

# FOWWOS NEWS



Friends of West Windsor Open Space, P.O. Box 73, West Windsor, NJ 08550

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## West Windsor Supports Open Space Funding

In last November's election there was a Public Question on the ballot, with the cumbersome title of Green Acres, Water Supply and Floodplain Protection, and Farmland and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2009. Its purpose was to authorize \$400,000,000 in funding through the sale of State general obligation bonds for preservation and conservation projects. Failure to approve this Public Question would have put a halt to most of New Jersey's conservation efforts. For example, West Windsor's open space acquisitions would have been impossible without Green Acres funding, and continuation of the

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Grovers Mill Pond

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

## An Innovative Use of Open Space!

By Alison Miller

This past summer, a group of ardent gardeners created the West Windsor Community Garden. With the help of Township Landscape Architect Dan Dobromilsky, they transformed a patch of township-owned land on Clarksville Road into a picket-fenced vegetable patch, and grew lettuce, tomatoes, potatoes, corn, melons, green beans, squash, cabbage, collards, swiss chard, and other greens. Working together and sharing expenses, they successfully overcame rabbits and deer, and were rewarded with a bumper crop, some of which was donated to charity.

Next summer they intend to continue their project. Gardeners can contribute \$50 and

receive the right to garden a 20'x20' plot, the opportunity to make new friends, and the satisfaction of a delicious harvest. If you are interested in participating, contact Lisa Wren at: [westwindsorcommunitygarden@gmail.com](mailto:westwindsorcommunitygarden@gmail.com). A community garden is a wonderful use for preserved open space, and FOWWOS salutes the West Windsor Community Garden.

*Annual Meeting February 23<sup>rd</sup>  
at 7:30 PM Town Hall Room D*

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program without Green Acres would be problematic. As reported in our last newsletter, FOWWOS joined with other environmental organizations across the state in an initiative called Keep It Green to press for passage of the measure.

We were successful! The Public Question passed with 52.94% of the vote statewide. Mercer County supported the question with the third highest percentage of the twenty-one counties, 61.09%, and West Windsor's percentage of

support, 66.36%, was higher even than the highest county, Essex County, at 64.77%. (For more statistics, see our web site, [www.fowwos.org](http://www.fowwos.org).)

We in West Windsor should be justly proud of our commitment to preserving open space and protecting the environment, and of our wisdom in seeing a greater benefit in long-term investment in the future than in short-term budget-cutting, even in these difficult economic times.

### OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

Alison Miller, President  
 Bob Murray, 1st Vice President  
 Andrew Kulley, 2nd Vice President & Secretary  
 John Sabino, Treasurer  
 Elliot Kleiman, Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Secretary

Kevin Appelget  
 Ted Begun  
 David Siegel  
 Ronald Slinn

Bob Kenny - Counsel to Board

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

## “Green” – The Environmental Adjective

By Ron Slinn

Where did “green” come from? Perhaps from the role that trees play in the environment.

This idea was prompted by the emphasis given at the conclusion of the recent Copenhagen Conference on Global Warming to two issues – CO2 emissions and the destruction of tropical forests. Trees indeed play a major role in both. Virtually every high school student knows that the green chlorophyll in plants, like trees, is the catalyst in photosynthesis which converts air-borne carbon dioxide and water into released oxygen and carbohydrates which are stored – or “sequestered” – in the plant as wood. Clearly, the permanent loss of tropical forests – which make up a significant proportion of the global forest resources – results in the diminution of this essential process.

But even trees in our urban environment play significant and positive environmental roles. Each year, a single large shade tree can absorb 90 pounds of carbon dioxide and 10 pounds of air pollution, including 4 pounds of ozone and three pounds of particulates ; (Elmendorf, 2008.)

Trees also mitigate urban heat-island effects by providing shade and through evaporation of water from their leaves. They can contribute to household energy savings; if planted correctly on the eastern and southern sides of an urban dwelling, the shade from two large trees can save up to 30% of a home's air conditioning costs, while the windbreak effect in the winter can significantly reduce heating costs by as much as 25%; (USDA Forest Service.)

Please see *Green* on page 3

## Annual Meeting

President's Message by Alison Miller

This year, FOWWOS' Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7:30 PM, at Town Hall downstairs in Room D.

The Annual Meeting is the occasion at which the Trustees and members of FOWWOS review the achievements of the past year and set goals for the next. It is also when the membership elects (and re-elects) Trustees. I urge everyone to attend. Of course, our primary goal is to facilitate the preservation of open space in West Windsor Township, but we do other things as well. At last year's Annual Meeting we formulated our comments on the township's proposed redevelopment plan. We urged them to make sure that there were no plans to build on wetlands or floodplains, to preserve as much of the Sarnoff property as possible (the section in the redevelopment area is heavily wooded) and to incorporate a storm water management plan in the redevelopment plan. We will continue to monitor plans for the redevelopment area as they come before the Planning Board. FOWWOS habitually comments on planning applications, looking at issues like ensuring that open space in cluster developments that is donated to the township is easily accessible to the public, that new zoning districts incorporate useful and attractive open space requirements, that particular attention is paid to preserving upland forested areas. Our secondary goals are to help the township plan for suitable uses of open space once it is acquired and help make parks and preserves enjoyable. To

achieve the first, FOWWOS Trustees serve with township professionals on a committee that is developing individual parcel plans (IPPs) for undeveloped open space. To achieve the second, we participate in building and maintaining trails and holding trail walks to introduce members of the public to some of the excellent recreation available in West Windsor. FOWWOS and the West Windsor Bicycle and Pedestrian Alliance have a joint Trails Committee that coordinates and sponsors these activities.



Van Ness Park

Do you have suggestions as to how we can do a better job at achieving our goals? Come to the Annual Meeting and make them. Do you have ideas about other activities FOWWOS should be engaging in? Come to the Annual Meeting and enumerate them. Do you think that FOWWOS could benefit from your energy and expertise, and are you willing to donate some time? Send your name in to PO Box 73, West Windsor, NJ 08550, and come to the Annual Meeting and tell your fellow members why you ought to be elected a FOWWOS Trustee. We're always delighted when more people get involved.

*Help preserve open space-- join FOWWOS every year!*



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The carbon offset that trees provide is indeed a likely reason that "green" is the universal adjective that accompanies positive environmental measures.

**Friends of West Windsor Open Space**

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New Jersey 08550

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**E-Mail:**

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**Web:**

[www.fowwos.org](http://www.fowwos.org)

**Preserving Land in West Windsor  
Since 1996**

**FOWWOS Membership Form:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

To join FOWWOS: Send name and address to the address above. Enclose dues check made out to FOWWOS for one of the following memberships.

Tax deductible yearly membership dues are:

Student	\$15.00 per year
Adult	\$25.00 per year
Family	\$40.00 per year
Supporter	\$50.00 per year
Benefactor	\$100.00 per year

Please make checks payable to FOWWOS and mail to:

P.O. Box 73  
West Windsor, N.J. 08550

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West Windsor, NJ 08550



**Customer Name  
Street Address  
City, ST ZIP Code**