



Brown Township, Franklin County Summer 2005

Two Public Meetings of Interest to Brown Township Residents to be Held June 21 and 22, 2005

Darby Accord

The Darby Accord Consortium of Local Franklin County Governments will host an open house to inform the public of their planning effort and to seek input on issues related to future land uses in the Big Darby Creek Watershed, Western Franklin County.

On Tuesday, June 21 beginning with an open house format at 5 to 6:30 p.m. followed by a formal presentation at 7:00 p.m., the EDAW Consulting Firm, consultants for the Franklin County Darby Accord consortium of local governments, will conduct a public input session at the Alton- Hall Elementary School located at the intersection of Alton and Hall Roads, 1000 Alton Road, Prairie Township (south of West Broad Street).

Because Brown Township is not an island, its future is subject to the influences of many jurisdictions along its borders. Within the township, the complex system of decision making by individual land owners in conjunction with varying levels of governmental entities will have influence over what Brown Township will look like in the future.

Recently, the 2005 Brown Township Plan's Steering Committee and Township Trustees approved the latest iteration of the township's vision for the future. Several public hearings were held in the process to develop the 2005 Brown Plan. The desire to: keep current; the need to update the previous 1998 Brown Plan Update; potential for extension of sewer and water into Brown by Columbus or Hilliard; large land purchases by development interests within the township; the desire to protect Central Ohio's unique natural resource - the National and State of Ohio Scenic River Big Darby Creek are a few of the reasons for updating the township's vision for its future. Now that vision will be considered as a part of a regional watershed planning effort focusing on the Big Darby Watershed portion of Franklin County.

The Accord process will consider past studies along with all local jurisdictions' plans in this larger effort to assess their respective but composite impacts on the future environmental health of the Big Darby Creek. Participants and contributors to the Accord Plan include Brown, Norwich, Washington, Prairie and Pleasant Townships, the cities of Hilliard, Grove City and Columbus, the Village of Harrisburg, and the Franklin County Commissioners.

Interviews with local and state governmental entities, citizen organizations and other stakeholders in

the watershed have already begun.

Following is the mission statement for the Big Darby Accord:

“The Big Darby Accord consists of local governments within the Franklin County area of the Big Darby Creek watershed. The mission of the Big Darby Accord is to cooperatively develop a multi-jurisdictional plan and accompanying preservation and growth strategies, capable of implementation, oversight and enforcement, which are designed to:

- Preserve, protect and improve, when possible, the Big Darby Creek watershed’s unique ecosystem by utilizing the best available science, engineering and land use planning practices;
- Promote responsible growth by taking measures to provide for adequate public services and facilities and promote a full spectrum of housing choice, as well as adequate educational, recreational and civic opportunities, for citizens of each jurisdiction and for Central Ohio;
- Create a partnership that recognizes the identity, aspirations, rights, and duties of all jurisdictions and that develops methods of cooperation among the partners through means which include the cooperative utilization of public services and facilities; and
- Capitalize on the results of other efforts by considering local comprehensive plans, as well as the work of the Environmentally Sensitive Development Area External Advisory Group, the Hellbranch Forum, the 21st Century Growth Policy Team and other local planning and zoning efforts, in the development of the plan.” Brown Trustees encourage residents and property owners to attend this first Accord public information meeting designed to provide information and seek citizen input to this important regional plan process.

For more information about the Darby Accord please visit:

<http://www.FranklinCountyOhio.gov/bigdarbyaccord>

Metro Parks

Metro Parks announces a public open house to review the Darby strategic plan -which planning area includes portions of Brown Township. Metro Parks will host a Public Open House on June 22 to show a variety of plans and strategies for the future and solicit feedback and ideas from the public.

Stop by from 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 22 at the Cedar Ridge Lodge, Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park, 1775 Darby Creek Drive, Galloway. Park staff will be on hand to answer questions, show conceptual plans and seek your ideas and comments.

Ding Dong!

'Tis the season for Door-to-Door salesmen. Upon request, they must show you a Brown Township Permit, obtained from the Township Clerk.

Brown Township Comprehensive Plan

by: Pam Sayre - Brown Township Trustee

A Steering Committee comprised of local residents, a developer, a conservationist, our executive assistant to the Board along with the guidance and technical expertise of a planner from the Franklin

County Development Department presented the 2005 Brown Township Comprehensive Plan to the Trustees on March 28th for consideration. After some minor revisions, the plan was adopted unanimously by the Brown Township Trustees on April 26th during the regular trustee meeting.

After adoption by the Trustees, the plan was forwarded to the Franklin County Planning Commission on May 11th. A presentation was made by Erin Prosser, principle planner from FCDD, focusing on the benefits of conservation development, the protective measures of a First Tier and a Second Tier approach to protecting environmentally sensitive areas, and how the plan will aid in protecting Big Darby Creek. The Commission recommended adoption of the plan with a vote of seven ayes and one nay.

The Plan then went before the Rural Zoning Commission at their monthly meeting on May 19th. A presentation was given by Tammy Noble, Interim Director of the FCDD. The RZC voted unanimously to recommend adoption of the plan to the County Commissioners.

On May 31st, a zoning hearing was held by the Franklin County Commissioners to adopt the Brown Township Comprehensive Plan. Public comment was given by Tim Richardson and Anthony Sasson. After extensive questions and comments, the Commissioners unanimously adopted the plan and recommended zoning amendments and new zoning categories be enacted in a timely manner. Ms. Noble responded that an update of the Zoning Regulations will begin shortly.

Brown Township has been proactive in planning since the early 1990's and continues in that tradition with this most recent update. This community effort, this community voice is a grass roots effort at Darby preservation and township sustainability. It would not have been possible without the dedication and perseverance of an outstanding Steering Committee. The Trustees would like to take this opportunity to recognize the following citizens who gave so much of their time and their talent in the relentless pursuit of a quality plan:

- Joe Martin, Chairperson
- Steve Rider
- Cheryl Lorson
- Larry Baumgartner
- Harold Jerman
- Dick Stahl
- Donna Palmer
- Dan O'Brien
- Doug Maggied
- Anthony Sasson
- Paul Lambert

We also would like to recognize the invaluable assistance of Tracy Hatmaker (now Prairie Township Administrator), Planners Erin Prosser, Lee Brown and Tammy Noble of the Franklin County Development Department and Tim Richardson, Executive Assistant to the Board.

Brown Township Happenings

Recycling for Brown Township

Brown Township Trustees are finalizing plans for township recycling bins to be placed by the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO). Recycling bins are to be located at the Brown Township Administration Office and Fire Station, 2491 Walker Road.

Trustees expect to have two bins available- for acceptable recyclable materials only such as glass, plastics, cardboard, newspapers, pizza boxes, aerosol and aluminum cans, junk mail, and magazines, - by the end of June. The bins' location to the rear of township buildings is designed to keep driving lanes and parking areas open at township offices, and to accommodate fire department needs. Please take advantage of this recycling opportunity regularly and responsibly.

This service by SWACO is being offered at no cost to Brown Township and its residents. SWACO contact information is: ph. 614-871-5100, and www.SWACO.org

Brown Township Trustee Meeting Dates

Brown Trustees will meet Tuesday, June 28, Monday, July 11 and Tuesday, July 26 at 7:30 p.m. at the Township Hall, 2491 Walker Road.

Bulletin Board

The Trustees have placed a Brown Township Public Notice and Information bulletin board at the main entrance to the township building. The board is in a lighted area to facilitate reading information during night time hours.

The History of Brown Township

In November of 1857 Solomon Jackson Wooley, a daguerreotype photographer whose business was located in Columbus, Ohio, purchased 575 acres of land in Brown Township. He bought the land from Michael Lucas Sullivant, the second son of Lucas Sullivant the founder of Franklinton. Michael owned various tracts.

With the advent of the Civil War, Solomon wasn't able to devote much time to his new farm. Photography took him to the south during most of the war years where he engaged in photographing the soldiers and the events of the war. When the war ended, he retired from photography to become variously a farmer, a writer for several magazines, and eventually the author of a book. His property was located near the center of the area bordered by Davis, Alton & Darby Creek, Walker and Scioto & Darby Creek Roads with frontage on Scioto & Darby Creek, Davis, and Walker Roads. This land was in poor condition and unusable when he purchased it. It was primarily a tree-covered swamp with standing water on it all year round.

Solomon Wooley's friends thought he had purchased a folly, but after years of effort he was able to drain the water off of his wasteland and created one of the most productive farms in Franklin County. Being a vegetarian, Solomon first established his farm with a grape vineyard and an apple and peach orchard.

Soloman needed so many tiles to drain the water from his land that he purchased a small setup to make his own. Shortly thereafter, having discovered a great need for drain tile in his neighborhood, Solomon engaged himself in the brick and field drain tile manufacturing business.

He founded the Appledale Tile Works in 1866, and by 1880 this factory employed a staff of 12 men. The driveway to his property, off of Scioto & Darby Creek Road near Langton Road, passed through his 40-acre apple and peach orchard. This may be why he chose the name Appledale. The large factory powered by steam engines was located near the center of his property and south of his home. To meet an ever-increasing demand for tile in this flatland area, Solomon Wooley used the locally available slate colored fire clay from his farm and others in the area. From three to eighteen inch tile was manufactured at Appledale. On August 30, 1896, Solomon was married to Fannie Virginia Cromwell.

Contributors to this township history were Ray Bradley and Sandy Andromeda.