



FRIENDS OF AUBURN HEIGHTS PRESERVE, INC.

Beginning Our Strategic Planning Process

All of us who are members of the Friends of Auburn Heights Preserve support the organization with our time, effort and money because we appreciate the historic treasures here and we believe in the importance of FAHP's mission:

The MISSION of the *Friends of Auburn Heights Preserve, Inc.* is to educate the public firsthand about an American way of life that flourished at the dawn of the automotive age and to preserve historic steam technology by teaching the practical skills of operating and maintaining steam cars.

A long-range plan is a vital tool in fulfilling our mission. Such a plan lays out our vision of what we want FAHP to be five years in the future and how we expect to get there. It's a "must have" when seeking grants and other major financial support, it provides guidance for our Board of Directors and officers in their decision-making process, and it helps lay the foundation for our cooperative partnership with the State of Delaware in operating this property.

We have formed a small Steering Group to oversee this effort. This group's role is *not* to create the plan for FAHP, but rather to see that a quality plan gets created. First, the Steering Group will define a process for gathering input from a wide range of "stakeholders" who have an interest in FAHP: members, volunteers, Board members, steam car owners, local residents and other nonprofits in the area. This letter is the first step in that data-gathering process. Next, the group will lay out a way for small groups to take this data and organize it into focused objectives along with realistic steps for achieving them. Finally, the Steering Group will incorporate the results from the various working groups into a single document.

Please take some time to share with us your vision for Auburn Heights and FAHP five years from now. You can probably think of many different things, but try to focus on what you think are the one, two or ***three most important things for us to be in 2012.*** It will be most helpful if you can tell us a little about what you are thinking about for each of these items. For example, you might tell us how you define the topics you mention, why you think they are important, how they fit into the overall "big picture" of FAHP.

Give us your response any way that is convenient for you – hand it in here at Auburn Heights, mail it (P.O. Box 61, Yorklyn, DE 19736) or email it (admin@auburnheights.org). ***We need to hear from you by March 15.*** You don't need to provide your name along with your input (although you are welcome to, and it would allow those working on the plan to get in touch with you if they have questions). Please circle all the categories on the other side of this sheet which apply to you – this will help us organize the input.

FAHP Planning Steering Group

Richard Bernard
Tom Marshall
Kathryn & Mike May
Barb & Bob Reilly
Mike Riska
Richmond Williams

I am a... (Please circle all that apply)

Member of FAHP

Volunteer at Auburn Heights

Member of FAHP Board of Directors

Steam car owner

Local resident (within 25 mi. of Auburn Heights)

Division of Parks & Recreation staff

FAHP Advisor

Other nonprofit organization staff

Here's what I think are the most important things for FAHP to be in five years...

(List up to three items. Please describe what you mean by each item you list, why you think it is important, etc. Feel free to use additional sheets if needed. ***Please respond by March 15.***)

You may respond anonymously, or provide your name if your wish: _____