

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

**November 9, 2005
Minutes**

Board Member Attendees: Laurel Lindstrom (president), Erik Nees, Marija Bryant, Gordon Tully, Maribeth Becker, Diane Lauricella (Advisory Board member), Nick Overall (Advisory Board member)

Other guests: Don Capone, Lou Capone, Alfred Jackson, Jr., James Stuart, David Park

Meeting called to order at 7:36 PM.

1. Public Participation

- a. Mention is made of the work that the City has started to improve Fitch Park. No evidence of work on the Lea Manor property by the developer.
- b. Question is raised about the construction at the CITGO station on the corner of East Avenue and Fitch Street. Diane Lauricella explains that the gas station is being modernized and upgraded to better comply with environmental requirements.

2. Minutes

- a. September minutes will be corrected as per email from Laurel Lindstrom.
- b. October minutes revised, tabled for approval until next meeting.
- c. Gordon Tully moves to accept September minutes as revised. Accepted unanimously. Minutes will be corrected and emailed to Laurel Lindstrom for posting on the ENNA website.

3. Reports:

- a. Treasurer's Report – Gordon Tully
 - i. Treasurer has contacted Frank DeMilo, NPT Treasurer, to provide advice on how to ensure that ENNA is prepared to report as required by IRS in the event that ENNA funding exceeds \$25,000 in any year of operation.
 - ii. Treasurer suggests that any board member who is burdened with extra cash at the end of the year consider a donation to the ENNA coffers.
- b. President's Report – Laurel Lindstrom
 - i. See attached president's report.
 - ii. Discussion of the impact of the election of Dick Moccia on the programs launched by Alex Knopp, such as the Neighborhood Preservation meetings. Assumption is that those will continue.
ACTION: ENNA will invite the new mayor to the December meeting to discuss old and new initiatives as they relate to Eastern Norwalk Neighborhood Association area.
 - iii. Laurel Lindstrom presents a draft of "At Your Fingertips", a comprehensive resource to key government and neighborhood association contacts.
ACTION: Laurel will discuss with the League of Women Voters to ensure that there is no conflict with their publication, "Know Your Town."
 - iv. The grant proposal for Liberty Square was delivered to Redevelopment on October 26th.
 - v. Maribeth Becker raises question about Wall Street style guide and coordination with James Sexton, consultant preparing the historic district nomination. She will contact Redevelopment to ensure that style guide creation coordinates with the work that Sexton is doing. Gordon Tully mentions that it would be a good idea to include Betts Brook in any planning work for Wall Street district.
 - vi. Andrew's Field vandalism/burglaries. Apparently, the trailers that house the Roger's Rich Merrit house (disassembled) are an "attractive nuisance" and are the focus of complaints from the neighbors.
ACTION: ENNA will write a letter suggesting that the trailers be moved to a more secure site.

- vii. Laurel Lindstrom suggests that ENNA make a recommendation to improve signage and posted speed limits in school zones along Strawberry Hill Avenue.
 - c. CNNA report – Maribeth Becker
 - i. CNNA has not met since last ENNA meeting. Newly elected mayor has been invited to the next CNNA meeting to discuss Stuart Avenue and other neighborhood issues.
 - ii. ENNA is in agreement with CNNA task force that the old police building in Mathews Park should be demolished and the area restored as park.
 - d. Tree Liaison – Nick Overall
 - i. Nick was out of town for the past meeting and has not received a report of meeting discussions.
- 4. Programs and Projects:
 - a. Liberty Square Neighborhood Center Improvement Project
 - i. Guests include owners of ACE Auto on Goldstein Place. They have owned it for 11 years and have had an environmental assessment done. The repair shop is on the site of the old Indian Fort. It is mentioned by the ACE Auto owners that the housing project next door has drywells that empty onto his property. Storm strains, apparently, are disconnected.
 - ii. SWRPA board reviewed ENNA plan at its November meeting and members were impressed by the proposal, but SWRPA board chose not to commit to funding a traffic study since the City of Norwalk would need to make an application for the funding to be approved.
 - b. Traffic issues.
 - i. The recent fatal accident at East Avenue (East Norwalk train station) generated action; DPW has installed new lighting to make the area safer for pedestrians.
 - ii. Discussion about CT DOT plans for the railroad trestle and I-95 overpass (East Avenue).ENNA view is that, since East Avenue is a city street, there is no need to wait for the State before suggesting improvements to pedestrian crossings, lighting, etc. State my not act on their improvements until 2008.
 - iii. Speeding on Strawberry Hill Avenue. Gordon Tully mentions that narrowing the roadway would slow traffic as would texturing the pavement. Comments about scarcity of enforcement in the area.
 - c. Fall Newsletter.
 - i. Gordon Tully points out that ENNA needs about \$3000 to print enough copies to distribute it to all constituents.
 - ii. Laurel Lindstrom will rewrite the introductory article to remove dated material and run extra copies.
 - iii. Distribution by Gordon (8 copies), Nick (20 copies), Diane (8 copies), Jim (25 copies).
 - d. Norden Park. No application filed yet.
 - e. Fitch School/ Lea Manor. No application filed yet.
 - i. Laurel Lindstrom mentioned to P&Z to ensure that property owners take better care of the property, but no action to date. Suggestion to report it to Cityscan and write letter.
 - f. Cove Marina. No action yet.
 - g. Gibbs site.
 - i. Gordon Tully reports that DiScala and his co-developer (Phelps) have presented a plan for two buildings, preserving the view corridors and tearing down the existing Gibb’s college structure. The plan includes a plaza open to the public.
 - h. Adopt-a-Spot.
 - i. Gordon Tully put down mulch in late summer at the Strawberry Avenue spot.
 - ii. Laurel Lindstrom said that both sites still need preparation for the fall. She has a new sign for the East Avenue site and new lettering for the Strawberry Hill Avenue sign. Nick Overall volunteered to assist.
- 5. New Business

- a. Laurel Lindstrom noted that the board took an electronic vote on October 21 and unanimously approved the Liberty Square Improvement proposal drafted by the ENNA and submitted to the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency on October 26.
6. Next regular board meeting: Wednesday December 14, 2005
7. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Marija Bryant, Secretary.