

Forest Hills Neighborhood Association
Annual Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2006

The meeting was brought to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Perinton Community Center by Tom Hamilton, President. The current officers were each asked to introduce themselves.

As a first order of business, Ed Dunn passed out the Treasurer's report for the 2006-2007 fiscal years, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He discussed the Association's projected income and its projected expenses. He noted that the report was also now available on our new website -- <http://www.foresthillsneighbors.org>. He noted the proposed increase for trash pick up as being due to fuel surcharges passed along by Waste Management to the neighborhood residents. The increase would amount to \$1.25 per month (or \$15.00 per year) / per household that takes advantage of Waste Management's services. There were no objections noted and it was agreed to move forward and assess the \$15 proposed increase only to those households that use Waste Management.

While Tom was pointing out the display of photographs of houses in the neighborhood that were taken by Ken Dodgson through the years, he explained the Association's long range plans to turn these photos, along with other historical information collected by Ken over the years, over to the Perinton Historical Society where they would be housed for safekeeping and yet remain accessible to our neighborhood. A question was asked whether Ken would be willing to sell any of his photos to neighbors as a means to raise funds for the Association's general operating fund. The idea was briefly discussed and many residents expressed an interest in purchasing photos. Tom stated that he didn't see any issue but that it would need to be discussed in further detail with Ken.

Tom then mentioned that there will be a meeting of the Landmark Society of Western New York on Saturday, April 29th. He indicated that a few neighbors had already expressed an interest in attending the meeting to discuss the implementation and procedures necessary for putting together an application on behalf of Forest Hills, to have the neighborhood recognized on the National Register of Historic Places (which is overseen by the National Parks Service). Anyone else who might be interested in attending should contact Ken directly for more information. Tom stated that he and Ken both feel that Forest Hills, because of the unique architecture of our homes, the design of our parks, and the overall historic quality of our neighborhood, is an excellent candidate for recognition on the National Register of Historic Places. He clarified for the group that this recognition should not be confused with the creation of a neighborhood preservation district. The recognition, which would be an honorary designation and not restrict what residents can do to their properties, would place the majority of the homes in Forest Hills on the National Register of Historic Places. The Board however took no action nor did it approve the initiation of this process.

Chuck Sorce then provided the group with a tour and discussion of the Association's new website. He explained that it was still a "work in process" but that the overall structure would most likely remain. He noted that prior meeting agenda and minutes had already been posted to the website and he explained the various message boards and forums and how to use them. He fielded questions about whether to post information specific to neighbors (for example, their email address or telephone number), etc. He indicated that currently no consensus had been reached on this topic. The Board thanked Chuck and Greg Kacprzyński for all of their hard work and efforts to get the website up and running and encouraged the neighborhood to take advantage of its convenience.

Terry Rogelstad then gave a presentation (which is also posted on the website) to the group on the Park Restoration Plans for both Lake Crescent Park and Westwood Park.

Starting with Lake Crescent Park and Pond, Terry brought the group up to date on work that has already been done or completed and work that the Reforestation Committee would like to see done in the future. Namely, enhancing the light barrier on Fairport Road and on-going maintenance such as pond aeration, dredging, weed control, grass cutting, tree and bush pruning, etc.

With respect to Westwood Park and Pond, Terry again explained for the group work that has already occurred. He then provided the group with details of work that the Reforestation Committee hopes to see done to the Westwood Pond area in the near future. First, there needs to be a means to control the Westwood Pond water level as it is approximately 2' higher than planned which, as a result, is causing flooding in certain homes and is drowning out plantings that were done in this area. Control can be achieved through the installation of a flood control force main. He explained to the group that currently, the Town comes in when asked, as necessary, and diverts the water out of Westwood Pond to Lake Crescent Pond when the water level in Westwood Pond gets too high. Ideally, if a 2" pipe were to be laid under the roadway, it could automatically drain Westwood Pond when the water level reached a pre-determined level. We had originally thought to wait and have this pipe laid when the Town decided to lay new roadway; however, since the Town is suggesting that it may choose not to perform the roadway work until 2008-2009, we will instead ask the Town to install and lay a temporary pipe in the near future. Additionally, the installation of an aeration system/bubbler in Westwood Pond would enable us to keep certain types of fish in this pond (which would aid in mosquito control) and help to push the duckweed (recognizable as those thick green mats which cover the surface of the water) to the edge of the pond. Lastly, reforestation in the Westwood Pond would include the removal of saplings, dying trees and stumps (hopefully to be completed by residents at the Spring clean up on Saturday, May 6th), followed by the addition of new plantings of native trees and shrubs, ornamental plants, flowers and bulbs. There have been several meetings with Frank Fulreader and he recommends good native plants for future plantings.

Tom noted that the Town has already graciously agreed to provide power in the Westwood Park area for pump control. He also noted that, although nothing is definite yet, we are hopeful that the Town will also come in and assist with the take-down and removal of some of the larger trees that have suffered major damage over the years.

(As an aside, it was noted that many trees in the neighborhood are either severely damaged, have become old or ill. It was suggested that each homeowner look at the trees on their own property and take the necessary measures to have them pruned and/or taken down before they cause any damage.)

The budget for the proposed reforestation projects in both parks (subject to revision after formal bids and subtraction of sweat equity) would equal approximately \$27,700, broken down as follows:

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| - Fairport Road screen | \$3,700 |
| - Flood control | 3,000 |
| - Stump and tree removal | 2,000 |
| - Aeration | 3,000 |
| - New plantings | 16,000 |

The Association's current annual budget for reforestation is approximately \$1,000 - consisting of pond maintenance in both Lake Crescent and Westwood parks, tree pruning and shrub pruning.

Currently allocated funds for the reforestation projects equal approximately \$600, as a residual collected from the 2005-2006 annual dues of homeowners. Coupled with an additional \$3,600, which is the currently anticipated allocation from the 2006-2007 annual dues of homeowners, the Association would have available a total of \$4,200 to expend on these projects.

It was noted that in 2002, approximately \$14,000 was raised from neighbors and put towards the initiation of this reforestation project. The Board put forth the idea of "passing the hat" and again seeking contributions as a means to infuse this project with current money although no final decision was made. Also, the Board discussed the value of in-kind contributions, or dedications, of plantings whether they be trees, or shrubs or flowers, etc. and the impact it could have on this projects. For example, if someone were to purchase a spruce tree, it would save the neighborhood from having to collect \$285, a rose bud would save the neighborhood \$525, etc. Again, this concept was discussed generally amongst the group but no final decision was made.

The Board thanked the members of the Reforestation Committee which consists of Dick Ahern, Tim Henry, Jan Horton, Karin Kacprzynski, Peter Schenk, Chuck Sorce and Terry Rogelstad for their time, dedication and energy to this worthwhile cause and project.

As a friendly reminder to residents who have dogs, first, please be mindful and courteous of your neighbors when walking your dog and pick up after them. Second, there is in existence the Perinton Dog Control Law which states that it is unlawful for any owner of any dog to permit or allow such dog to "run at large unless said dog is restrained by an adequate collar and leash unless accompanied by its owner to control the animal ...", or "... bite, chase or otherwise harass any person as to reasonably cause intimidation ...". Therefore, it is requested that residents be mindful of the law and respectful of your neighbors.

There was a brief discussion regarding our new assessments. It was suggested that residents review their reassessment, do their homework, confirm the actual size of their houses (since there is a lot of misinformation) and, in the event a resident felt that they were unfairly reassessed, that they should contact the Town's Assessment Office to schedule a time to dispute their raised assessments.

Lastly, Tom mentioned that the Board is seeking a new Secretary since Toni Marshall's two-year term has expired. The Board thanked Toni for her tenure and service to the Board and advised anyone interested in considering the position to contact him directly. Alex Neubert has agreed to run for this position and his election will take place at the neighborhood clean-up on May 6th.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.