

FRIENDS OF CEDAR CREEK, MEETING OF NOVEMBER 28, 2017

Members and visitors gathered for snacks at 6:30 pm at the Dustin Preserve. The meeting was called to order by President Dave VanGilder at 6:50pm. He reviewed the bimonthly meeting program schedule and requested program suggestions (one being Hoffman organic chickens). Heather Baker agreed to reinstate meeting minutes onto the website.

Heather Baker and Carol Roberts reviewed The Guide to Cedar Creek on our website www.friendsofcedarcreek.org. Carol provided editing and Heather did editing and the technical work for the website. Al Diefenbach won the "Hidden Animal" email contest, correctly finding a deer.

Martha Ferguson was suggested as a speaker on winterizing gardens and plants. Other suggestions for meetings included St Joe River Watershed Initiative, Fort Wayne Trails, Abby (Abigail Frost-King) of Save Maumee, Nathan Frye of the DeKalb County Surveyor's Office re: work on Cedar Creek. Willow Creek Golf Course has been sold to Mike Thomas for conversion to 300+ homes. How will this affect Cedar Creek and Eel River (already impaired waterway) regarding water, runoff, fertilizer. Jerry Amstutz and Carol Roberts volunteered to work with Dave VanGilder on researching these issues.

Megan Anderson, representative from Sierra Club (she is a Bloomington resident), spoke on the Beyond Coal topic as our program. She is posting events on Facebook for interested persons' participation. Sierra Club has a goal of 2/3 of coal fired power plants to be retired by 2020 and have a coal free electric sector by 2030. By 2050, the US would be carbon free in the electric and transportation sectors. Coal not only generates CO2 when burned, but emits arsenic and mercury. The plants tend to be located in poor/minority areas making life even worse with emissions.

Megan explained that Beyond Coal started in 2010 and so far 15 plants are retired or set for retirement. A plant in Crawfordsville has been converted to clean coal and gas for electricity generation. There are still 12 coal fired plants remaining. Ball State has converted to geothermal with 2 gas fired systems as backup while IU and Purdue have converted to gas from coal for their on campus energy needs. Fifty-five organizations have petitioned to take down the coal fired plant in Indianapolis and remove its coal ash disposal (ponds, often unlined pits near a river) to reduce pollution from the plant. Indiana Energy Association, a lobbying group, is composed of IPL (Indianapolis Power and Light, Vectren, Duke Energy, I&M, and NIPSCO) has worked to eliminate Energizing Indiana, home energy audit program to help reduce demand, stop roof top solar, as competitive supplement to their commercial production of electricity.

FOCC needs to be aware that Rep. Ober co-sponsored the solar attack bill (he is chair of the Utilities, Energy and Telecom Committee at the Statehouse). Another important local person is Sen. David Long, President pro tem of Dist 16. Calls and letters are important to make our interest in this known. The members of the legislature are influenced by money and votes. We need to encourage them to work on less coal, more solar. The Rockport IN plant will require \$6 Billion to keep going. Fort Wayne I&M customers will be paying for those upgrades and maintenance. There will be a caroling session at I&M on Dec. 14, as a way to increase visibility of the campaign.

For the 2018 legislative session (short session), there will be work to seal a deal on the Rockport plant and transition to reevaluate for efficiency and not just get a big gas plant. Consumer issues along with a 20 year energy plan will be coming up in 2018. Megan finished up with a question/answer session on solar systems. Meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,
MA Feitler, Secretary