

Friends of the Chester Creek Branch 2008 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.

2008 Annual Report; Annual Meeting August 24th

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

2008 was another successful year for your trail. In 2008 we began in earnest the Engineering Study on Phase I of the Chester Creek Branch Trail. Phase I is the approximately 3 mile portion from Lenni Road to Creek Road in Middletown.

The Engineering Study work involved completion of the initial design for the trail. In addition, submissions were made to PENNDOT for approval of this design as safe for trail users and the drivers on the roads that intersect the trail — early in 2009 we received this approval. Also, a public meeting was held in November to show our initial design and get feedback from the public.

The Engineering Study is continuing in 2009 and we are expecting to go before Aston and Middletown Townships for their final approval of the design.

In addition to the efforts on the Engineering Study we took three other major steps in 2008 to move this trail forward. First, we worked with the Delaware County Planning Department to get complete funding in place for the Engineering Study—and we learned in early 2009 that most of the remaining funding was granted. We are still working to get the last piece of funding in place, and expect to complete this successfully in the future. We also worked with our Engineer, SEPTA, and the Planning Department to develop a way to have the trail run parallel to

the future SEPTA R3 Rail Line from Lenni Road to Baltimore Pike. Work is ongoing here and we expect to complete this successfully over the next year or so. Finally, two of our volunteers, Bob Holm and Carl Smith, began work with the local Emergency Responders to develop a plan for Emergency Response on the trail, as needed. Work is continuing on this plan and I expect it to be completed in the near future.

On Monday, August 24th at 7:00 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 22nd.

I am very confident that the work begun in 2008, 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!

<i>Table of Contents</i>	<i>Page</i>
<i>2008 Annual Report</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>2008 Financials Spreadsheet</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Proxy Vote and Biographies of Candidates</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>2008 Treasurer's Report</i>	<i>4</i>

FOCCB 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

Friends of the Chester Creek Branch Statement of Revenues and Expenses for 2008

Month	January	February	March	April	May	June	2nd Quarter			July	August	September	3rd Quarter			October	November	December	4th Quarter	Year 2008	
Revenue																					
# New FOCCB Memberships	0	0	0	1	0	3	4	4	1	4	1	6	6	2	1	2	1	5	15	5	
New FOCCB Membership Rev	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	80.00	\$90.00	\$90.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	\$95.00	\$95.00	45.00	10.00	70.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$310.00	\$0.00	
# of New FOOB Members	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New FOOB Membership Rev	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	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
# of Renewals FOCCB	2	1	1	3	5	4	12	8	14	3	25	25	25	4	1	4	9	50	9	50	
Renewal FOCCB Rev	120.00	35.00	100.00	125.00	175.00	65.00	\$365.00	\$365.00	620.00	100.00	100.00	\$1,075.00	\$1,075.00	160.00	25.00	695.00	\$880.00	\$880.00	\$2,575.00	\$0.00	
# of Clothing Sales	2	1	0	0	1	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	5	10	5	
Clothing Sales	39.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$134.00	
# of Donations	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	4	19	17	19	17	
Donations	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	430.00	0.00	1910.00	\$2,340.00	\$2,340.00	\$2,390.00	\$0.00	
Grants	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	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
QRF Memorial Fund	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	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Silent Auction Admissions	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	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
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	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Interest Income	1.88	1.76	1.68	1.64	1.31	1.04	\$3.99	\$3.99	1.10	1.05	0.96	\$3.11	\$3.11	0.88	0.85	306.12	\$307.85	\$307.85	\$320.27	\$0.00	
QRF Memorial Fund	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	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Other Rev6	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	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Total Revenue	\$185.88	\$61.76	\$101.68	\$136.64	\$211.31	\$156.04	\$503.99	\$503.99	\$431.10	\$631.05	\$110.96	\$1,173.11	\$1,173.11	\$255.88	\$540.85	\$2,981.12	\$3,777.85	\$3,777.85	\$5,804.27	\$0.00	
Costs																					
Supplies	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	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
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	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Insurance	0.00	1822.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,822.00	
Legal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	828.75	0.00	1996.25	\$2,825.00	\$2,825.00	0.00	266.00	0.00	0.00	\$266.00	\$266.00	\$3,091.00	
P.O. Box Rental	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	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Postage	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	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Computer Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	240.00	\$240.00	\$240.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$340.00	
Total Costs	\$0.00	\$1,822.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$240.00	\$240.00	\$240.00	\$918.75	\$0.00	\$1,996.25	\$2,915.00	\$2,915.00	\$0.00	\$266.00	\$100.00	\$366.00	\$366.00	\$5,343.00	\$0.00	
Monthly Revenue - Expenses	\$185.88	-\$1,760.24	\$101.68	\$136.64	\$211.31	-\$83.96	\$263.99	\$263.99	-\$487.65	\$631.05	-\$1,885.29	-\$1,741.89	-\$1,741.89	\$255.88	\$274.85	\$2,881.12	\$3,411.85	\$3,411.85	\$461.27	\$461.27	

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 24th, please complete this proxy and forward by August 22nd 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 _____

2008 Treasurer's Report

During the past fiscal year ending December 31, 2008 the Friends of the Chester Creek Branch (FOCCB) remains on stable financial footing. At year-end, your organization held \$5298.62 in checking and \$13,354.42 in certificate of deposit accounts respectively. Operating expenses were again modest and as a result, revenues exceeded by expenses \$461.27. Highlights of the financial results follow.

Our operating expenses were limited to three recurring, stable items: Insurance (\$1,822.00 or 34.10% of total expenses), the cost of the web site fees (\$340.00 or 6.36%) and a Regulatory Filing Fee (\$90.00 or 1.68% of total expenses). 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 improved a bit over last year's improved level \$2885.00 (49.70% of total revenue) and other donations provided \$2,390.00 (41.18%). Rounding out income sources, we sold \$134.00 (2.31%) of FOCCB logo products and earned \$320.27 of interest (5.52%) and had a fee refund of \$75.00 (1.29%).

Looking toward the future, our funding shortfall situation has improved considerably since last year, but we still need approximately \$125,000 to complete the pre-construction engineering de-

sign project. We were fortunate to receive a funding grant from PA DEP for over \$100,000 and as a result, the Engineering firm has restarted work now that the revenues from the latest grant have become available. We remain confident we will obtain the final funding from various sources. Work will only be completed for which we have current funding and FOCCB will not incur liability for the full cost of the design 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 any 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

