

Friends of the Chester Creek Branch 2009 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.

2009 Annual Report; Annual Meeting August 23rd

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

2009 was another successful year for your trail. In 2009 we had continued progress on the Engineering Study of 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 is continuing in 2010. We received final approval from Aston Township for the Trail in late 2009. We are still working with Middletown Township for their final approval of the design and expect to get it this year.

In addition to the efforts on the Engineering Study we took three other major steps in 2009 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 just learned that full funding is in place to complete this Study. A great deal of effort went into this and because of the economic situation in the country it was more difficult than we had anticipated—but with the immeasurable help of the County this effort has succeeded. 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, continued 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 23rd 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). We will provide a full 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 21st.

We had a great 2009 and 2010 is shaping up to be even better. I am very confident that our work in 2009, 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 2009

Month	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Year 2009
Revenue													
New FOCCB Membership Rev	100.00	0.00	25.00	0.00	35.00	0.00	25.00	35.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$220.00
Renewal FOCCB Rev	0.00	50.00	50.00	25.00	90.00	150.00	385.00	540.00	245.00	125.00	100.00	335.00	\$2,095.00
Clothing Sales	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	30.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$60.00
Donations	25.00	35.00	60.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	920.00	830.00	\$1,920.00
Interest Income	1.26	1.12	1.08	0.84	0.71	0.70	0.75	0.78	0.58	0.43	16.17	379.94	\$404.36
Total Revenue	\$126.26	\$86.12	\$136.08	\$75.84	\$145.71	\$150.70	\$410.75	\$585.78	\$275.58	\$125.43	\$1,036.17	\$1,544.94	\$4,699.36
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
Insurance	0.00	1719.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$1,719.00
Legal	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
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
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
Computer Expenses	0.00	0.00	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$300.00
Total Costs	\$0.00	\$1,719.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$64.00	\$0.00	\$2,098.00

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 23rd, please complete this proxy and forward by August 21st 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 _____

2009 Treasurer's Report

During the past fiscal year ending December 31, 2009 the Friends of the Chester Creek Branch (FOCCB) remains on stable financial footing. At year-end, your organization held \$25,988.54 in cash. Operating expenses were again modest and as a result, revenues exceeded by expenses \$2,601.36. Highlights of the financial results follow.

Our operating expenses were limited to two recurring, stable items: Insurance (\$1,719.00 or 81.94% of total expenses), web site fees (\$300.00 or 14.30%), and we did not purchase any FOCCB logo products this year – unfortunately our good friend and supplier went out of business. We are searching for a replacement vendor. 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, down slightly from last year, totaled \$2,315.00 (49.26% of total revenue). Donations, increased from last year provided \$1,920.00 (40.86%). Rounding out income sources, we sold \$60.00 (1.28%) of FOCCB logo products and earned \$404.36 of interest (8.60%).

Looking toward the very bright future of the trail, we just received word that the final \$150,000.00 funding shortfall to

complete the Phase 1 design engineering project has been received courtesy of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission. No doubt, continued strong member support for our mission combined with the diligent work of your board, the Delaware County Planning Department and various elected officials culminated in successful development efforts to fund the trail.

These are truly exciting times for your trail project as the engineering process can resume at full speed to a probable completion in early 2011. We may even see some shovels hitting the rail bed within approximately one year. 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 and accelerates.

Respectfully Submitted,

P. John Paulson

