

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

**April 12, 2006
Minutes**

Board Member Attendees: Laurel Lindstrom (president), Maribeth Becker, Gordon Tully, Marija Bryant

Street Reps and advisory board members: David Park (Strawberry Hill Avenue); Nick Overall (Tree Liaison)

1. Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM.
2. Public Participation – none at this time.
3. Minutes
 - a. March 8, 2006 minutes accepted as presented by unanimous voice vote.
4. Reports
 - a. Treasurer's Report – Gordon Tully
 - i. Submitted information about expenses/income via email (attached).
 - ii. Questions whether newsletter should be broken out separately or included in expenses. Discussion ensues and it is decided to leave as is for the time being.
 - b. President's Report – Laurel Lindstrom
 - i. Discussion about formation of committees as a way to activate membership. Problem is that the board is small and tends to function as the committee of the whole.
 - ii. Ideas presented that might draw in more of the neighbors:
 1. Respond immediately to new contacts (at cleanups or other events, for example). Laurel has made every effort to keep email communications timely and respond to any interested neighbors.
 2. See if there are intern programs at NCC to involve a college student to help with some of the tasks.
 3. Contact friends and acquaintances; promote the social aspect of the group.
 - iii. Newsletter may be more effective with more issues but a less labor intensive format. Suggested is a one-page, two sides, black and white version that would be easier to create and less expensive to produce. The suggestion is met with general agreement that this would allow the newsletter to cover issues that may be more timely and engaging.
 - iv. Another suggestion is to tie in with Kids Start Smart and promote Safe Route to School.
 - v. Paul Coggin, third taxing district commissioner, has sent a letter concerning the Lamar billboards. Simon Sumberg, district attorney, is looking into potential legal ramifications for the taxing district commission from Lamar, since Lamar is resisting the removal of the billboards and has suggested there may be legal action. The previous request by the third taxing district, ENIA and ENNA to have the billboards removed is on hold until the attorney reviews the item..
 - c. Mayor's Neighborhood Preservation Committee – Laurel Lindstrom
 - i. Mayor's preservation committee met and discussed the paving of lower East Avenue and funding for the traffic calming study for Strawberry Hill Avenue.
 - d. CNNA – Maribeth Becker
 - i. Sue Sweitzer, Norwalk Redevelopment, presented the case for West Avenue development plan, pointing out how important it is for the City to get control of the project so that citizens and administration have a say in how the plan proceeds as it moves to the design phase.
 - ii. CNNA meeting discussed West Avenue plan and how the CNNA should publicly respond: as one entity or as separate neighborhood groups. .

- iii. Zoning Task Force progress reports.
- e. NPT – Marija Bryant
 - i. NPT supported West Main Street development as did the neighbors at ZBA. NPT presented concerns about the impact of the Elder House plans on the National Register Districts in the area (existing and pending.) Stuart Avenue, in spite of coordinated efforts of Spring Hill neighbors, Historical Commission, NPT, the City’s P&Z and the wholehearted support of ENNA was lost. The buildings will all be demolished.
- f. Tree Liaison Report – Nick Overall.
 - i. No report.
- g. Environmental Report – Diane Lauricella
 - i. No report in Diane’s absence
- h. Newsletter Report – Sarah Hunter
 - i. No report in Sarah’s absence.

5. Programs and Projects:

- a. Watch List
 - i. 73 Strawberry Hill Avenue plan may be submitted to P&Z in May.
 - ii. Norden Place property - ENNA board members Sarah Hunter, Marija Bryant, and Laurel Lindstrom met with Carolanne Curry over the weekend to discuss the pros and cons of becoming an intervenor in the process. Discussion focused on participating as an organization vs. individual participation. Laurel Lindstrom filed as an intervenor along with two Westporters whose properties abut the proposed development. Conservation Commission decision is still pending.
- b. Liberty Square Neighborhood Center Improvement Project
 - i. Discussions with NRA determined that there is no expiration date of the grant monies.
 - ii. Laurel Lindstrom opened a designated bank account for Liberty Square with initial deposit of \$100 -- \$100 personal donation. The third taxing district has approved \$1000 and will dispense funds directly when they are needed.
 - iii. Due to information required from consultants, Marija Bryant was unable to complete the HPTAG grant application in time for the April deadline. CT Trust for Historic Preservation indicated that there would be a June or August meeting and suggested submitting the application then.
- c. Citywide Cleanup
 - i. May 6, south of I-95 and April 29th, north of I-95. ENNA will focus efforts on Ludlow Square area on May 6th and Beacon Street/Willow Street for April 29th.
- d. Adopt-a-Spot
 - i. Nick Overall volunteers to do the spring spruce up of the Tierney Street spot on April 29th.

6. New business – None

7. Next regular board meeting: Wednesday May 10, 2006.

8. Meeting adjourned at 10:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Marija Bryant.