

# FOWWOS NEWS



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## Trail Planning

By Alison Miller

Last year we spoke to the Township administration and our members about a plan for developing the trail along the Duck Pond Run sewer easement that is part of the network of trails appearing in the West Windsor Master Plan. The trail is currently possible to hike by those with strong ankles and sturdy shoes; it should be readily accessible and enjoyable. This year the administration responded with a new, alternate vision for the trail. The segments from Penn Lyle Road to North Post Road, to the pump station and out to Clarksville Road would be unchanged from what is shown on the Master Plan, but, because of a concern with a mid-block crossing of Penn Lyle Road, there would not be a direct path to the Trolley Line trail along the easement near the pond. (For those not familiar with this pond, part of it is visible from the Trolley Line trail, and a few steps off the trail onto a grassy area will reveal its attractive extent.) Instead, the Township

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Trail Planning	1
Trail Walk	1
FOWWOS at the Farmers' Market	1
The Great Blue Heron Preserve	2

proposed to run a trail through properties 69, 70 and 71 to a point where a crosswalk can be constructed directly to the sidewalk along Woodmere Way. The Trolley Line trail could then be rejoined where it crosses Woodmere Way in its turn.

It was disappointing that the township partially rejected FOWWOS' plan, but that disappointment was more than made up for by the fact that in creating its alternated plan the Township implicitly affirmed its commitment to continuing to purchase the open space remaining on the inventory. The Township does not  
*Please see [Trail](#) on page 2*

*Check out our new website - [www.fowwos.org](http://www.fowwos.org)*

## Trail Walk

By Alison Miller

This year our spring trail walk led by Trustee Kevin Appelget was held on May 14th at the Zaitz Preserve starting at 7:30 in the morning. The unusual start time was to give participants a greater opportunity to see birds and other wildlife. In this there was some success. Unfortunately, the early start did not prove as popular among human trail walkers as have previous walks. Next year we will choose a different time - either a different month or a time later in the morning, or both - and see if the walk will be more popular. It was, nevertheless, greatly enjoyed by the people who attended. The trail walk was FOWWOS' contribution to Greening of West Windsor's (GroWW) Springtime Saturdays, a promotion of environmentally sustainable outdoor activities by various groups.

## FOWWOS at the Farmers' Market

By Alison Miller

Once a month, from June through October, FOWWOS has staffed a booth, or tent, at the West Windsor Farmers' Market. We display two maps of West Windsor, an open space map and a land use map. We spend the morning answering questions about the Township's plans for open space acquisition and improvements and, to the best of our ability, about anything else people have on their minds. We hand out information about FOWWOS and tell people about what we have done for the Township, and urge people to join. We also have maps of the trails in the Zaitz Preserve and Rogers Preserve to hand out to interested hikers from neighboring communities as well as from West Windsor. FOWWOS is proud to be among the non-profit community groups that give the West Windsor Farmers' Market its unique flavor.



*Trail from page 1*

own properties 69, 70 and 71. Acquiring them for open space would provide more protection to the Duck Pond Run stream corridor, preserve valuable wetlands and wildlife habitat from encroachment, and preclude the building of more large single-family homes. We at FOWWOS are staying alert to all opportunities for future purchases of land on West Windsor's Open Space Inventory.

The Duck Pond Run Trail is not the only one FOWWOS would like to see developed to promote more general use. West Windsor Bicycle and Pedestrian Alliance (WWBPA) Trustee Michael Ogg, who gets around in a wheelchair, first conceived the idea of creating an accessible woodland trail up to the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and both the WWBPA and FOWWOS endorsed the idea with enthusiasm. The Ron Rogers Arboretum seemed the best location for such a trail because of its central location, convenient parking, and accessibility by sidewalks. The idea is not to create a new trail but to bring a portion of an

existing trail up to ADA standards. FOWWOS President Alison Miller and WWBPA President Jerry Foster walked through the wooded portion of the Arboretum and located a potential route; and Michael Ogg pronounced it readily traversable in a wheelchair, if the weather is good and the user adventurous. Some sections of the trail need to be widened (ADA standards call for 48 inches) and some turns need to be made less abrupt. Those changes are easy to make. Some tree roots have to be covered and, in one section, fill has to be applied to make a slope less steep.

After a repeat walk attended by FOWWOS and WWBPA Trustees, members of the Shade Tree Commission and Township Landscape Architect Dan Dobromilsky, enthusiasm for the idea of an accessible woodland trail grew. Dan Dobromilsky will be researching what materials should be used and what the cost will be to achieve ADA compliance on the trail. Both FOWWOS and the WWBPA are prepared to contribute funds or to fundraise to help achieve this end.

*Please join us at monthly meetings held on the first Thursday of every month, at 7:30 in Town Hall Room B*

**OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES**

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 Andrew Kulley, 2nd Vice President & Secretary  
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FOWWOS is a nonprofit organization incorporated under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, E.I.N 22-3419086.  
 Preserving Land in West Windsor Since 1996

**The Great Blue Heron Preserve**

**By Alison Miller and Andrew Kulley**

It was with great pleasure that FOWWOS President Alison Miller and 1st Vice President Bob Murray presented West Windsor Township Chief Financial Officer Joanne Louth with a check for \$333,808.75. The check represented FOWWOS' contribution, so far, to the purchase of 27.59 acres of open space from the Jewish Community Center on Clarksville Road. The property will link Duck Pond Park with open space owned by the State of New Jersey where a large number of great blue herons have built nests, and will save a portion of Duck Pond Run from encroachment by development. West Windsor purchased the property for \$1,358,725, but in the end will pay barely more than half from the open space fund. Mercer County awarded two grants toward the purchase from its open space fund, each for

\$233,808.75, one to West Windsor and one to FOWWOS. FOWWOS contributed \$100,000 of its own, and the check given to the Township reflects those two sources. But FOWWOS will have still another \$100,000 to contribute for this purchase. Last April, we received a letter from Governor Christie informing us that the State approved our application for a Green Acres matching grant, although the funding itself would be contingent upon passage of a legislative appropriation. We eagerly await notice of that legislative appropriation.

