

**EASTERN NORWALK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**November 12, 2008  
Minutes**

**Board Member Attendees:** Diane Cece, Nick Overall, Zvi Cole

**Board Members Absent:** Laurel Lindstrom (president), Art Santella, Marija Bryant

**Advisory Board Member Attendees:** none

**Advisory Board Member Absent:** Peter Libre, Sarah Hunter, Gordon Tully

**Others:** John Deacy, Jason Garnett, Greg Knowles, Donna Schlegel, Alexis Cole

**Author:** Nick Overall

- 1) Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM
- 2) Public Participation:
  - a) **Yard Waste:** There was a general discussion regarding the inconvenience that residents will incur now that the DPW yard waste drop-off site will be closed on Saturdays and the City of Norwalk is eliminating curbside pick-up. Diane also recommended that citizens contact Councilwoman Laurel Lindstrom local councilperson, and Nick Kydes, and Fred Bondi. Diane also mentioned that perhaps an alternate weekday closing instead of Saturday could be discussed.
  - b) **Sewage Treatment Facility Odor:** Greg Knowles and Donna Schlegel noted that over the past year the odor emanating from the sewage treatment facility has worsened, and that the odor is most evident from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. Greg mentioned that the issue must be addressed to ensure that development in SONO area is not impacted or delayed due to concerns. Diane mentioned that in a discussion she had with Mr. Alvord, he said that the DPW had not received any recent calls to the odor hotline or customer service line regarding the odors, and the best way to track and help solve the problem is for folks to call in whenever they smell something (from home, work or driving thru). Diane noted that this issue would be made a watch list item.
  - c) **Localization Initiatives:** Jason Garnett is interested in the City of Norwalk becoming self-reliant in the areas of food production and energy efficiency, and he was investigating if there is a manner to make this a priority for the City of Norwalk. He mentioned Transition Towns, example South Kingston, Rhode Island. Diane recommended Jason attend Tree Advisory Committee meetings if he wants to spearhead this issue, and that if he wants to prepare a presentation to the public, that ENNA would consider hosting a forum or include him on our agenda assuming our board does a review of his presentation and votes to move the item forward.
  - d) **Neighborhood Concern:** A citizen living in an area off of Gregory Avenue is concerned that excessive nighttime activity, excessive vehicle traffic, and some minor illicit activities at a specific address may be symptoms of greater illicit activities at the property. Nick recommends that concerned neighbors should organize and all should continue to bring it to the attention of the police force. ENNA will notify Laurel Lindstrom.
- 3) Minutes
  - a) Tabled approval of October minutes until next meeting.
- 4) President's Report – Laurel Lindstrom
  - a) None at this time
- 5) Treasurer's report – Diane Cece. Noted that report was sent to all members.
- 6) Regular Business:

- a) Watch List Properties
    - i) **Stew Leonard's proposed addition:** General discussion regarding plans to expand the garden center to be a two-story addition.
    - ii) **Mermaid's Club:** The club is looking for a change of ownership. Deadline for objection is November 20<sup>th</sup>. Diane will organize signatures for objection to be submitted.
  - b) Neighborhood Issues/Committees
    - i) **Exit 16 and Planting:** Zvi indicated that his attempts to contact the correct person / agency had sent him full circle, and that he would contact DPW again.
    - ii) **94 East Avenue:** Zvi would clarify which property was the concerned property regarding permits and follow-up.
    - iii) **East Norwalk / Ludlow Square:** Attendees of meeting discussed the desire to improve the walkability and general quality of the area around the cemetery. The widening of East Avenue, lowering and widening of the train bridge, and pedestrian improvements were discussed. I mentioned that to make plans for improvements will take substantial time and energy and that if attendees, are interested in organizing that I would contact them when I had more time available.
    - iv) **SONO Transportation Hub:** Zvi mentioned that lack of organized parking is a problem at East Norwalk and South Norwalk train stations. He then mentioned that plans at SONO station and the opinions that are being taken at the website [www.sonorailstudy.org](http://www.sonorailstudy.org).
    - v) **Crime:** Discussion regarding rampant bicycle robberies in Norwalk. Nick will investigate number of reports with police department and try to bring more attention to this matter.
  - c) c) Mayor's Neighborhood Preservation Committee Report – Tabled until next meeting.
  - d) CNNA Report – Tabled until next meeting.
    - i) e) Trees, Landscape & Adopt-A-Spots – Nick stated that through the City of Norwalk Free Tree Planting Program that approximately 8 trees had been planted this fall. The possibility of more being planted this season is possible and Nick would investigate. Attendees mentioned trees on 1<sup>st</sup> Street in public right of way needing trimming. Attendees would contact Department of Public Works.
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- 7) Next regular board meeting: December 12, 2008
  - 8) Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Submitted by Nick Overall