

Friends of the Chester Creek Branch 2006 Annual Report

A publication for the members of the Friends of the Chester Creek Branch Rail Trail Project, Visit our website at www.chestercreektrail.org

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The Mission of Friends is to convert the existing Chester Creek Branch rail between the Caleb Pusey Plantation in Upland and the intersection with the SEPTA R3 line in Wawa to a multi-use trail.

2006 Annual Report; Annual Meeting August 20th

*by Mike Fusco
President, Friends of the Chester Creek Branch*

2006 was another year with multiple successes for your trail. In the Fall of 2006 we received (through the DELCO Planning Department) a \$300,000 Grant to complete the Engineering Study on Phase I of the Chester Creek Branch Trail. Phase I is the approximately 3 mile portion from Lenni Road in Middletown to Creek Road in Middletown. While we were happy to receive this grant, it was slightly less than the \$375,000 we requested. Later in the year we sent out a request for proposal for the Engineering Study and received four excellent bids.

In 2007 we selected the Wilson Consulting Group, PC to complete the Engineering Study. Unfortunately, all of the Bids came in well over the \$300,000 that we were awarded. Friends and DELCO are presently working to raise the difference to complete this study. I am confident we will be successful with this.

Once the Engineering Study is completed, we will be able to move to construction. Construction is already funded—although revisions to our funding needs may be required depending on the plans from the Engineering Study. If revisions are needed, I am confident that we will be able to successfully address this.

On another positive note—your website, www.chestercreektrail.org, was vital to the bidding process as many of the potential bidders downloaded all of the required information from our website. In addition,

we have added information on the Study for our members and friends to read and review. As the study moves forward, we will add posts to our website giving updates.

Also, in 2007 we instituted a small dues increase for membership. This is the first increase we've had in our 10 years in existence. While I'm not a fan of raising membership costs, the extra income should help us prepare for our future needs. I appreciate your support for this increase.

On Monday, August 20th at 7:15 PM, Friends will hold its annual meeting and election of the Board of Directors at the Aston Township Municipal Building (Pennel Road, Aston, PA). This is usually an informative, fun meeting. We'd love for you to make it to the meeting - if you attend, in addition to the information we will provide, you'll have the opportunity to see (and buy!) some of the latest Friends items (T-Shirts, Blankets, Sweatshirts, Caps, Golf Shirts, Denim Shirts, etc).

We'd love for you to attend, however if you can't attend, please complete and mail the proxy vote for Directors included with this Annual Report for receipt by August 18th.

I am very confident that the work begun in 2006, will soon lead to a Chester Creek Branch Rail Trail that we can all use, and not just dream about. None of this would be possible without you. Thank you for your support!

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FOCCB 2006 ANNUAL REPORT

Friends of the Chester Creek Branch Statement of Revenues and Expenses for 2006

Month	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Year 2006
Revenue													
# New FOCCB Memberships	3	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	10
New FOCCB Membership Rev	65.00	0.00	30.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	20.00	520.00	15.00	40.00	\$790.00
# of Renewals FOCCB	9	1	0	3	2	5	5	10	4	5	4	1	49
Renewal FOCCB Rev	165.00	500.00	0.00	160.00	30.00	255.00	55.00	290.00	70.00	165.00	555.00	175.00	\$2,420.00
# of Clothing Sales	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	5	0	1	1	0	11
Clothing Sales	30.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40.00	0.00	0.00	75.00	0.00	14.00	24.00	0.00	\$183.00
# of Donations	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	18	0	19
Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	75.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	765.00	95.00	\$935.00
Silent Auction Sales	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$0.00
Interest Income	1.49	1.30	1.39	1.38	1.44	1.41	1.47	1.49	1.44	1.51	1.13	169.73	\$185.18
QRF Memorial Fund	0.00	0.00	590.00	50.00	0.00	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$680.00
Total Revenue	\$261.49	\$501.30	\$621.39	\$211.38	\$71.44	\$296.41	\$231.47	\$366.49	\$91.44	\$700.51	\$1,360.13	\$479.73	\$5,193.18
Costs													
Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	329.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$329.00
Copying/ Printing	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$0.00
Insurance	0.00	1837.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$1,837.75
Computer Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	240.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$240.00
Total Costs	\$0.00	\$1,837.75	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$240.00	\$0.00	\$329.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,406.75
Monthly Revenue - Expenses	\$261.49	-\$1,336.45	\$621.39	\$211.38	\$71.44	\$56.41	\$231.47	\$37.49	\$91.44	\$700.51	\$1,360.13	\$479.73	\$2,786.43

Nominees Biographies

Michael G. Fusco- Mike is the current President and founder of Friends of the Chester Creek Branch. He is a member of the CRC Watersheds Association and other local environmental and bicycling organizations, a supporter of local bicycling issues, and an avid, plodding cyclist. Mike has a BS Degree from Widener in Biology, and a Masters from PSU.

Valerie Fusco- Valerie is the current Secretary of Friends of the Chester Creek Branch. She is a Registered Nurse working in Cardiac Rehabilitation at Taylor Hospital. Val is a strong proponent of the value of exercise to leading a healthy life.

Ira Josephs- Ira is the current Vice-President of Friends of the Chester Creek Branch. Ira is active in local Bicycling issues. He has a BS Degree from Colorado State in Biology. He is the Manager of Selene Whole Foods Co-op in Media & rides his bike to work almost every day, year round.

John Paulson- John Paulson is the current Treasurer of Friends. He and his wife Debra have been Middletown Township residents since 1978, both of whom enjoy cycling, especially on rail trails where traffic is not a safety issue. John is a CPA who is currently working as a systems analyst for the Vanguard Group in Malvern, PA.

Barry Pinkowicz- Barry is also a Vice-President of Friends. He has lived in Aston for over forty years, and is a strong supporter of the Chester Creek Branch Rail Trail. He is very active in the local community with his volunteer efforts including lifelong support for scouting and a position on the Scouts' Council.

Proxy Vote

If you do not plan on attending the Annual Meeting on August 20th, please complete this proxy and forward by August 18th to:

The Friends of the Chester Creek Branch
P.O. Box 2313,
Aston, PA 19014

The board has nominated and recommends the election of the following people:

	For	Against	Abstain	Other Nominee
Michael G. Fusco	___	___	___	_____
Valerie Fusco	___	___	___	_____
Ira Josephs	___	___	___	_____
John Paulson	___	___	___	_____
Barry Pinkowicz	___	___	___	_____

Please designate your vote on the above lines, if you want to vote for the nominee, check the "For" line next to their name, if you want to vote against the nominee, check the "Against" line, if you want to abstain, check the "Abstain" line, and if you want to vote for another member for a position write their name on the "Other Nominee" line. Also, Please sign and date this form prior to forwarding it.

Member Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____

2006 Treasurer's Report

During the past fiscal year ending December 31, 2006 the Friends of the Chester Creek Branch (FOCCB) remains on stable financial footing. At year-end, your organization held \$10142.42 in checking and \$8049.35 in certificate of deposit accounts respectively. Our updated web site generated a number of donations including a significant \$500.00 amount. Operating expenses were again modest and as a result, revenues exceeded by expenses \$2,786.43. Highlights of the financial results follow.

Our operating expenses were limited to three recurring, stable items: Insurance (\$1837.75 or 76.36% of total expenses), the cost of FOCCB logo products (\$329.00 or 13.67%), and web site fees (\$\$240.00 or 9.97%). We want to again thank a board member who wishes to remain anonymous for the generous contributions toward administrative expenses.

On the revenue side, member dues increased considerably (from \$2525.00 last year to \$3,210.00 (61.81% of total revenue). Donations to the QRF Memorial Fund totaled \$680.00 (13.09%) and other donations provided \$935.00 (18.00%). Rounding out income sources, we sold \$183.00 (3.52%) of FOCCB logo products and earned \$185.18 of interest (3.57%).

Looking toward the future, we have an approximately \$350,000 shortfall in funding to complete the design engineering project.

We have filed another grant application for approximately \$200,000 to cover part of this shortfall, (for which we expect to receive about \$100,000) and feel confident we will obtain full funding from various sources. The Engineering firm is aware of our funding and we are following the costs as it proceeds. Work will only be completed for which we have current funding and FOCCB will not incur liability for the full cost until full funding has been procured. It will therefore be important to show strong member support for our mission as we work through the grant request process. In evaluating funding requests, Grant organizations ask questions including: How many members to you have? How many hours have they donated to the effort? How much have they contributed?

These are truly exciting times for your trail project as our trail building efforts continue to accelerate toward the first phase of the trail. Once again, we were able to handle the past year's work effort with our unpaid staff, but may need to hire a paid staff member to augment the volunteer board members' work in the future. We ask for your continued support as the tangible progress continues.

Respectfully Submitted,

P. John Paulson, Treasurer

