

Friends of Camillus Park

Meeting Minutes : August 23, 2012

Mary Flynn opened the meeting welcoming members, and several new members were present.

CORRECTION to the July 26th, 2012 meeting minutes: Tom Braun is not affiliated with ESF.

Friends of Camillus Park T-Shirts are still available for \$10. This helps support the cause and promote awareness of the park revitalization efforts. Please contact Suellen Callahan (calsue@twcny.rr.com) for t-shirt purchase, and t-shirts are available at monthly committee meetings for purchase.

Dave Callahan gave an update on the land survey being conducted in the park. At the time of the meeting, the survey was half completed, and it is expected to take less than 2 weeks for the survey to be completed. Pinning of the lots and boundaries should be done next week. Clarification is still needed about ownership of an area at the north end of the Park.

Mary anticipates the next step is to get the students from ESF to give a presentation to the group in Sept-Oct, to recap their ideas for the revitalization project, maintaining natural paths and integrity of the forest. Mary did meet with the students several times last semester, and as we get closer to the implementation phase of the project, she expects the students to be more involved. The students are just returning to campus, and Mary is working on coordinating this meeting and working relationship with the students. The goal is for there to be an ongoing long term relationship between ESF and Friends of Camillus Park.

The Friends of the Park Margarita Party hosted by Mary and Joe Flynn was a huge success, and everyone had fun. Thank you to the Flynn's for hosting the party.

Eric Bacon was not able to attend this month's meeting, and Mary updated the committee that we are still hopeful about the Grant process and notification is expected sometime in October.

The Executive Summary was presented at the Camillus Senior Center August 6, 2012. Mary noted the group was receptive to the presentation and several questions were asked and answered by Mary Flynn.

NEW BUSINESS: Designated Fall Clean up day(s) in the park to be determined. Jim Gleason will chair this committee, and we are looking for volunteers to help. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!** Volunteers interested in the assisting with the clean up are asked to contact Jim Gleason (jgleason62@gmail.com) or Mary Flynn (mbflynn@twcny.rr.com). We will know more about when the clean up can actually begin after September 9th. The goal is for Mary, Eric Bacon, Dave Callahan and Jim Gleason to do a walk through of the park, determine what needs to be done, and how this can be accomplished. The primary focus will be clearing some dead debris that could pose as a hazard, as well as any trash and yard waste that may have been dumped in the park. A request has been made that the Town also provide assistance with the clean up effort by providing some needed supplies. Also, we hope to request donations from area merchants like Home Depot, WalMart and Lowes, to provide yard bags and other materials to also help with the clean up efforts.

Residents bordering the park will need to be reminded that "dumping" is not allowed. A suggestion was made to invite neighbors to assist in the clean up, especially in the areas that border their property. Also, yard waste bags could be given to these neighbors if they would like. It is free advertisement for the area merchants, and promotes good will and neighborhood cooperation. Another suggestion was to send out another notification to the bordering neighbors of the clean up dates, project plans and expectations of "no dumping" in a diplomatic manner. It was recommended to post the Clean Up days on the Town of Camillus Website. The survey that is being done will help clear up misconceptions or questions of boundary lines for the bordering home owners.

October is Grant notification- **\$750,000** Grant has been requested, with a match of **\$750,000** to be secured. The Revitalization Project is "Shovel

Ready” and has many “green” components, and the group is still optimistic about being awarded this Grant.

Pool demolition (separate from the Grant funding) will begin this Fall.

Mary and Joe Flynn found an interesting and informative video about the Emerald Ash Borer, and the committee watched this video. Mary had also sent this video link to people with email to view if interested. The Forest has several Ash trees, and with the threat of this insect, considerations are being discussed on what to do with the Ash Trees in the park.

Clean up dates to be emailed if planned prior to next meeting, as the clean up plan cannot be determined until after Sept 9th due to other scheduling conflicts.

Please join us at the next Friends of Camillus Park meeting: Thursday Sept 27,2012 at 7:00pm, in the large conference room at Town Hall.

L. Gleason