

President's Report

Laurel Lindstrom

Date: 11/9/05

Past Meetings/Workshops:

- 'Programs & Projects' meeting specific to planning Liberty Square Improvement project on 10/12 at 8 PM, 10/16 at 2:30 PM & 10/17 at 7 PM (see attached minutes)
- Tree Advisory Committee (TAC) met on 10/25
- ConnDOT recommendations presented from ENNA on 10/26 (see attached report)
- Anti-Litter Task Force – no meetings since last ENNA meeting
- Wall Street Redevelopment Historical Reference Guide meeting on 11/1 and 11/7
- MNPC meeting on 11/2 at 10 AM (see attached report)
- SWRPA adopted on 11/7 a resolution of support for ENNA Liberty Square proposal
- CNNA meeting – none since last ENNA meeting

Future Meetings/Events/Workshops:

- 'Programs & Projects' meeting TBA
- Westport and Main Avenue Corridors Advisory Committee meeting TBA
- Tree Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting on 10/25 at 6 PM
- Anti-Litter Task Force on 11/10 at 12:30 PM - cancelled
- CNNA meeting(s) on 11/14 & 12/12 at 7:30 PM
- MNPC meeting on 12/7 at 10 AM
- Historic Scan Days tentatively on 12/10 and 12/11 for Wall Street Redevelopment Historical Reference Guide
- Next regular ENNA meeting is 12/14 at 7:30 PM at City Hall in Room 101
- P&Z meetings (see calendars and agendas available on City website)

Communications of Note:

- Email to membership on 10/14 and 11/6 (see email bulletin page on ENNA website).
- Laurel received several emails and phone calls from members and others regarding ENNA issues (email correspondence, and reports of phone conversations, have been forwarded to Board members as FYIs)

Media coverage about ENNA: (see Media page on ENNA website)

- Community Briefs in local papers published meeting notices for the ENNA 10/17 and 11/9 meeting(s).

Programs & Projects Meeting(s) Report(s):

Date of first P&P meeting: 10/16 at 2:30 PM at Norwalk Museum
Liberty Square Improvement Project – planning meeting

Present: Laurel Lindstrom; Gordon Tully; Sarah Hunter; Wendye Pardue; Diane Lauricella

Others: Dick Guarnieri; Susan Gunn

Items discussed:

1. Liberty Square Improvement Project – reviewed archives and continued planning

Date of second P&P meeting: 10/17 at 7 PM at City Hall, Room 333

Liberty Square Improvement Project – planning meeting

Present: Laurel Lindstrom; Marija Bryant; Gordon Tully; Sarah Hunter; Maribeth Becker; Erik Nees; Wendye Pardue; Diane Lauricella; Nick Overall

Others: Michael Moore (NRA); Emil Albanese (NRA); Tod Bryant; Carol Davis; Tony D’Andrea; Chris LaRose; William LaRose; Brad LaRose

Items discussed:

1. Liberty Square Improvement Project – continued planning

Date of next P&P meeting: TBA

Coalition of Norwalk Neighborhood Associations Report:

Date of last CNNA meeting(s): none since last ENNA meeting

Date of next CNNA meeting(s): 11/14 & 12/12

Mayor’s Neighborhood Preservation Committee Report:

Date of last MNPC meeting: 11/2 at 10 AM

Laurel attended and city department reps reviewed the following items presented by ENNA at the previous meeting (remarks made in bold):

1. Neighborhood Centers Improvement Project status
 - ENNA submitted proposal by deadline of 10/26 for Liberty Square.
 - City to make decision by middle of November
2. Speeding cars on Strawberry Hill Ave., and lower Gregory Blvd.
 - Fred Eshraghi (traffic engineer) present at meeting. He will assess traffic issues at these locations. Deputy Chief Mark Palmer present and acknowledges that speeding exists and that police have ongoing enforcement
3. Storm drains on Ludlow Manor

- Homeowner should write letter to DPW requesting storm drains so that they can be placed on the Capital Budget request for funding
- 4. Inadequate sidewalks by Marvin School
 - Current crosswalk and sidewalk system (on opposite side of street) deemed adequate and safe
- 5. Visibility on Myrtle Street
 - Fred E. will assess
- 6. Lack of safe cycling and need for additional signs
 - Needed city-wide, grant needed
- 7. East Norwalk train station pedestrian lighting and safety concerns following death of commuter crossing East Avenue last month
 - ENNA has approached TTD re increasing lighting under the railroad bridge – and north of railroad bridge along East Avenue – to increase safety of commuters walking to station and crossing East Avenue. TTD will take care of it this week.
 - Mayor Knopp has asked DPW to assess for safety
 - Deputy Chief Palmer says that a police officer is stationed at the site at various times now

Date of next MNPC meeting(s): 12/7 at 10 AM

Tree Liaison's Report

Laurel Lindstrom & Maribeth Becker are Tree Advisory Committee members and Nick Overall is an ENNA Tree Liaison.

Activity Summary: continuing work on City's 'free tree' program, and attendance at Tree Advisory Committee meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Laurel Lindstrom

EASTERN NORWALK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

www.eastnorwalk.org

TOPICS FOR 26 OCTOBER 2005 CONN DOT PRESENTATION

My name is Gordon Tully. I am a registered architect, and as a board member am speaking for the Eastern Norwalk Neighborhood Association (ENNA). The ENNA represents residents in the lower right hand corner of Norwalk (about 15% of the city, lying east of the river and south of Route 1).

We have a number of concerns about transportation-related issues that affect our area, and would like to bring them to your attention. Along with our recommendations, we request whatever information is available concerning each issue we list below, plus any other activities in our area that we are not aware of:

1. Continue sound barriers along I 95 near Exit 16. We have residents in our neighborhood with signs posted about the noise on the north side, and noise is equally a problem on the south side.
2. Increase the frequency of train service at the East Norwalk station. This station is very convenient to many Norwalk residents, but is underserved.
3. Keep Route 1 narrow approaching Main Street. Along with historic preservation exponents, we encourage the state and city to seek a solution to the traffic that does not involve widening Route 1 substantially, and that does not destroy the old homes along the road. A roundabout at Main Street and Route 1 might resolve the traffic congestion without widening, and should be explored.
4. Make roundabouts a high priority in state roadway planning. We have begun a dialogue in the city concerning the use of roundabouts in lieu of signalized intersections. We have just begun, and haven't yet involved several key stakeholders, including the Police Chief and Fire Chief. Earlier, I attended a roundabout seminar at which William Britnell spoke, and I later talked with him and with Charles Harlow at ConnDOT. ENNA hopes that ConnDOT will increase its commitment to roundabouts. Particular sites of interest in our area on state routes are Route 1 at Main Street, and Route 136 at Veteran's Park and Seaview.
5. Involve local citizens and taxpayers in the design process from day one and continuing through construction. The process used at the Merritt interchange was far from ideal, and we encourage ConnDOT and the city to keep the process as open as possible, to avoid last minute opposition and consequent delays. Particular construction projects about which we need more information and seek active involvement include:
 - a. Rebuilding the Stoffolino Bridge foundations
 - b. Widening the East Avenue railroad underpass
 - c. Upgrading Exit 16 (we would like a pair of roundabouts to be seriously considered)
 - d. Realigning the railroad and rebuilding the railroad bridge over the river
6. Adopt roadway designs that discourage speeding. The 1950's concept that roads in the city must act as arteries for fast moving traffic, with sweeping curves, must move aside for modern planning ideas that tame our highways. Norwalk is largely without sidewalks, making cycling and walking hazardous in most areas. We need all the help we can get in calming traffic.
7. Stop the use of Route 136 as a truck route bypass around Exit 16. This clogs our narrow residential streets and creates new hazards. We encourage the state and city to work together in solving this problem.

Any information you can provide should be sent to our president, Laurel Lindstrom, at laurel.lindstrom@sbcglobal.net. You can learn more about our organization at www.eastnorwalk.org.

Thank you very much for your attention, and we look forward to a continuing and productive dialogue with ConnDOT.