



## **Friends of the Chester Creek Branch**

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

### **NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING**

The Friends of the Chester Creek Trail will be holding an Annual Meeting for Members:

**Monday, August 7, 2017 at 7 p.m.**  
**Aston Community Center**  
**3270 Concord Road Aston, PA 19014**  
(Meeting room next to the library)

Non-members are welcome to attend, and can become a voting member by joining at the meeting!

#### **The meeting will include:**

Election of Board Members  
Financial Report  
Highlights from the April ribbon-cutting event  
Update on trail progress, amenities/memorials  
Trail merchandise for sale  
Time for Q&A

Bios for current Board Members running for election are included on the attached proxy ballot.

#### **We need your help!**

We are seeking volunteers and/or prospective board members to join us, especially people with expertise in the following areas:

- Legal affairs
- Community organizing
- Fundraising/grant writing
- Advocacy and policy

Want to learn more about volunteer/board opportunities? Send an email to [info@chestercreektrail.org](mailto:info@chestercreektrail.org)

**Friends of the Chester Creek Branch  
2016/2017 Annual Report  
Annual Meeting Monday, August 7, 2017**

*A publication for the members of the Friends of the Chester Creek Branch Rail Trail Project.*

Visit our website at [www.chestercreektrail.org](http://www.chestercreektrail.org)

Visit our Facebook Page at: *Friends of Chester Creek Trails*

*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.*

Trail construction of Phase I was essentially completed in late 2016, and an official ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on April 8, 2017. Some trail amenities are still in progress, in coordination with Delaware County and Middletown and Aston Townships. Benches and trash cans will be installed by the end of the summer and a memorial to Mike Fusco is also being planned. The County has indicated that signage will be installed in coordination with efforts at other parks.

Over twenty years ago, this trail was a dream, with a lot of logistical, political, and financial obstacles to overcome. Since the trail has opened, it has proved to be far more popular than expected. While this is a wonderful problem to have, it has created parking challenges at peak times. Middletown Township created an overflow parking area off of Mt. Alverno Road, and has been looking at other options.

FOCCB did a trail use study on Feb 19 (an unseasonably warm Sunday of President's Day weekend) and counted nearly 400 people on the trail during a single hour, 84% of whom had arrived by car. Of those surveyed, 43% were from Aston Township, 18% from Middletown, and 7% from Media/Upper Providence. The remainder came from all over Delaware County (just two people were from out of the county.) We believe that the results of this limited survey indicate a pent-up area demand for safe places to walk, run, and cycle, and further support the importance of expanding the trail on both ends to other networks.

Delaware County has indicated that they would like to rescind the lease agreement that was negotiated with FOCCB for the construction of Phase I. This measure is expected to be adopted by County Council in September, and the County is expected to take over primary responsibility for operational and maintenance responsibilities, including trash pickup.

FOCCB is still involved, though! Once the agreement has been renegotiated and the lease has reverted to the county, we expect to take an active role in organizing volunteer

cleanup and maintenance activities. We are delighted for the strong community support the trail has received. We also plan to be active advocates for trail expansion and connection to other trail networks.

Please be sure to visit our web site [www.chestercreektrail.org](http://www.chestercreektrail.org) or our Facebook page (Chester Creek Trail).

FOCCB will hold its annual meeting and elect Board Members on Monday, August 7th at 7:00 p.m. at the Aston Township Community Center (257 Concord Rd, Aston, PA 19014). We will review project progress, elect the Board for the coming year, and conduct normal Board business. We hope the annual meeting is an enlightening affair for our members and we would love for you to attend and learn what has been accomplished over the past year.

If you are unable to attend, please complete and mail the proxy vote included with this Annual Report for receipt by August 1st, 2017. If your membership has expired, please feel free to renew at our Annual Meeting, by mail, or on line at our website.

We look forward to the next phase of trail construction, and thank you for your support. We hope to see you on the trail soon!

Respectfully submitted,

Barry Pinkowicz, President  
Ira Josephs, Vice President  
John Paulson, Treasurer  
Kelly Johnson, Director of Communications  
Janilyn Pinkowicz, Membership Director  
Bill Shaw, Trail Maintenance Director

## August 7, 2017 Chester Creek Trail Annual Meeting Proxy Vote

If you do not plan on attending the Annual Meeting on August 7, 2017, please complete this proxy and forward by August 7, 2017 to:

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

**Please select up to nine board members:**

|                               | For   | Against | Abstain | Other Nominee |
|-------------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------------|
| Kelly Johnson (incumbent)     | _____ | _____   | _____   | _____         |
| Ira Josephs (incumbent)       | _____ | _____   | _____   | _____         |
| John Paulson (incumbent)      | _____ | _____   | _____   | _____         |
| Barry Pinkowicz (incumbent)   | _____ | _____   | _____   | _____         |
| Janilyn Pinkowicz (incumbent) | _____ | _____   | _____   | _____         |
| Bill Shaw (incumbent)         | _____ | _____   | _____   | _____         |

Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

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. 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## **Bios for Current Board Members running for re-election:**

### **Kelly Johnson (Communications Director)**

Kelly joined the board in 2014 as Communications Director and has lived in Middletown Township for twelve years with her husband and two daughters. She has a master's degree in international relations and works as a program officer for an international fellowship organization in Philadelphia. She served as a Girl Scout leader for six years, and has been active in other community volunteer roles. She is delighted that she can walk to the trail from her house, and can be seen on it regularly.

### **Ira Josephs (Vice President)**

Ira is involved in local bicycling advocacy on several fronts, and also volunteers for Transition Town Media and America's First Fair Trade Town Committee. He is currently serving as Vice President and has a BS degree in Biology from Colorado State University and rides his bike for transportation almost every day. He has recently gotten back into bicycle touring, and sells residential renewable electricity for Green Mountain Energy.

### **John Paulson (Treasurer)**

John had been an active member of the FOCCB initially, and more recently has served as Treasurer since 2003. He has served in a variety of civic and church-related charitable activities, including a used bicycle donation ministry. John and his wife Debra have been Middletown Township residents since 1978 and enjoy cycling, especially on rail trails where traffic is not a safety issue. John is a CPA who recently retired from Vanguard where he worked as a systems analyst.

### **Barry Pinkowicz (President)**

Barry, who has lived in Aston for over 55 years, is currently serving as President. He is a long-time supporter of the Chester Creek Branch Rail Trail, and previously served as Vice President. He is very active in the local community with his volunteer efforts, including lifelong support for scouting, where he is currently a Committee Member with Troop 225 in Aston. Barry also volunteers with the National Fallen Firefighter Memorial in Emmitsburg, Maryland. He is a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America.

### **Janilyn Pinkowicz (Membership Director)**

Janilyn has lived in Aston Township since 1960. She joined the board in 2015 as Membership Director. She volunteers, along with her husband Barry, for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. She has also been active in volunteering her service and time with other community organizations and events. Janilyn is a Senior Customer Service Coordinator for Asendia USA, an international and domestic mail company in Folcroft, PA. She enjoys spending time with her family and three children, and enjoys using the trail whenever she can.

### **Bill Shaw (Trail Maintenance Director)**

Bill joined the board in 2015 as Maintenance Director. He graduated from Upper Darby High School, served an apprenticeship in IBEW Local Union 654, and became a Journeyman Electrician in 1976. In 2011 he retired from Local 654. Bill has lived in Middletown Township for 33 years and has served on the Parks and Recreation Committee since 2000. He is active with the Masonic Lodge and is a Past Master. He currently serves as Assistant Secretary of Concord Masonic Lodge Number 625. Bill enjoys camping with his wife Barb, and children, as well as fishing and hunting.

## 2016 Treasurer's Report

During the past fiscal year ending December 31, 2016 the Friends of the Chester Creek Branch (FOCCB) remains on significantly improved and stable financial footing. At year-end, your organization held \$24,939.40 in cash (more than twice last year's balance). The large increase in revenues was largely due to deposits on commemorative benches that were purchased after the 2016 year end in 2017. Administrative expenses were again modest. Revenues exceeded expenses by \$ 13,760.92 for the year, a significant improvement from 2015's \$2,016.64 deficit. Highlights of the financial results follow.

Our operating expenses included the following recurring, stable items: Insurance (\$1,409.50 or 87% of total expenses), post office box (\$200.00 or 12%), and miscellaneous (\$15.00 or 1%). We want to again thank several board members who wish to remain anonymous for the generous contributions toward administrative expenses.

On the revenue side Member Dues and Donations remained strong, totaling \$5,362.61 (35% of total revenue) and we received \$10,000 (65% of total revenue) in bench deposits. Finally we earned \$22.81 interest (.15% of total revenue).

Looking toward the exciting future of the trail, we will need to begin/continue to fund new trail amenities (e.g. installing benches, trash cans, signage), some aspects of ongoing maintenance of the Phase 1 portion of the trail, and work toward the Aston Phase 2 planning and design efforts.

Your past support over more than two decades allowed FOCCB to fund the various expenditures needed to bring a successful completion of Phase 1. Hopefully your continued, future support will provide for other significant needs as we look to expand your trail South into Aston and north toward Wawa, PA.

Respectfully submitted,

P. John Paulson  
FOCCB Treasurer

**Friends of the Chester Creek Branch Statement of Revenues and Expenses**

**For the Year Ending 12/31/2016**

| <b>REVENUES</b>                             |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| Renewal FOCCB Revenue                       | 5362.61                |
| Bench Revenue                               | 10000.00               |
| Interest Income                             | 22.81                  |
| <u>Total Revenue</u>                        | <u>15385.42</u>        |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                             |                        |
| Insurance                                   | 1409.50                |
| Legal                                       | 0.00                   |
| PO Box Rental                               | 200.00                 |
| Township Engineering Fees                   | 0.00                   |
| Miscellaneous                               | 15.00                  |
| Logo Product Costs                          | 0.00                   |
| <u>Total Costs</u>                          | <u>1624.50</u>         |
| <b><u>Revenue in Excess of Expenses</u></b> | <b><u>13760.92</u></b> |

**Friends of the Chester Creek Branch Balance Sheet**

As of 12/31/2016

| <b>Assets</b>                      |                       |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Cash                               | 24939.36              |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                | <b><u>24939.4</u></b> |
| Liabilities                        | 0                     |
| Retained Earnings                  | <u>24939.36</u>       |
| <b>Total Liabilities + Capital</b> | <b><u>24939.4</u></b> |