recently there has been little interest. This is not because there isn't enough trash to pick up, but more likely because people have forgotten the program still exists and how rewarding it can be.

We encourage anyone—individuals or groups—who would like to help keep our township free of unwanted trash and help provide funds to preserve our open space to get involved. The work is easy, and the feeling of contributing time for something worthwhile is rewarding. Forms are available from FOWWOS or at town hall. E-mail us at ek61@juno.com or call 799-4868 and a form will be sent to you. ☺

New Green Acres Grant, cont.

over 28 acres at the corner of Windsor Road and South Lane. Together, the Hall properties (Nos. 3 and 4 on the open space map) occupy nearly 127 acres at South Lane and Village Road East.

As usual, the township will seek the county's fifteen-percent contribution toward the purchase. By applying for the Green Acres grant, FOWWOS will reduce the amount ultimately needed from West Windsor to complete the deal. The exact total cost and the amount of the township's share are not known at this time, but, typically, the township's share to preserve open space properties has been about thirty-five percent of the total.

In keeping with the applicable statutes, if the deal for these properties is not ultimately concluded, FOWWOS must return the grant along with any interest the money may have gained since the time of the award. ☺

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.

Printed on recycled paper

To:

Address service requested

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West Windsor, NJ 08550



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