

**CITY OF NORWALK
MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION MEETING
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 5, 2007**

ATTENDANCE: David Shockley, Redevelopment; Mark Pierce, Wilton Avenue N.A. Leigh Grant, NASH; Jim Clark, Golden Hill Association; Don Nelson, Tree Alliance; Laurel Lindstrom, ENNA; Donnie Sellers, Lexington Avenue N.A.; Tod Bryant, Norwalk Preservation Trust; Michael Moccia, Recreation and Parks, Hal Alvord, Public Works Department; Dorie Wilson, Planning and Zoning; Vladimir Mariano, Planning and Zoning; Gordon Sweeny Golden Hill Association; Marilyn Maitland, Health Department; Maribeth Becker, CNNA; John Lomba, Fire Department; Marcia Powell, Al Raymond, Spring Hill/Hospital N.A.; Village Creek Homeowners Association; Michele DeLuca, Norwalk Fire Department; Mayor Richard Moccia (10:12 a.m.); Lt. Paul Resnick, Norwalk Police.

STAFF: Connie Blair, Public Works

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Shockley called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

Mr. Shockley informed everyone that there were copies of a Managing Urban Deer Population booklet for anyone who was interested.

REVIEW AND APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 7, 2007 MEETING MINUTES

Please note the following change:

Page 5, paragraph 2, line five: please change the following from:

She also mentioned that the intersection of Golden Hill and Fairfield Avenue.

To:

“She also mentioned that the intersection of Golden Hill and Fairfield Avenue needs a “No Parking Here to Corner” sign at the foot of Golden Hill Street.”

**** MS. MAITLAND MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 7, 2007 MEETING AS CORRECTED.**

**** MS. GRANT SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

CUSTOMER SERVICE UPDATE

Ms. Blair said that she had brought updated reports and a handout on Winter Safety Tips for the home for elderly residents. The last yard Waste collection will be this coming week. Snow Alerts will be issued via email to those who wish to sign up for them.

Mayor Moccia joined the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Nelson said that there would be a planting of a disease resistant elm tree donated by Walmart at 3:30 p.m. at City Hall. Mr. Alvord said that the two Norwalk Walmart managers recognized the Tree Program and initiated contact with the City to plant a disease resistant elm tree by City Hall.

Broad River security lighting has been completed and the signs have been installed, Mr. Moccia said.

Mayor Moccia gave a brief update about the FAA changes of the flight patterns. Danbury is now included in the lawsuit against the FAA. He added that the Governor and Attorney General Blumenthal have now become involved. This will be a quality of life issue because of noise issues, since the planes may fly at lower altitudes. Another major concern is emergency fuel dumping. The changes will only save three minutes at JFK and 45 seconds at LaGuardia. Apparently the FAA had not spoken with the air traffic controllers, who have some possible solutions regarding this issue.

NEIGHBORHOOD ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Clark said that there has been a continued issue with commercial and combinations vehicles parking in Golden Hill. The Mayor said that he thought that this occurs in other parts of town but may have a higher occurrence in Golden Hill. The police have been instructed to leave a note instructing the owner to move the vehicle within in 48 hours. He added that the City has now started to tow trucks that have been found to be in violation.

Mr. Pierce said that he had been told that Wilton Avenue will be paved in the spring. Mr. Alvord explained that the storm drainage on Wilton Avenue is connected to the sanitary sewer. The storm drain pipes need to be installed, which will involve digging up the entire street. This project will be done in the spring and the street will paved after the pipes are installed.

Mr. Pierce said that a resident at number 8 Riverside had a storm drain near his property that is filled to the top with sand. Mr. Alvord and Ms. Blair made a note of this.

The discussion then moved to the amount of noise generated by CL&P during their night time work. Mr. Alvord said that there is nothing that can be done about this. Right now, the snow season is approaching and the DOT is back filling the trenching and putting in temporary paving.

Mr. Pierce said that at the corner of Grey Rock and Wilton Avenue, there is only a “No Parking” sign rather than “No Parking to Corner” sign. Mr. Alvord said that currently the sign department is backlogged because the installer has an injury.

Mr. Raymond said that asked about restriping of Prospect Street. Mr. Alvord said that it will be temperature dependant. If it can be done soon before it gets too cold, it will be. If the temperature drops too much, it will have to wait for the spring.

Mr. Raymond then asked about if there were updates on the case that had gone to court. Ms. Maitland said that the court had given the residents time to correct the issues.

Mr. Raymond then asked about the update on planting trees. Mr. Alvord said that an updated map could be produced if needed and that the planting could go forward.

Mr. Raymond said that construction trucks were parking on the steep hill in back of Union Park on the sidewalk. Since the trucks are heavy, they are damaging the sidewalk. There is parking available nearby. Mr. Alvord said that when problems like this happen concerning the projects, that the N.A.s should contact him so that he can call the companies and get the issue taken care of promptly.

Ms. Becker said that the Coalition of Neighborhood Associations will have its next meeting January 28th. Mike Green and Jackie Lightfield will be addressing the group about Zoning and the Master Plan.

Ms. Grant said that NASH has written a letter to DPW and some other officials about fill being brought in to the Silvermine area. The City has been asked to look at the regulations for filling because people living down the slope have problems. Many of the alterations of the landscape have cost the City thousands of dollars because of resulting drainage problems.

Ms. Grant said that the residents are pleased with the Silvermine bridge. The original plan had been to open the bridge before Christmas, but the railings still need to be installed and this process is weather dependent. The railings must be installed before the bridge can be reopened.

Ms. Maitland thanked Lt. Resnick for coming to Marlin Drive and said that significant progress was made with reducing the number of vehicles parked on the street. Lt. Resnick then reported the numbers of vehicles that had been towed, and those who had been ticketed by the Police Department.

GUEST SPEAKER: TOD BRYANT FROM THE NORWALK PRESERVATION TRUST ON THE HISTORIC HOMES TAX CREDIT

Mr. Tod Bryant from the Historic Preservation Trust came forward and introduced himself to the group. He said that Golden Hill and Camp Street had received the Historic Designation and that Whistleville, which is located on the south side of the train tracks along the commercial corridor was in the process. There are nine registered national registered district in Norwalk. Those areas are also part of the State registered district. Mr. Bryant explained the requirements for those homeowners who wished to participate in the Historic Homes Tax Credit program. . He distributed copies of the “Historic Homes Tax Credit” booklet and a pamphlet for the Norwalk Preservation Trust. The program is limited to owner occupied residences.

Mr. Bryant then reviewed the details of how the program. This could result in a 24% rebate to the home owner. The Historical Commission secured a CDBG grant to develop the booklet and also to map out the historical areas. The Norwalk Preservation Trust has been nominated to coordinate the program.

Mr. Bryant then outlined the various steps necessary for applying for the program. He also added the various aspects that the program will reimburse the homeowner for and those areas that they would not reimburse. Mr. Bryant said that because the process is complicated, the Norwalk Preservation Trust will assist home owners with the process. He added that the Trust will also be willing to do presentation to the various neighborhood associations. The discussion then moved to the length of time that it takes to get the State’s approval for applications.

Mr. Bryant said that the program was under utilized across the State. The booklet that was produced by the Historical Commission was the first one done in the entire state. The Mayor pointed out that the public hearings for historical districts are held in Hartford rather than the town where the district was being established. He said that it would be better to hold these public hearings in the municipality where the District was being created.

Ms. Grant said that if there are more than fifty residents in a historic district, the State will put an ad in a newspaper. The State chose to publish the notification for Silvermine in the Connecticut Post rather than The Hour or The Advocate. She then said that NASH had made copies of the notification and hand delivered them to the residents’ mailboxes so that everyone would be informed.

Mr. Bryant concluded by stating that the Preservation Trust wishes to work in cooperation with the Historic Commission in creating a new Historic Inventory.

Mr. Alvord said that if there is a meeting during the snow period it would be important to stress that in any snow or ice storm, the best thing that residents can do is move the vehicles off the street. If vehicles are parked on a snow emergency route , those vehicles need to be moved or they will be ticketed. The basketball stands and soccer goals need to

be moved back from the pavement to help the plows. For those who live in areas that do not have curbing at the end of the pavement, Mr. Alvord suggested that the owners put a few reflectors on poles along the edges of the lawn. This helps the plow drivers determine where the edge of the paving is in poor weather conditions.

Mayor said that the tree lighting would be at City Hall tonight at 7:00 p.m. The Stew Leonard's menorah will be lit tonight at 5 p.m. He then invited everyone to attend both events.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Shockley adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Service