

CITY OF NORWALK  
MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION MEETING  
OCTOBER 3, 2007

ATTENDANCE: David Shockley, Chairman; Maribeth Becker CNNA; Mayor Richard A. Moccia; Katherine Griffing, Golden Hill Association; John Lomba, Fire Department; Laurel Lindstrom, ENNA; Mark Pierce, Wilton Avenue N.A.; Al Raymond, Spring Hill/Hospital N.A, Marcia Powell, Village Creek Home Owners Association, Marilyn Maitland, Health Department; Lt. Paul Resnick, Norwalk Police; Helen Bryan, West Main Street Neighborhood Association, Michael Greene, Planning and Zoning Director; Lee Berardino

STAFF: Connie Blair, DPW Customer Service

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Shockley called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

WELCOMING REMARKS; REVIEW AND APPROVE SEPTEMBER 5, 2007 MINUTES

The following corrections were noted:

Page 1, under ATTENDANCE: please change "Marsha Powell, Village Creek" to "Marcia Powell, Village Creek Home Owners Association".

Page 1, under ATTENDANCE: please change "Jim DelGrecco, Golden Hill Association; and Gordon Sweeney" to "Jim Del Greco, Golden Hill Association; and Gordon Sweeny, Golden Hill Association"

Page 1 and forward: please correct the following names throughout the document: "Jim DelGrecco" to "Jim Del Greco" and "Gordon Sweeney" to "Gordon Sweeny"

Page 2, paragraph 9: please change the following from: "Ms. Becker said that the ENNA meeting, several people had expressed concerns about what had happened with East Avenue and how ENNA could help prevent this happening"

to "Ms. Becker said that the CNNA meeting, several people had expressed concerns about what had happened with the demolition on East Avenue and how CNNA could help prevent this happening"

\*\* MS. GRIFFING MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2007 AS CORRECTED.

\*\* MS. LINDSTROM SECONDED.

\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

City Staff

Mr. Shockley announced that the Fire Department is having an open house on October 7, 2007, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Central Fire House.

The Bridgeport CRRA Residential Electronic Recycling Collection will be on October 13, 2007 at the CRRA Garbage Museum.

A flu clinic will be held at Norwalk High School.

Ms. Blair reminded everyone that the last of the Bulky Waste Pick Up for the year is scheduled for the Friday garbage routes on October 13, 2007.

Mr. Shockley said that if anyone knew of elderly homeowners who needed work done on their property, to please contact him for the upcoming "Make a Difference Day". Work will also be done on Devon's Playground on October 27th.

### NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERNS

Mr. Pierce said that he was concerned about the lack of "No Parking" signs at the corner of Wilton Avenue. Ms. Blair said that she would look into it.

The Mayor reported that there were still concerns about speeding. He also said that Planning and Zoning currently has over 100 open applications. However, he also reported that the new trash receptacles appear to be working and DPW is imposing fines on the businesses on Wall Street who don't follow the trash guidelines. The area looks much cleaner now.

Ms. Berardino commented that the elderly homeowners had problems with snow removal. The Mayor said that the City's snowplows will now be equipped with GPS locators so that the office knows exactly where they are, if they have to be dispatched to a particular location. The units will give better tracking and accountability.

Ms. Griffing said that frequently, the problem was shoveling the walks after the storms. The Mayor agreed and said that this was why the City doesn't enforce the shoveling ordinance too strongly. He said that it is important that people realize that not everyone can shovel for a variety of reasons. Ms. Griffing asked if there were volunteer organizations that could help. Mr. Shockley said that he would look into this.

Mr. Raymond asked about the follow up on 18 Spring Hill Road. He said that he believed the family might be living out of a camper parked in the driveway. Ms. Maitland said that she was out there recently and the situation did not appear to be improving. The Mayor said that he would speak with Ms. Maitland after the meeting about this situation.

Mr. Raymond also commented that his area appeared to have a number of large rats that have moved in. No one knows where the rats are coming from, but there is a fair amount of construction going on around his neighborhood. Mr. Pierce said that his area had also experience a sudden increase in the rat population. He said that they had encouraged people to stop feed the birds and that helped reduce the rats. An excessive amount of birdseed on the ground attracts rats. Ms. Maitland concurred, saying that she had a call about a similar situation in the Witch Lane area and eventually ended up taking a home owner to court because the home owner refused to stop feed the birds large amounts of seed.

Mr. Raymond asked if anything could be done about the number of mattresses and couches that have been dumped at the plumbing supply near Speedy Donut. Ms. Blair noted the location for further inquiry.

Ms. Bryan said that the Summer Street project appears to have activity recently. She also said that the Park area was not finished because the fences, the stones and signs have not been put up yet. The Mayor said that he believed that was owned by the First Taxing District. Ms. Blair said that she would check on this.

*Lt. Resnick joined the meeting at 10:30 a.m.*

Mr. Pierce asked about the update on one of the streets scheduled to be paved. Ms. Blair said that she expected that paving project to start with in the next week.

Ms. Griffing thanked the Mayor for the letter supporting the Golden Hill District as a Historic District. She also informed the group that Mr. Clark was not present because he was attending the final meeting for this particular project.

The Mayor then thanked Lt. Resnick for the fine job that he did in escorting the film crews around the town. He also mentioned that the City Clerk, Mary Roman had worked very hard on these project, also.

*The Mayor left the meeting at 10:35 a.m. Lt. Resnick distributed copies of the City's noise ordinance and copies of the State Statute to those present.*

Mr. Shockley said that there had been a number of noise issues that had arisen lately. One of them was commercial dump trucks picking up trash in the Broad River area at 3 a.m. There have been a number of other issues in South Norwalk.

Lt. Resnick said that it was important for everyone to understand the noise ordinances and what the definitions of the various terms mean. He then stated that the noise ordinance is published on the City website and directed everyone's attention to the list of defined terms.

"Daylight Hours" is the most commonly misunderstood term. It does not mean only the hours when there is sunlight. The term "Daylight hours" has been assigned specific legal times. which are: Monday thru Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Sundays, along with state and federal holidays have 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Pierce asked about boom boxes and how to handle the issue. Lt. Resnick said that it would be best to let the police handle these issues because the private citizen has no way of knowing what the owner of the boom box or car stereo has been involved in or is capable of doing. The police do have the authority to pull over a vehicle with excessive loud music and can request an entire host of items, starting with driver's licenses and registrations.

This also applies to loud motorcycle exhaust pipes. He also pointed out that the Norwalk Police are fairly strict about loud motorcycle pipes, where as New Haven is not. While in New Haven recently, Lt. Resnick was surprised at how much noise was generated by the loud pipes on the bikes.

Lt. Resnick then reviewed the State Ordinances Sect 53a-181, 181a & 182, all of which address noise complaints.

Frequently, when parties become too loud, the police will make a "social visit" and the problem is usually resolved. Occasionally, they have to return a second time and may issue a \$99 fine for non-compliance. Very rarely do the officers have to return a third time.

There were numerous questions about lawn mowers, snow blowers, and other noise generating machinery. Lt. Resnick said that early morning trash pick up often can be solved by calling the trash company office.

Lt. Resnick then demonstrated the decibel reader for those present.

*Ms. Maitland and Firefighter Lomba left the meeting at 11:00 a.m.*

Mr. Raymond asked about using generators during power failures. Lt. Resnick pointed out that this was covered under a number of different ordinances.

*Mr. Greene left the meeting at 11:10 a.m.*

The discussion regarding specific noise problems and the various exemptions for noise continued.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Shockley adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Service