

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

**May 9, 2007**

**Minutes**

**Board Member Attendees:** Laurel Lindstrom (president), Gordon Tully, Maribeth Becker, Diane Cece, David Park, Sarah Hunter

**Board Members Absent:** Erik Nees

**Advisory Board Member Attendees:** Nick Overall, Marija Bryant

1. Meeting called to order at 8:23 PM ( Late start was to allow board members to attend Planning Commission public hearing on the Plan of Conservation and Development)
2. Public Participation – none at this time
3. Minutes
  - a. Acceptance of April minutes put aside until next meeting or by email.
4. President’s Report – Laurel Lindstrom
  - a. Review of correspondence issues sent over to the City’s Customer Service Center. This led to discussion regarding process of customer service complaints being made, and how each department at City Hall responds and follows up on customer service calls. Planning and Zoning requires people to go into city hall and fill out a form in person. This means if there are repeated complaints by one person, which could happen if the complaint is not addressed, he or she must repeatedly go to City Hall and fill out forms again. At some point, a person may also be required to testify to their complaint. Complaints are recorded and are categorized as ‘open’ or ‘closed’. Police complaints need to be called in to police directly and are not part of the CSC complaint record..
5. Treasurer’s report – Diane Cece. Presented itemized report for month ending April 30.
6. Regular Business:
  - a. Watch List Properties
    - i. **73 Strawberry Hill Ave. (old Fitch School):** Laurel provided information on proposed residential development. Zoning committee will meet on May 10<sup>th</sup> for an unspecified update. On the agenda is the proposed amendment that would increase cap on PRD’s.
    - ii. **93 East Avenue:** Currently no news
    - iii. **Veterans Park:** Laurel continues in frequent contact with the immediate neighbors. The Master Plan of Conservation and Development has a notation regarding merging open space with recreational use suggested by a consultant to the plan. A Rec. and Parks Committee public hearing on May 16<sup>th</sup> is scheduled, being called “Planned Improvements” for Vet’s park. Meanwhile, the concerned neighbors have created a web site with information called: savevetspark.com. The group is very focused on getting the mini-golf course and amphitheater stopped. Petitions are being circulated to more of Norwalk than just the Seaview area, as this is an open space issue for all town residents.
    - iv. **1 Gregory Blvd:** There is a Demolition sign near cemetery. Laurel called the owner, who then put her in contact with Ron Kellogg who is handling the site. Ron explained they are looking to build 5 condos. Gordon’s concern is the design. He volunteered to speak to Ron. The information is that this is a “neighborhood business zone” and the question is whether the builder needs to follow B zone rules. Piro owns property. Laurel will follow-up.

- b. Neighborhood Issues/Committees
  - i. **Zoning & Master Plan:** Laurel stated that the planning commission has another hearing set on May 30 (in addition to the public hearing the ENNA board attended prior to our board meeting). We can submit our thoughts and suggestions before then. We will meet as a committee to gather our comments after reviewing the plan individually, tentatively on May 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - ii. **Speeding & Traffic:** David Park sat in on a Police Commission meeting and was permitted to bring up that the public perception is that more should be done on the issue of speeding. The police informed him that 40% of calls take more than 1 police officer to respond and they are short staffed, making speeding control difficult. The issue is recruitment, but there is a budget to hire. An article in the Norwalk Hour says there were 528 applicants, then down to 118 possibilities, and after that recruits are to go to an academy while being paid a salary. This impacts how many we have on active staff.
  - iii. **Neighborhood Flooding:** Diane Cece informed us that many flood victims attended the May Public Works meeting primarily to get clarification on where the money that's allocated to flooding issues is going. The Flood and Erosion control board are part of the storm water authority, which is a suggested approach by Chris Perone. Victims asked instead for a flood panel. There may be a regional approach to flooding. Victims feel that every single department should be asked about their projects in order to insure safety. It would be ideal if all building permits were required to go before such a panel. Laurel has been in contact with Chris Perone about setting up a meeting for the ENNA with reps from DOT and DEP, hopefully to be scheduled for May.
  - iv. **Neighborhood Cleanups:** Two cleanups organized by the ENNA took place in April. And a Wall Street cleanup is set for May 12<sup>th</sup> being promoted by the Fat Cat folks.
  - v. **Membership:** Diane presented many great ideas.
- c. Mayor's Neighborhood Preservation Committee Report – Laurel Lindstrom
  - i. Met on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Customer Service gave an update, that doesn't include police calls. Announcements of things like yard waste day and sweeping schedule were made.
  - ii. Attorney Frank Zullo spoke on eminent domain, explaining process and definitions, non controversial.
  - iii. Survey to be completed by attendees to evaluate current effectiveness of MNPC meetings.
- d. CNNA Report – Maribeth Becker
  - i. Mike Green is coming to next Monday's meeting and will speak on the D-zone.
  - ii. In June police have invited CNNA to a presentation on surveillance cameras. There will be a tour of the police station prior to the start of the meeting..
- e. NPT Report – There will be a fundraiser on May 19<sup>th</sup>, invitations are going out by mail.
- f. Trees, Landscape & Adopt-A-Spots – Nick Overall
  - i. There was a tree festival with a table for tree liaisons. This went very well.
  - ii. Adopt a Spot – the East Avenue site is being well cared for by Jalna, who has done this as a volunteer for the past 2 or 3 years.
- g. Other;
  - i. Northeast Utilities power line project from Middletown to Norwalk: Laurel presented information about the project that is getting underway. The line will run underground along Westport Avenue. Work will be done at night. There will be some disruption related to noise and lane closures at the site. NU will also need to set up a 'tank farm' to truck and discharge water removed from the ground during the placement of the line. NU continues to look at various sites for the tank farm. Property owned by Mike DiScala, just south of the Wall Street Bridge on the east side of the Norwalk River, is the most likely site. Laurel has been meeting with NU along with other community leaders/stakeholders regarding concerns related to DEP/environmental, traffic, noise, etc.

## 7. Other Business – none

8. Next regular board meeting: June 13, 2007

9. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM

Submitted by Sarah Hunter