

Friends of the Chester Creek Branch 2007 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.

2007 Annual Report; Annual Meeting August 18th

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

2007 was another year with multiple successes for your trail. In 2007 we awarded a contract (through the DELCO Planning Department) to begin the Engineering Study on Phase I of the Chester Creek Branch Trail to Wilson Consulting Group, PC. Phase I is the approximately 3 mile portion from Lenni Road in Middletown to Creek Road in Middletown. While we received a grant for a little less than half of the cost of this study, it was sufficient to get the study started. We are actively seeking funds to fully finance this study and are confident that we will be able to accomplish this in the near future.

Once the Engineering Study is complete, 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, we should be able to successfully address this.

Also in 2007 we also started a “Rail with Trail” study for the portion of the trail from Lenni Road to the Wawa train station. This section will eventually see the extension of the R3 line and we are working with SEPTA to make sure a trail will complement their passenger rail line.

2007 also saw the beginning of one other study—a study to work with emergency responders for the Phase I section of the trail. We want to

make sure all emergency responders know who is responsible for response to different potential issues that may arise on the trail. We also wanted to make sure that our trail has signage that the emergency responders are familiar and knowledgeable of. Two Friends volunteers—Robert Holm and Carl Smith are heading up this study for Friends and their support and help with this project is greatly appreciated.

On Monday, August 18th at 7:15 PM, Friends will hold its annual meeting and election of the Board of Directors at the Aston Township Community Center (Concord Road, Aston, PA). Mark Wilson, from the Wilson Consulting Group will provide an update on the Engineering Study at this meeting. 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).

However if you are unable to attend, please complete and mail the proxy vote for Directors included with this Annual Report for receipt by August 16th.

I am very confident that the work begun in 2007, 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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Friends of the Chester Creek Branch Statement of Revenues and Expenses for 2007

| 2007 Friends of the Chester Creek Branch Statement of Revenues and Expenses | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|--------|---------|--------|---------|----------|---------|-----------|---------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Month | 2007 QUANT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | January | February | March | April | May | June | July | August | September | October | November | December | Year 2007 |
| Revenue | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| New FOCCB Membership | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| New FOCCB Membership Fee | 20.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 25.00 | 25.00 | 83.00.00 | 0.00 | 20.00 | 20.00 | 0.00 | 20.00 | 825.00 |
| F of New FOCCB Member | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| New FOCCB Membership Inv | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 80.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 80.00 |
| F of Revenue FOCCB | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 4 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 46 |
| General FOCCB Inv | 120.00 | 20.00 | 20.00 | 60.00 | 20.00 | 160.00 | 240.00 | 420.00 | 60.00 | 600.00 | 50.00 | 1,495.00 | 63,745.00 |
| F of Clothing Sales | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Clothing Sales | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 5.00 | 0.00 | 65.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 24.00 | 89.00 |
| F of Donations | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Donations | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 210.00 | 0.00 | 30.00 | 240.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 210.00 | 82,310.00 |
| Interest Income | 1.25 | 1.25 | 1.25 | 1.25 | 1.25 | 1.25 | 63.75 | 1.25 | 1.25 | 1.25 | 1.25 | 126.42 | 638.62 |
| FOCCB Annual Fund | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 80.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 80.00 |
| Other Invts | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 80.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 80.00 |
| Total Revenue | 61,381.25 | 621.26 | 621.13 | 6771.20 | 661.26 | 6206.27 | 6646.72 | 6371.26 | 6426.22 | 6676.22 | 651.23 | 67,855.42 | 64,302.14 |
| Costs | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Supplies | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 80.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 80.00 |
| Copying/Printing | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 80.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 80.00 |
| Insurance | 0.00 | 2012.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 80.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 80.00 |
| Legal | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 80.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 80.00 |
| P.O. Box Rental | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 80.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 80.00 |
| Postage | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 80.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 80.00 |
| Computer Expenses | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 200.00 | 2300.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2300.00 |
| Total Costs | 0.00 | 61,812.00 | 0.00 | 60.00 | 60.00 | 200.00 | 2300.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 62,112.00 |
| Monthly Revenue - Expenses | 61,381.25 | -61,790.74 | 621.13 | 6771.20 | 661.26 | -663.77 | 6646.72 | 6371.26 | 6426.22 | 6676.22 | 651.23 | 67,855.42 | 64,192.62 |

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 16th 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 _____

2007 Treasurer's Report

During the past fiscal year ending December 31, 2007 the Friends of the Chester Creek Branch (FOCCB) remains on stable financial footing. At year-end, your organization held \$14,738.62 in checking and \$8,185.76 in certificates of deposit accounts respectively. Operating expenses were again modest and as a result, revenues exceeded by expenses \$4732.81. Highlights of the financial results follow.

Our operating expenses were limited to two recurring, stable items: Insurance (\$1837.75 or 86% of total expenses), and web site fees (\$300.00 or 14%). 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 (from \$3,210.00 last year to \$4,145.00 (61% of total revenue). FOCCB logo product sales and other donations provided \$935.00 (37%) and we earned \$150.61 of interest (2%).

We are also conducting a separate rail-with-trail survey for the portion of the trail between Lenni Rd. and the once-and-future Wawa station that was generously by funded through Delaware County Council.

Looking toward the future, we have an approximately \$350,000 shortfall in funding to complete the design engineering project. We have filed several grant applications to cover this shortfall and

feel confident we will obtain full funding from one or more 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 continue to 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 continue to be 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 supplement the volunteer board members' efforts in the future. We again ask and thank you for your continued support as the tangible progress toward trail completion continues.

Respectfully Submitted,

P. John Paulson, Treasurer

