

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

**January 12, 2005
Minutes**

Board Member Attendees: Laurel Lindstrom, Erik Nees, Marija Bryant, Marie DeLeo, Gordon Tully.

Guests: Maribeth Becker, James Stuart; Betty Lugo; and Rev. B. Gregory, East Avenue United Methodist Church; Laurel Anderson, CPEC City Scan Coordinator for Fairfield County,

- 1. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm**
- 2. The minutes of the October 13, 2004 meeting** were approved as corrected. Corrected minutes will be issued. Minutes of December were put on hold.
- 3. Nomination of Maribeth Becker to Board of Directors:** Marie DeLeo nominated Maribeth to the Board, Erik Nees seconded, she was approved unanimously. Welcome, Maribeth!
- 4. President's Report:**
 - a. Re: anti-litter group, CNNA is focused on neighborhood issues, can't do education on anti-litter. David Shockley will communicate with CNNA through LL by email, and LL, Lee Levey, and Bob Wagman can send messages to members to sign up.
 - b. Anti-litter task force, LL member, is proposing several initiatives:
 - i. Ordinance to require litter to be in containers, not plastic bags.
 - ii. Sell ads on 300# litter containers. Discussion followed: Mayor wants to put them on beaches; GT raised the question of ad design; problem—containers are not emptied regularly; Bridgeport just did a similar contract, included veto rights on ad designs.
 - iii. Mayor wants to put together a city-wide cleanup in the Spring and Fall. This Spring is scheduled for April 30th, directed by LL, David Shockley and 2 others. It will include Neighborhood Associations, Boy Scouts, businesses, churches, and will be tied to other local efforts. Hal Alvord says that there will be too many locations for his crews to pick up, as on our focused cleanups. Darien does a whole week, allowing people to set out big stuff on their normal trash day, with announcements so people can pick over. Task Force will look at other localities for ideas.
 - iv. They are looking at expanding what the Transfer Station will receive, because of the increase in road trash that has occurred after WM raised fees.
 - c. First meeting of SWRPA attended by LL occurred January 3rd. The Director said that LL would not be in conflict of interest. If SWRPA voted, she must separate her position on matters in conflict from her view as SWRPA member. SWRPA votes are advisory only.
 - d. Jim Dean of The Hour will again print the "Know Your Town" brochure. LL passed draft around for comments and corrections, and it will be on our website.
 - e. Conservation Committee has opened nominations for spaces that need conservation protection. Any appropriate space is eligible.
 - f. Agreed to tidy up the group photo from the cleanup and present to NY Deli by Marija Bryant.
 - g. Notices are going in regularly to The Hour and the Advocate.
 - h. ENNA was prominently mentioned in the article on free trees in The Hour.
 - i. Pedestrian fatality at the Stroffolino bridge was different from that prominently covered in The Hour, as it was someone drunk on New Year's Eve. The Hour and the Advocate covered it.
- 5. Treasurer's Report**
 - a. Presented Income and Expense report for July 1 2003 through June 30 2004. Included contributions by individual for that period.
 - b. Treasurer's Report for July 1 2004 through January 1 2005
 - i. Large donation from LL was acknowledged and gratefully received by the Board.
 - ii. Generally, need about \$125 per month for normal operations.
 - iii. We are on a cash basis.
 - c. We need more cash income.
 - d. We will begin seeking grants and providing letters of thanks upon completion of 501c3.

- e. Board agreed to more detailed break down of office expenses. Marie will work out categories with LL, along with what is included in each category, for use by Board.
- f. Board members should send monthly expenses, including hours and miles at 14 cents, from here on.

6. Tax-Exempt Status

- a. Our tax-exempt status, when received, will be retroactive to July 1, 2003.
- b. The Board went through the application carefully last month.
- c. Email this date from Jessica requested contributions through June 30, 2004.
- d. NY Bakery needs a letter.
- e. Another discussion on holding onto copyrights and intellectual property confirmed the decision to answer “Yes” on VIII.11.
- f. LL will keep us up to date.
- g. Erik Nees moved, Gordon Tully seconded, that we adopt the “Sample Conflict of Interest Policy” as proposed by the IRS, without the hospital-related inserts, and rewritten on our letterhead. The motion was approved unanimously.

7. PowerPoint Presentation on East Norwalk Business Revitalization

- a. LL has attended several meetings to present this program. She has sent it so far to the Mayor, David Shockley, and Monroe Johnson (at NRA, running CBDG program). It is based on work we have done on the Master Plan, and is competing for funding under a neighborhood grant program being funded by NRA using CBDG funds. We are very unlikely to be able to get funding directly from feds through CBDG, as we are not a 501c3 yet and have no administrative staff.
- b. LL questioned Mayor regarding how this would play out. He said the city expects us to organize it ourselves, and that we would have to do most of what we had hoped the city would do.
- c. Linn Friedman is researching the titles on the small parks around the cemetery, for the TTD.
- d. We need retail studies and traffic studies., matching grants.
- e. Maribeth sees this project as a good way to gather new members in ENNA.
- f. Discussed farmers’ market, Norwalker routes.
- g. Despite red bulb failure, LL presented green version of the PowerPoint she had assembled to explain the program. Presentation took about 50 minutes.
- h. We need to get the word out to various groups – LL needs help.
- i. Comments from visitors:
 - i. Very helpful to “re-see” the area; one pays attention to details that were previous “invisible” due to being inured to them.
 - ii. One visitor had many stories about the area, and should apply to provide oral history recordings. Can ENNA facilitate this, as it would be very helpful background material?

8. Cemetery

- a. Format is assembled for the application.
- b. LL hopes to have a draft by January 31st.

9. Mayor’s Neighborhood Preservation Committee

- a. LL had to leave the meeting early on the 7th because of illness. Maribeth attended.
- b. David Shockley is putting together XLS. [Secretary doesn’t know what this means]
- c. We should bring up the realtor at Olmsted and East Avenue, and Wachovia at the cemetery, where cars are standing advertised for sale.

10. CNNA

- a. Met on Monday last for presentation by Stanley Seligson on his project.
- b. LL, Marija, and Maribeth attended.
- c. Presentation was very seductive, presented from Seligson perspective with no corrections by NRA staff.
- d. Difficult to pin down Seligson.
- e. Gordon Tully plans to make contact with the Mayor.

11. New Business

- a. Dumpsters at Norwalk Inn should be looked into. Are they legal?

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Gordon Tully, Secretary.