

**Forest Hills Neighborhood Association
Executive Committee Meeting**

Wednesday, May 31, 2006

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Forest Hills Neighborhood Association was called to order at Tom Hamilton's house at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 31, 2006.

In attendance were: Tom Hamilton, Karin Kacprzyński, Ed & Linda Dunn, Alex Neubert. Also in attendance were Chuck Sorce, Ron Heinle, Jay Sackett, Marilyn Hamilton, Pam Holliday, Mike Robinson, Terry Rogelstad, Dick Ahern, and Tom Quinn. Jan Horton later joined the group.

Tom Hamilton called the meeting (i) to update everyone on the status of Westwood Park and (ii) to obtain feedback from officers, street reps and other interested parties with respect to two proposed projects that have recently been presented to the Association and to consider whether the Board should prepare an agenda and call a meeting of all neighbors to solicit more organized feedback.

Update on Westwood Park -

After Frank Fulreader identified hundreds of small mostly non-native trees that needed to be removed, most if not all of these saplings were taken out during the recent Spring Clean Up. There are still 4 large trees in the Westwood Park area that need to be taken down and then removed by the Town; however, the Town won't be ready to perform this work until the Fall.

The Town has been in contact with the bubbler people and is expected to work with them within the next 4 weeks to install the power source for the bubbler after which the bubbler will be installed. The funds to pay for the cost of the bubble have already been accounted for in the 2006 budget.

The Town does not anticipate dredging the Westwood pond but has expressed an interest in moving the existing berm slightly to the east of the pond and filling in behind the berm so as to provide a walkway around the east side of the pond. The Town does not want to make the pond smaller for fear of causing additional water level problems. The water level in the pond isn't doing what we either expected it to do or what might be anticipated based on current rainfall.

Any forced main and pump to control the water level in the Westwood pond would be installed by the Town when they rebuild the roads in Forest Hills, probably in 2009. The Town has however agreed to pay for the purchase and installation of the forced main and pump - which means that any monies the Association had allocated towards these costs can now be put back into our budget.

Proposed work at Lake Crescent Park -

As a result of a recent meetings between Tom Beck of the Town and Ken Dodgson and Tom Hamilton, the Town has suggested dredging the Lake Crescent pond. The Lake Crescent pond hasn't been dredged since 1978 and this is something that should occur every 15-20 years; therefore, it is somewhat overdue.

The Town has suggested installing a temporary $\pm 75'$ peninsula out into the pond from the southwest side of the pond to the approximate location of the current fountain. The Town would then drain the pond through an existing inlet and provide for temporary drainage control. At this point, using the peninsula to access the pond, the Town would then dredge the pond to a depth of 8' as far as their equipment will reach from the temporary peninsula. This would hopefully result in the pond being an average of 6' deep and provide us with a window of perhaps 20-25 years before silting will again become an issue.

The Town has further proposed then taking the dredged silt/soil and moving it towards the west end of the park in the area adjacent to Fairport Road, creating a gentle sloping berm. However, before the soil can be moved, the Association would need to take down and remove certain trees, specifically one Swamp Oak that is nearly dead, perhaps the large willow that sits on the edge of the pond and other trees that currently line Fairport Road. Additionally, the Association would have to either move or temporarily relocate 3 newly planted spruce trees. We would engage the services of Tim Swagler for the dropping of these trees. The Town has agreed that once they are down, that it will then remove them.

After the dredging, refilling of the pond, and creation of a berm, we could replant the 3 spruce trees; however, the Association would also need to consider replanting this entire area and to find the monies necessary to do this. The dredging of the pond wasn't in our short-term plans for the Lake Crescent Park area until perhaps 2010 or beyond; however, since the Town has approached us and indicated that it has additional help available until the Fall, Tom Hamilton thought that we should at least consider our alternatives.

As a result of the sweat equity effort of many volunteers during the Spring Clean Up and the expenditure of only approximately \$350 for the rental of stump removers (as opposed to a \$2,000 outlay to hire someone to drop and remove these trees as was included in the reforestation portion of the 2006 budget), Tom Hamilton thought that the Association should have approximately \$1,500 in the budget, which could be used to jump start this project.

Linda Dunn reminded the Board that the Association recently committed to spend approximately \$3,100 for the purchase of the bubbler to be installed in the Westwood pond and that the collection of neighborhood dues, plus a carryover balance from 2005-2006, only accounted for a balance of approximately \$1,100 which could be allocated towards the reforestation project. In addition to committing to make a personal contribution towards this project, Tom Hamilton suggested that we consider asking neighbors to do the same.

Tom Hamilton thought that Tim Swagler's fee would be between \$800 and \$1,000 for the removal of the trees but that he would speak with Tim to get a firm price.

Jan Horton joined the group and expressed her concern with the removal of the trees along Fairport Road as this would create both unwanted noise from the road and light from the plaza - not to mention a view of the plaza and the commercial businesses which sit on the south side of Fairport Road. Also, Jan expressed her concern that without a firm commitment of the monies upfront that would be needed to pay for the removal the trees, the creation of a berm and the replanting of somewhat mature trees that would be large enough to provide for both a noise and light barrier, she would be reluctant to support the project.

The group informally discussed various ways to perhaps still provide for a noise and light barrier or whether only certain of the trees needed to be removed. Tom Hamilton asked everyone to consider the 2001 plantings on the east berm and to consider the size of those when they were trees and to look at how much they have grown over the past 5 years as a means to envision the same eventually happening on the proposed west berm.

In response to a question raised regarding how much money was collected and spent in 2001, Tom stated that he thought the Association spent about \$15,000 in total towards the plantings of which approximately \$10,000 was raised by neighbors, coupled with another \$5,000 that was donated by Wegmans. Jan Horton asked if there was any way to consider staggering the removal of trees but Tom Hamilton said he wasn't sure how to provide for the proposed berm without removing most of the trees from approximately 15-20' to the east of the west entrance all the way to the Swamp Oak.

A number of those present expressed their concern with the financing of the project in light of the fact that monies are not currently on hand. Also, it was noted that many neighbors felt "rushed" by the Town's recent proposal and that their preference would be to dictate the schedule and approach the Town when the time was right for us. Other questions raised which need to be answered in advance of anything included "will the silt that is dredged be useful and healthy soil for planting?"

Tom Hamilton stated that he would approach both the Town and Tim Swagler to obtain firm commitments so as to allow the Board to assess how much money the neighborhood would be looking to spend and that he would confer with Linda & Ed Dunn to assess how much money the Association actually had to put towards this project.

Proposed work on Foot Hill Terrace -

Apart from the Lake Crescent pond proposal, Tom Hamilton explained that as a result of separate meetings between the Town, the Ahern's and certain neighbors on Lake Crescent regarding the existing landscaping - namely a grouping of 26 non-native arborvitaes and 22 ground yews - that were planted in and around the pump station at the end of Foot Hill Terrace in an effort to camouflage the mechanics, the neighbors agreed that something needs to be done to enhance this area of the neighborhood.

Dick Ahern explained to the group that he has spoken with most of his neighbors on Lake Crescent about enhancing this area and as a result, the Town has already removed the remains of the arborvitaes and what was left of the ground yews.

Subsequent discussions with Frank Fulreader have lead to a discussion regarding the proposed creation of a 3' gravel footpath for neighbors to walk along, starting where the existing pump station is located extending access easterly along the existing right-of-way where Foot Hill Terrace was never paved all the way until it connects with the shared driveway that separates 12 Lake Crescent Drive and 14 Lake Crescent Drive. (By way of background, there exists an approximately 60' wide right-of-way situated between the back yards of most of the neighbors on Lake Crescent and most of the neighbors on Ridgeview Drive. Only a portion of this right-of-way was ever developed into a roadway; the balance of it exists as grassland.) This footpath would be flanked with ornamental blooming shrubs and trees in addition to certain native plants, all to be purchased or donated by those neighbors who live on Lake Crescent and any other neighbors who wish to contribute to the project thereby creating a 1,000' long arboretum. This path would be available for all Forest Hill neighbors to walk on.

Tom Hamilton wanted to make sure that those neighbors on Ridgeview Drive whose back yards border along Foot Hill Terrace, were aware and approved of this project before it got underway. He also wanted to ensure everyone that this was a voluntary project undertaken by the homeowners who abut the Foot Hill Terrace right-of-way and that no funds of the Association nor any funds which had been set aside for the Westwood Park project would to be used towards this effort.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.