

**CITY OF NORWALK
MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION MEETING
MAY 3, 2006**

ATTENDANCE: Richard A. Moccia, Mayor; David Shockley, Chairman; Dori Wilson, P&Z; Mike Moccia, Recreation & Parks; Don Nelson, Tree Advisory Committee & Norwalk Tree Alliance; Tony Capuano, Norwalk Health Dept; Fred Eshraghi, Dept Public Works; Glenn Iannaccone, Norwalk Fire Dept; Connie Blair, Customer Service; Leigh Grant, NASH; Gloria Seymour, Tracey Area; Laurel Anderson, City Scan; Robert Wagman, CNNA; Katherine Griffing, GHA; Jim Clark, Golden Hill; Dorothy & John Romanelli, Harbor Shores; Mark Pierce, Wilton Ave; Diana Paladino, SHHA; Al Raymond, SHHA; Nancy Whitmore, Christine Abraham & Helen Bryan, West Main; Laurel Lindstrom, ENNA; Diane Lockwood, Broad River; Diane Stein, Cindy Mottolese, Heather Lane; Diane Lauricella, ENNA & LWV

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Shockley called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. He started the meeting by having everyone introduce themselves.

REVIEW AND APPROVE APRIL 5, 2006 MEETING MINUTES

**** MS. ROMANELLI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 5, 2006.**

**** MR. NELSON SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED WITH TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS (IANNACCONO, SHOCKLEY).**

GOLDEN HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION; JIM CLARK

April 22 neighborhood cleanup review

Mr. Clark said that April 22nd was the neighborhood's fourth cleanup and the most successful one, even with bad weather. He attributed the success to the amount of preplanning that was done. He noted that they gave volunteers something productive to do, they broke down the tasks, and they had different trucks for different types of debris. There were over 50 workers, including the city workers, and they cleared 27 tons of debris. They were finished by 1:00 p.m. He thanked Mr. Dave Rich for his efforts, he thanked Mayor Moccia for stopping by, and he thanked everyone involved for all their hard work. Mr. Shockley thanked Mr. Clark for efforts. He said it shows the other groups that it does take a lot of work to compliment what they are doing.

Mr. Clark said that last month, he briefly spoke about the area of non-compliance. When properties come up for sale, he felt that was a prime time to bring them back into compliance. The reval pages need to be checked for how the property is listed. Mayor Moccia mentioned that the court process can be lengthy, and liens could be placed on the property. Mr. Clark said that there is one more person in the Law Department to do the due process and due diligence work on this issue.

EASTERN NORWALK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION; LAUREL LINDSTROM

Ms. Lindstrom said that the ENNA has picked up a lot of areas, and they do spot cleanups over smaller areas. They did a cleanup on April 29th in the area south of City Hall and they picked up 20 bags of garbage. They are planning to cleanup the area around the historic cemetery and the Ludlow shopping center on May 6. They will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the East Norwalk train station. She said that they may plan more cleanups in the fall.

She asked if the State is responsible for the breaks in the fences behind Howard Johnson's near the entrance to I-95. It appears that there is debris being dropped off there. There is a gap in the fence at Beacon and Strawberry Hill, which could possibly provide access to I-95. Ms. Blair said she will contact the State.

Ms. Lindstrom said there was a resident that contacted Chairman Shockley about the speeding. They took up her discussion next on the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS:

Heather Lane traffic calming concerns; Cindy Mottolese

Ms. Mottolese introduced herself, and Ms. Diane Stein as homeowners on Heather Lane. She said that she petitioned the city three years ago for speed humps but wasn't successful. She would like to see Cory Lane dead-end into Heather Lane at this point, due to the amount of traffic. There was an accident at the end of the street yesterday. They travel at a rate of 45 mph, from Walter to Tierney, and then Tierney to Walter. A traffic light at Strawberry Hill Avenue and Tierney would be fine, as planned. She said they have 100 cars a day. Boxes had been put out, but they weren't there for a full day. She said that she had called Customer Service about this, and she said they were very helpful. She provided a petition with the four homeowner's signatures. She remembers that Cory Lane had been a dead-end street years ago. Ms. Stein said that the speeding and traffic are especially troublesome during the 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. timeframe. The average age of the children on the street is 7 years old. Mr. Eshraghi said they will do a traffic study on the street, then establish the speed limit, and then determine the volume of vehicles, and the study will be over a 24 hour time period, Monday through Friday. There had been police presence there, but it was suggested that it be changed to a different time during the day, either from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m., or 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. There are 28 homeowners on Heather Lane and 5 homeowners on Quarry Lane.

EASTERN NORWALK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION; LAUREL LINDSTROM (CONT'D)

Ms. Lindstrom continued, saying that she thought the dead-end suggestion made sense.

She said that at the last meeting, there was a resident who brought up the issue of the appearance of a contractor's yard on High Street. She wanted to make sure that this issue stayed on the agenda. Mayor Moccia said that they have been cited numerous times.

She also wanted to make sure that the Strawberry Hill Avenue traffic and speeding issue didn't get forgotten. Mr. Eshraghi said the State money totals \$1.6M for the entire State, so he was hopeful that Norwalk would receive something out of that total.

HARBOR SHORES NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION; DOROTHY ROMANELLI

April 8 Harbor Shores neighborhood cleanup review

Ms. Romanelli said that even though there was plenty of rain that day, they still had a great clean-up effort as they were very organized. She wanted to thank Chairman Shockley and the DPW. The picnic has been postponed. She said that they had more volunteers, and the items were put out on the curb the night before, which seemed to help.

She said that at a previous meeting, the drain on Yost Street was going to be lowered in the Spring, and she wanted to place a reminder about that. Ms. Blair said she will follow up on that.

She said that there are four streets that are badly in need of paving, and she wanted to get them on the list. She said they were Yost, Burwell, Sable, and Naramake. Ms. Blair said she will give the list to the Engineering Department.

Ms. Romanelli said that there was a police report of marijuana smoking in Woodward Park. They asked police to do some patrols. The playground is now a hangout for older kids, and the smaller kids are not able to use park. The teams that play ball there, not city teams, are littering excessively. A clean-up is scheduled for this Saturday at the park, Woodward Avenue, and other streets. Chairman Shockley thanked her for being organized regarding the bulky waste pick-up.

MEADOW STREET; MORAVIA LANGLEY

Ms. Langley could not attend. Chairman Shockley said that there is an issue with graffiti on a building in Meadows Garden. Mr. Moccia from Recreation and Parks will look into it.

BROAD RIVER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION; KELLY STRANITI

Ms. Diane Lockwood said she was hopeful that the Broad River Neighborhood Association will be chosen in the fall as a neighborhood cleanup area.

She said they are grateful for the paving of Broad Street. Mayor Moccia said that CL&P paid for it out of the budget.

The buffer zone issue near Wendy's continues to be worked on. There are breaks in fences and litter issues.

In the Eastern Farms and Jet Variety parking lot, people have been complaining about the dumpster pickup at 4:30 a.m. There is a noise ordinance in place to prohibit pickup before 8:00 a.m. The waste company will be contacted.

She said the litter cleanup is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. this Saturday at Dunbar Field at the Harris Street lot.

Chairman Shockley said the progress on the mailbox issue is slow-going. He called Congressman Shays offi who called the Post Office. There are 14 homes that have their mailboxes across the street from them on a b road. They requested that the mailboxes be moved. The request has been approved. The mailboxes will be moved to a better location.

WEST MAIN STREET; CHRISTINE ABRAHAM

Ms. Abraham said the blue car has been moved. She thanked Chairman Shockley for the garbage bags. She working with residents to keep the area clean. She doesn't know who belongs to the basketball hoop, but of children are using it. At the end of the street, the residents are aware of debris being dumped on the tracks.

She said Godfrey Street is overly crowded with cars, with parking on both sides. At 3 West Main Street, there appears to be illegal housing. Ms. Wilson took note of the address. On School Street, there are people who don't live there that leave big box trucks parked there at night and on the weekends. She said the sidewalks aren't cleaned on School Street because of the parking situation. Chairman Shockley will send the City Scan information and photos they conducted last week to Mr. Law.

There are teenagers using the park, and now the smaller kids don't want to use it even though it's built for th She asked how the park could be controlled, if it won't be fenced off after a certain time. Traffic is still a problem. Since the Route 7 bypass was put in, all kinds of vehicles use the street as a cut-through.

She mentioned the icemaker on Main Street in front of a deli. It seems that it is used by the business, and as long as it's locked, it can't be vandalized.

SPRING HILL/HOSPITAL AREA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION; AL RAYMOND

Ms. Paladino said that during their recent citywide cleanup, they focused on the area of Spring Hill Avenue a Coolidge, which was being used as a dumping ground.

She said she was copied on a letter that was addressed to Mayor Moccia regarding flooding on Cutrone Road which isn't in her neighborhood. Mayor Moccia said that he sent the letter to the DPW.

She said she has noticed a lot more police presence in the neighborhood to handle the drug activity and the speeding. Both she and the neighbors are very pleased with those efforts. She said they are working on the light on Frost Street at the Purdue building. There is a rumor that the developer for Stuart Avenue is approaching the neighbors and sending letters to the residents on Glenwood Avenue to purchase their properties.

Mr. Raymond gave Mr. Eshraghi the information on the intersection at Sherman Street and Stuart Avenue. I said he mentioned at the last meeting the rock on Saranac Road, and he inquired into the status. Ms. Blair sa that the service request is in, but she was unsure of how long it would take. The request to remove the water pipes that are sticking out of the sidewalk on Prospect Street has been sent to the Water Department and she said it is the property owners' responsibility to lower the pipes. She said the Permit Inspectors will put the residents on notice to lower the pipes. It is a water cap that is on their private property.

Mr. Raymond said that there are still traffic and speeding issues, and the residents would like to see more enforcement.

Chairman Shockley said they had to cancel the neighborhood's June 3 cleanup due to budget restrictions. He said that the West Main Street cleanup was cancelled also. He said that the Spring Hill/Hospital area neighborhood had a cleanup day in the fall and hopefully will have one next fall.

WILTON AVENUE; MARK PIERCE

Mr. Pierce said that Forest Street, a dead-end street that ends at the Route 7 connector, has some debris at the fence that accumulated from the plow trucks. Ms. Blair took note of it.

Last month, he said he mentioned the appearance of an illegal apartment at 6 Grand Street. Ms. Wilson suggested that he file a formal complaint. A second floor stairwell was added on, and a window was removed and replaced with a door.

Last month, he also mentioned that it looked like a repair shop was operating at 22 Catherine Street. It seems only operate at night. Ms. Wilson said that the house is zoned as a legal three-family.

He asked Mr. Eshraghi about the status of Wilton Avenue. Mr. Eshraghi said they will try to do it this month.

He asked if Grand Street will have "No Parking" on one side of the street. Mr. Eshraghi said they will conduct a site visit this month.

Mr. Pierce said that at the bottom of Wilton Avenue, at Ash Creek, the trucks are still parking there while they are delivering products. It was suggested again that the curb be painted yellow. Hopefully the Wilton Avenue neighborhood will be scheduled for a fall cleanup day.

SOUTH MAIN STREET NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION; ERNEST DUMAS

Mr. Dumas could not attend. Chairman Shockley said he is working with him on some issues.

TRACEY AREA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION; GLORIA SEYMOUR

Ms. Seymour said the illegal apartment issue is still dominant in her area. There are 10 apartments on North Avenue that appear to be a problem. Ms. Leonard from P&Z is following up. Mayor Moccia said that the process of fining the residents can be a lengthy and repetitive one. She said there should be off-street parking. Camp Street has residents complaining about people repairing cars and leaving debris on the lawns. Ms. Wilson said she will ask Ms. Leonard to follow up.

Ms. Seymour said that some roads in her neighborhood are badly in need of repaving. Mayor Moccia said that everyone is working very hard to do as much as they can, as quickly as they can with the money received.

NORWALK ASSOCIATION OF SILVERMINE HOMEOWNERS; LEIGH GRANT

Ms. Grant said the Silvermine cleanup took place recently. It consisted mainly of clearing the invasive growth from the school.

Cub Scout Pack 68 has been in touch with the Norwalk River Watershed Initiative to begin a program to replant the bank at Silvermine School and help the trout population. They have raised between \$600-800 through various donations. They are having their planting on Saturday, May 6 between 10 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. She invited Mayor Moccia to stop by. She said Mr. Peter Viteretto is in charge of the project.

She said she received a call from Mr. Bill Croke, who lives next to the school, and he told her that his wife's car had a bullet hole in the windshield and the driver's seat. They spoke to the Principal, and they were told the bullet had gone through the school. There has always been drug paraphernalia around, and it appears that is the cause. It has been reported to police. It was suggested that a chain be put across the driveway. Mr. Moccia said that a chain is more of a liability. He explained that they can't chain off the school grounds. The city ordinance calls for the school grounds to be closed after dark. Police enforcement can be one solution. He said that the school never contacted his department about the drug paraphernalia. He said that if teachers find unsafe issues, they should call his department.

She said that 104 Comstock Hill Road was called in as a zoning violation, as it had a lot of lawn equipment there that became a problem. A fence was put up, but most likely a good amount of equipment is stored behind it.

The bigger problem is at 108 Comstock Hill Road, where 12 cars are parked outside at night. There have been two harassment problems with neighbor's wives. Certain suggestions were made and name calling took place when women would walk by. There was a report of indecent exposure. She said that it looks like contractors live there. It's a Triple AAA zone, single-family housing. The harassment problems will be handled by the Police Department. The P&Z department will be looking for an illegal kitchen. Mr. Capuano from the Health Department confirmed the address, and he will look into the possibility of an illegal rooming house.

Ms. Grant mentioned the graffiti on James Street. She said they are working with Mr. Alvord to try to save the street trees. They tell new residents moving in to not cut any trees down. She thought the weight limit on the Perry Avenue bridge had been implemented. She has noticed several large trucks going over the bridge. Ms. Blair will forward the request to post the weight limit sign.

TREE ALLIANCE; DON NELSON

Mr. Nelson said that they had a very successful Arbor Day Celebration at Brookside School. Mayor Moccia read the Arbor Day Proclamation. There was a very nice turnout. The children made posters and sang songs. Next year, it will be at Columbus Magnet School, where the arboretum is now being completed. Mayor Moccia will dedicate it in September to Rosa Parks.

The city tree program is moving ahead nicely, and the new contractor is working out well. The new plan is to have trees planted on a neighborhood basis, vs. individual requests. They will be working with all the neighborhoods and the tree liaisons to determine where the trees should be planted. During the summer, they will be preparing for the fall planting so that they can have several neighborhoods set up.

Mr. Raymond said that Ms. Becker wished to remind everyone that the next CNNA meeting will take place on Monday, May 8th in Room A322 at 7:30 p.m.

Fire Marshal Iannaccone reminded everyone that there are still some battery powered smoke detectors available for free for one or two family houses.

Chairman Shockley said that as issues come up, please call Ms. Blair directly at 854-3200, as she took several notes from the meeting.

ADJOURN MEETING

**** CHAIRMAN SHOCKLEY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Marr
Telesco Secretarial Services