

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

June 13, 2007

Minutes

Board Member Attendees: Laurel Lindstrom (president), Gordon Tully, Maribeth Becker, Diane Cece, Erik Nees, Sarah Hunter

Advisory Board Member Attendees: Nick Overall, Marija Bryant

Other: Patsy Rupp, David Park

1. Meeting called to order at 7:37 PM
2. Public Participation – Patsy Rupp discussed her concern for houses on East Ave. with demolition signs (see item 4.a below).
3. Minutes
 - a. Acceptance of April minutes (approved electronically on May 29). Approval of May minutes.
4. President's Report – Laurel Lindstrom
 - a. There is a demolition sign for the Victorian house by Dunkin Donuts on East Avenue. A 90-day delay has been invoked as of June 12. Do not know if a public hearing is scheduled or not.
5. Treasurer's Report – Diane Cece provided report for month ending May 31
6. Regular Business:
 - a. Watch List Properties
 - i. **73 Strawberry Hill Avenue:** Laurel provided an update. Item continues under review by the Zoning Commission.
 - ii. **124 East Avenue:** NPT spoke to owners and Mike Green a while back. It is historic and in the village district. The only demolition was going to be to the back additions. Also had intent to keep the special beech trees. Now it looks questionable what is going on. Laurel was told a landscape architect is involved. This subject may be good to bring to attention of the tree advisory board. Protecting a particular tree on the property had been a stipulation of P&Z accepting the plan. Nick will contact Mike Greene.
 - iii. **198 and 200 East Avenue:** See item 4.a. above. Issue of potential tax credits discussed.
 - iv. **Veterans Park:** Rec and Parks Committee still plan to hold a public input session on Vets Park. Laurel has been in touch with Mike Mocciae who still is looking to hold it in September.
 - v. **1 Gregory Blvd:** Laurel continues to work with City departments to determine if plan complies with building codes for handicapped accessibility
 - vi. **Old Gibbs College site:** Something seems to be holding up any movement at this site.
 - b. Neighborhood Issues/Committees
 - i. **Zoning & Master Plan:** Laurel presented our priorities yesterday and the Planning Committee takes all neighborhood associations' input into account. They will review comments before sending it on to the Planning Committee of the Common Council for review and final approval.
 - ii. **Speeding & Traffic:** Erik reports the slow down days are coming, most likely the 23rd-25th of August before school starts. They will target cell phone use, seat belt use and noise.
 - iii. **East Avenue Widening:** There is a process that is being misrepresented in the Norwalk hour editorials section. The design work for widening is to happen before the bridge work

on the railroad. Metro North has a date of 2010. There was a preliminary design done in 2000 with A. DiCesare Associates as the consultant. DPW has chosen DiCesare to update the plan as well. Laurel went to Public Works committee meeting earlier in the month and commented on the need to review the need for widening before going ahead with the design work. Laurel reports that the council approved funding of 50K last evening for preliminary design. Phase 1 of design will total more like 150K. Only one public information meeting will be held and that won't be until towards the end of the design process. Laurel suggested adding one sooner. Diane Cece and Laurel will speak with Hal Alvord. Laurel will also communicate further with Bill Krummel who chairs the Public Works Committee.

- iv. **Neighborhood Flooding:** Diane Cece informed us that the core group of flooding victims wants to focus on strategy and define flooding. They now have 6 committees: Visibility and participation, accountability and follow through with commitments, government and election position tracking, budgets and funding, repairs & compensation, and support and services. House Bill 6856 sponsored by Chris Perone creating a pilot for a Municipal Storm Water Authority in Norwalk and 3 other towns goes into effect in October. Because the language of the bill includes the authority to impose fees for flood remediation, flood victims wonder if they'll suffer twice. Gordon suggests talking to people who are experts in storm water retention. There is proposed \$200,000 budget for work on Olmstead pond. Significant flooding problems in many areas began in 2001. What other activity was going on at that time? What condos or the house of 1000 gables, or what was constructed then?
 - v. **Membership:** No specific news.
 - vi. **Westport Avenue Power-lines work:** Northeast Utilities has to dispose of lots of water as they are doing this work. The volume of water cannot be released into the drain system at this location and must be transported by truck and place into 10 x 10 x 40' containers before disposal. In March the City was looking for a place to use as a tank farm for these containers. There is a statistic that says there would be 208 truck trips per night to the location. Board questioned whether this number could be correct. The location decided upon by NU is on the Norwalk River behind Fat Cat's off of Wall Street. Bill Krummel and Maribeth and Laurel met with NU to discuss. Marija also said this was discussed at a First Taxing District meeting. Gordon says the city should make NU clean it up. Mike Discala, who owns the property, has asked for very specific conditions of use. The historical society and commission should weigh in. Diane Lauricella and Maribeth did a site walk. The trucks go down Hubbell's Lane, test the water, and pump it out into the river. Other questions from the board – Is this a money-maker for the city? If so, where does the money go?
- c. Mayor's Neighborhood Preservation Committee Report – Laurel Lindstrom
 - i. West Avenue development was presented at the monthly meeting.
 - d. Coalition of Norwalk Neighborhood Associations Report – Maribeth Becker
 - i. Mike Green spoke to the group with a city map as he talked about importance of identifying any vulnerable open space in the audience's neighborhoods.
 - ii. There is a newly created 2010 committee whose task it is to be sure people in city jobs aren't working in silos. There is to be an inter-connectivity of redevelopment projects. Meetings with redevelopment department. They'll branch out and reach out more to stakeholders, and want to have forums for discussion as redevelopment plans come about.
 - iii. There was a police headquarters meeting, beginning with a tour of the facilities. Then there was a presentation that showcased how amazing the technology is of new surveillance cameras that are installed in parks and other areas in the city.
 - e. Historic Preservation Report – Marija Bryant
 - i. There is no more to report than earlier in meeting's discussion. On July 4 there will be an event. There are now benches on the Green, which were a generous donation from

anonymous donor along with the First Taxing District's help. (? Or did donor approach taxing district?)

- f. Trees, Landscape & Adopt-A-Spots – Nick Overall
 - i. Nick wants to take a look at trees along Calf Pasture Beach Road regarding replanting of trees planned by Tree Advisory Committee.
 - ii. Adopt a Spot – After the car accident, the sign is being repaired, and insurance will cover out of pocket expense of killed plants.
 - g. Other:
 - i. None at this time
7. Other Business – None at this time
8. Next regular board meeting: July 11, 2007
9. Meeting adjourned at 10:00

Submitted by Sarah Hunter