

**CITY OF NORWALK  
MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION MEETING  
APRIL 5, 2006**

**ATTENDANCE:** Hal Alvord; Mike Moccaie; Fred Eshragi; Jim Clark; Laurel Lindstrom; Nancy Whitmore; Al Raymond;  
Don Nelson; Maribeth Becker; Katherine Griffing; Deputy Chief Mark Palmer; Leigh Grant (10:30 a.m.);  
Moravia Langley; Dorothy & John Romanelli; Helen Bryan; Erin Leonard; Mark Pier  
Connie Blair;  
Marilyn Maitland; Inspector John Lomba; Christine Abraham; John Neafsey

**OTHER:**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Deputy Chief Palmer called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

**REVIEW AND APPROVE MARCH 1, 2006 MEETING MINUTES**

**\*\* MS. LEONARD MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 1, 2006.**

The corrections to the minutes are as follows:

On page 1, under ATTENDANCE, and throughout, Mr. Eshragi's name should be correctly spelled as Eshraghi.

On page 1, under ATTENDANCE, Ms. Katherine Griffing's name should be deleted; she was not in attendance.

**\*\* MR. RAYMOND SECONDED.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**GOLDEN HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION; JIM CLARK**

1. Neighborhood cleanup scheduled for April 22

Mr. Clark said that the neighborhood is preparing for their cleanup day on April 22, 2006. He said Mr. David Rich is coordinating the efforts. There are some non-compliance issues in the neighborhood that are currently being worked on.

**EASTERN NORWALK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION; LAUREL LINDSTROM**

Ms. Lindstrom asked Mr. Eshraghi if there was an update on Howard Avenue. He said that he has done a site visit, and he is currently working on it.

Ms Lindstrom said that the ENNA held a traffic forum on March 8 that had a good turnout. The complaints from the Sunset Hill Road area were about topography and speeding. She said they are hoping for enforcement and speed traps. Deputy Chief Palmer said that speed enforcement would be easier implemented at the base of the hill as opposed to the crest of the hill.

She said she received an e-mail from a former resident of 7 Van Zant Street. The resident said that her grandfather had lived there, the house has since been torn down, and the resident wondered if there is any information to find in the town records. It was suggested that she check with Ms. Gunn Bromley at the Norwalk Historical Society. Ms. Lindstrom said she will check with Planning & Zoning next week for information.

Ms. Lindstrom said she has more copies of the city directory, "At Your Fingertips".

### **HARBOR SHORES NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION; DOROTHY ROMANELLI**

1. Harbor Shores neighborhood cleanup scheduled for Saturday, April 8

Ms. Romanelli said that the neighborhood is ready for the cleanup. They are organized and will start at one end and finish at the other. There will be a picnic held at noon, and they will raise the flag at that time.

She asked if the city ball teams have started playing yet. She noticed that the entire street by Woodward Park was full of cars. Mr. Mocciae said that there haven't been any permits issued yet for adults. The children start their season next week. Ms. Romanelli said there is no parking there, and they can't park on the sidewalk. They would like to have the crosswalk clear. The street is not wide enough for on-street parking. Mr. Eshraghi said they can put signs in front of the park "No Parking Anytime" and conduct enforcement.

### **MEADOW STREET; MORAVIA LANGLEY**

Ms. Langley wanted to congratulate the Norwalk Police Department for stepping up their patrols on Meadow Street in Meadow Gardens. The increased police presence has slowed down the teenage activity. It has also slowed down the Fed Ex truck speeding issue. She mentioned that Officer Reilly and Officer Sheehan have done a great job.

She said they are planning to have a planting day in Meadow Gardens, and she will let everyone know via e-mail when the date is.

### **BROAD RIVER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION; KELLY STRANITI**

1. Status of buffer zone for New Canaan Ave. business properties.

There was no representative present from the Broad River neighborhood association.

### **WEST MAIN STREET; CHRISTINE ABRAHAM**

1. Neighborhood cleanup scheduled for April 29

Ms. Whitmore said that they have been having problems on West Main Street with teenagers breaking into cars. There have been three cars that have been broken into or have had their mirrors broken.

Ms. Bryan said that behind the housing complex, there is an ice machine sitting on the side of the building. The doors are on it, and it has been there for several weeks as a result of a renovation.

Ms. Bryan said they are scheduled for a neighborhood cleanup on April 29.

Ms. Bryan asked that the police continue their drive-through efforts in the neighborhood, as the weather is warmer now and more people are outside. Deputy Chief Palmer said they still have the task force in place.

Ms. Bryan said that she attended the ZBA meeting, where the redevelopers gave a well-put together presentation. She said they have received their permit for one portion of the plan, and they have one more hurdle to go.

Ms. Bryan mentioned that people need to be more aware of what zone they live in. Ms. Blair of the Customer Service Center said she will look into it.

Ms. Grant arrived at 10:30 a.m.

**SPRING HILL/HOSPITAL AREA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION; AL RAYMOND**

1. Neighborhood cleanup scheduled for Saturday June 3

Mr. Raymond thanked everyone for their efforts during the rally held recently on Stuart Avenue. Unfortunately, they did lose the houses, but they haven't given up the fight.

He said they are ready for the city-wide cleanup on April 29, as well as the neighborhood cleanup on June 3.

He asked Mr. Eshraghi for an update on requests that have been submitted, and Mr. Eshraghi said he is waiting to hear back from the residents. He has sent a letter to the State requesting that they reduce the speed limit. He said they cannot make the street a one-way without receiving a letter from the three or four residents on the street.

Mr. Raymond said they have an issue with an 18-wheeler truck parked on the street. Deputy Chief Palmer said he received an email and pictures from Ms. Paladino. He suggested to Mr. Raymond that he call into the Police Department the next time he sees the driver move the truck.

Mr. Raymond said that at the last neighborhood meeting, it was mentioned that residents on Frost Street were concerned about very active drug dealing between Hyatt and Clinton. Calls are made to the Police Department, but the people leave before the Police get there.

He said there are issues with speeding, and he said they would like to be able to set up a neighborhood meeting with Police Chief Rilling and Mr. Eshraghi. Deputy Chief Palmer said they could continue to do what they have been doing, i.e. look at engineering issues, enforcement, and educating the public.

Mr. Raymond asked Mr. Alvord about the rock in the middle of Saranac Road. He was not sure the number of the house the rock was in front of, but that it was between Beverly and Orange. Mr. Alvord said he would look into it.

He mentioned that in front of 12 Prospect Street and 14 Prospect Street, a water valve pipe sticks out of the ground about 6 or 8 inches and is right in the middle of the sidewalk.

Mr. Raymond said that at the intersection of Prospect Street and Maple, there are approximately 100 people that cross daily in the middle of the hill where there is no crosswalk. Mr. Alvord said he will look into it and will determine the safest place to put a crosswalk.

He mentioned to Ms. Blair that he called the Customer Service Center the other day about a red Honda parked on Truman and Stuart. One of the license plates was removed from that vehicle and placed on another vehicle. It has been called into the Police Department.

### **WILTON AVENUE; MARK PIERCE**

Mr. Pierce asked Mr. Eshraghi about the status of the paving project. Mr. Eshraghi said they are waiting for the warmer weather. Mr. Pierce asked if they could put a No Parking Sign on the east side of Grant Street. Mr. Grant said it is a very narrow street, especially down by the Power Company, and it's very difficult to get through there when cars are parked on both sides of the street. Mr. Eshraghi said he believed a site visit had been done, and he will look into it.

On 22 Catherine Street, a two-family house with a possible illegal third family efficiency apartment, it appears that they are operating a car repair business out of the garage. He said he receives complaints from neighbors about this. Deputy Chief Palmer said that over the past few years, the Police have done a great job in getting rid of cars and targeting home repair shops. Ms. Leonard of the Planning & Zoning Department said that she is aware of a zoning violation on the property.

Mr. Pierce said that at the Auto Zone business at the end of Wilton Avenue, it appears that a lot of repairs are going on in the parking lot, which is private property. It was suggested that people call into the Police Department or Auto Zone to report this. It would be difficult to enforce this as it is private property.

He said that at the lower end of Fair Street, at either number 50 or 52, there were sidewalks that have since been replaced by an asphalt parking area. Mr. Alvord said he would look into it.

Mr. Pierce said he talked to the owners of Ash Creek Saloon about the snowplows pushing the wood bumpers in the parking lot onto the sidewalk. They have since been moved back. Now there is a problem with food/beverage delivery trucks unloading from the street area. He asked if they could paint the curb yellow so the trucks don't park there.

He said that on East Avenue, by Mike's Deli, they need to put signs up that indicate "One Lane Only". Mr. Alvord explained that the lanes will be re-paved and then re-stripped to look like 4 lanes. They are not standard width lanes; they are narrow lanes. He said the DOT plans to put the bid out in late 2009 and will start the work in 2010.

Mr. Pierce asked if lane change markings, i.e. turn left or turn right, can put be near Haviland and Elizabeth Street in SoNo. Mr. Alvord said he will look into it. Mr. Eshraghi said they will be striping the area soon, at 50 ft from the intersection.

He said that on Golden Avenue, beyond the Court House by People's Bank, the Connecticut Transit buses that drop off about 10-15 people there. He felt they should be dropped off at a safer location, as they just walk off the bus and cross in the middle of the street. Mr. Alvord said that the Transit buses can drop people off there.

He said that at either #6 or #10 Grant Street, it appears that there is a 2<sup>nd</sup> floor apartment with an exterior staircase.

He asked about the court proceedings were still continuing about the former MBI Building, but no one knew the latest information.

#### **SOUTH MAIN STREET NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION; ERNEST DUMAS**

1. Neighborhood cleanup scheduled for May 13

There was no representative present from the South Main Street neighborhood association.

#### **LEXINGTON AVENUE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION; RAPHAEL DEGROS**

1. Neighborhood cleanup results

Mr. Shockley was unable to attend, but provided Mr. Nelson with a summary of activities for the Lexington Avenue neighborhood association. Mr. Nelson provided some pictures of the cleanup. He then read the letter.

The newly formed Lexington Avenue Neighborhood Association helped to organize and conduct a very successful neighborhood cleanup on Saturday, April 1, 2006. Public Works

provided two garbage trucks and a rack truck, while SNEW provided two rack trucks to haul away many tons of debris.

Many residents contributed by helping to load the trucks. The New Light Missionary Baptist Church, 22 Lexington Avenue, provided a large number of volunteers who assisted.

Volunteers from other neighborhood associations and civic groups also became involved. These included members of the South Norwalk Neighborhood Association, the Harbor Shores Association, the Golden Hill Association, the Friends of Norwalk Clean and Green, the Norwalk Tree Alliance, and the community service aspect of the AIC Program at NEON.

The Firestone Tire and Service Center of 370 Westport Avenue accepted 114 used tires which surfaced as a result of this cleanup. This is part of Firestone's sponsorship pledge with the Keep America Beautiful campaign. Firestone has also donated new tire purchase and oil change discount coupons to be distributed to the volunteers.

Officer Caesar Ramirez of the Norwalk Police Department Community Policing Unit was on hand to assist with traffic safety and support for this community effort.

The Lexington Avenue Neighborhood Association is grateful to all who helped and looks forward to maintaining a cleaner and safer community. Due to the success of this clean-up, the Neighborhood Association enrollment has increased significantly. The Association is planning to conduct a block party in the coming months.

Deputy Chief Palmer said there was a nice article in the Advocate about this, and there has been a major improvement in the area with regards to crime, traffic, and trash.

#### **NORWALK ASSOCIATION OF SILVERMINE HOMEOWNERS; LEIGH GRANT**

Ms. Grant said that there is jubilation over the Perry Avenue bridge being opened in a two-way direction. She thanked Mr. Alvord and Mayor Moccia. Mr. Alvord said they won't take it back to a one-way bridge if all goes well.

She mentioned that 104 Comstock is a growing contractors yard with Mack trucks and lawn equipment, and lots of cars. Ms. Leonard said there was a notice of violation on the property.

She mentioned the lighting situation on Silvermine Avenue. They are investigating a different kind of lighting, if it is suitable, and if the cost is feasible.

She said they have a meeting with the Connecticut Citing Council and others to discuss the information that the Department of Health has published. It says that houses should be 300 feet away from high voltage power lines. They haven't succeeded in asking the Power Company to move the poles toward open land, or to have a meeting with the Governor. There will be a meeting on best management practices for electric and magnetic fields. They will write a letter detailing their experiences so that it will be on file in the future.

She thanked the Police Department for working with CVS and asking the trucks to not park on Perry Avenue.

### **TREE ALLIANCE; DON NELSON**

Mr. Nelson said that they are approaching the spring planting season. They have neighborhoods that have already gotten a planting program together. This year, they are working through neighborhoods instead of individual requests. He suggested that neighborhood associations find a tree liaison person. He said the City also needs the neighborhood boundaries.

He said that the Arbor Day activities will be held at Brookside School on Friday, April 28 at 1:45 p.m. He said everyone is invited.

He said they are working on a partnership arrangement this year with the Doubletree Hotel. They have a nationwide program of Arbor Day recognition, and they think a partnership with them will create a stronger program for all the neighborhood schools in the future.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Raymond said that all the markings on Route 7 have washed away. Mr. Alvord said that he has already talked to the DOT.

He said that there should be trees planted in the substation area in Broad River to make the area more visibly appealing. Mr. Alvord explained that Norwalk is a major hub for all the transmission lines. Mr. Alvord said he will talk to CL&P and Chris Swan.

Mr. Raymond said that there had been a park at Riverside Avenue, and it was taken out when they built the Route 7 connector. He asked if the park was going to be replaced. It was suggested that he go to the elected representative to get the park reinstated.

Mr. John Neafsey, a resident of High Street, said the business nearby creates rock dust, noise, and diesel emissions problems. Mr. Alvord confirmed that it is zoned industrial. Deputy Chief Palmer said he will look into it.

Ms. Becker said she had copies of the CNNA meeting schedule. She said that there is a neighborhood on Newtown Avenue that is showing signs of graffiti. Deputy Chief Palmer said that he will get the NEON group out there. She said that on Hazel Avenue, there are people complaining about speeding and traffic problems. She is not sure if they have a neighborhood group.

Mr. Nelson informed everyone of the city's anti-litter pickup on April 29 for the area north of I-95, and on May 6 for the area south of I-95. Gloves and bags will be supplied. Mr. Shockley will be taking care of the distribution of the items, and his number is 854-7810, ext. 6782. He congratulated the city for having 8 bulky waste pick-ups this year.

Deputy Chief Palmer said that the Slow-Down Days held recently were very successful. Over 400 tickets were given out during a 7 day period. They will concentrate on motorcycle noise violation next.

Mr. Alvord said that the city-wide cleanups will be different this year, as they will designate one spot for the bags to be dropped off.

**ADJOURN MEETING**

**\*\* DEPUTY CHIEF PALMER MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Marr  
Telesco Secretarial Services