

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

**February 8, 2006  
Minutes**

**Board Member Attendees:** Laurel Lindstrom (president), Marija Bryant, Maribeth Becker, Sarah Hunter, Erik Nees, Nick Overall (Advisory Board)

**Others:** David Park, (and approximately 20 others were present to hear the presentation on 140 – 142 East Avenue) Presenting for DiScala 140 East Avenue project: David Waters, Attorney, Michael DiScala, Developer, Diane Lauricella, Environmental Consultant.

1. Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM.
2. Public Participation – Attorney Waters presents the planned development at 140-142 East Avenue (former site of Gibbs College) that includes 36 residential units and office space. Q and A follows at which residents question the impact on the riverfront and the environment, the impact of the increased traffic on East Avenue, the effect on Norwalk’s infrastructure given the other planned developments, and the procedures for “shared” parking between residential and office uses.
3. Minutes
  - a. January minutes accepted as presented by unanimous voice vote.
4. Reports
  - a. Treasurer’s Report – Gordon Tully; no report due to illness.
  - b. President’s Report – Laurel Lindstrom
    - i. See attached president’s report.
    - ii. Board members sign conflict of interest policy.
    - iii. Newsletter – Sarah Hunter to handle layout and graphics; board members submit articles as appropriate; Laurel Lindstrom to edit and conduct final review of content. Printing to be split between Sarah’s and Laurel’s printers.
      1. March 20<sup>th</sup> is set as deadline for spring issue. Sarah will draft and send out an email with a production schedule.
    - iv. At Your Fingertips guide –Rowayton Civic Association has requested 250 for their annual meeting; have agreed to a \$50 contribution to ENNA.
    - v. Mayor’s Neighborhood Preservation Committee
      1. Laurel Lindstrom attended and discussed the speeding situation on Strawberry Hill Avenue. Noted that signs are not enough to stop speeders and that stricter enforcement is essential.
      2. Citywide “Slow Down Week” scheduled for March 20<sup>th</sup>. Details and ENNA involvement to come. City asking for neighborhood association involvement and help in identifying key streets. Focus for ENNA is Strawberry Hill Avenue.
        - a. Actions that ENNA plans to take include:
          - i. Awareness along Strawberry Hill Avenue with flyers; David Park to create and distribute flyers; serve as “chair” for Strawberry Hill Avenue traffic calming initiatives..
          - ii. Petition ready for resident signatures at March 6<sup>th</sup> Zoning Commission public hearing on 8 Norden Place.
          - iii. Invite Police Chief Rilling and Traffic Engineer of DPW Fred Eshraghi to next meeting of ENNA; include citizens to the “traffic summit”
    - c. CNNA – Maribeth Becker
      - i. CNNA meeting discussed “Slow Down Week” and how associations can support. Suggestions included a multipronged effect that includes letter writing, newspapers, publicity, signs, etc.

- ii. Next meeting of CNNA will include presentations by DPW head Alvord re: tree program and DPW budget requests, David Shockley re Citywide Neighborhood Cleanup, and presentation by Golden Hill Neighborhood Association on their activities and goals.
    - d. NPT – Marija Bryant
      - i. NPT representatives, Historical Commission representatives, ENNA, and CNNA met with Director of ElderHouse and their attorney to review expansion plans for the building. Expansion will require variances since the plan requires building well within the current setback lines. ElderHouse needs the space to provide service for up to 20 more elderly and are unable to lease more land from their current landlord, the Congregational Church on the Green. Expansion will extend the current building closer to East Wall Street retaining wall and make it a more prominent feature. The concern is that the structure is surrounded by some of Norwalk’s most historic buildings and is adjacent to a current National Register District (the Norwalk Green national Register District) and a district that is currently being researched having been accepted for study as a National Register District (East Wall Street around the Trolley Barn.)
      - ii. MOTION: ENNA does not support the application for variance as presented. Nick Overall moves; Maribeth Becker seconds. Unanimously approved.
    - e. Tree Liaison Report – Nick Overall.
      - i. Nick will submit a flyer about the city tree program that describes the program and asks interested residents to contact Nick.
      - ii. Nick will examine and evaluates neighborhood areas that needs more trees and be proactive in contacting the owners to see if there is interest/agreement.
      - iii. Recommended addition to regulations: Identify contiguous open space and appropriate trees; protect existing trees by including the trees as part of contiguous open space.
- 5. Programs and Projects:**
- a. Norden property.
    - i. Conservation Commission hearing on February 28<sup>th</sup> and Zoning Public Hearing on March 6<sup>th</sup>.
    - ii. ACTION: Laurel Lindstrom to draft letter and “OpEd” price expressing ENNA concerns and opposition to project as currently presented by the developer.
  - b. Liberty Square Neighborhood Center Improvement Project
    - i. Third Taxing District has included a line item in the budget to allocate \$1000 to ENNA Liberty Square project and \$4000 for planned improvements to Constitution Park.
- 6. New business -- None**
- 7. Next regular board meeting: Wednesday March 8, 2006**
- 8. Meeting adjourned at 10:30 PM.**

Respectfully submitted, Marija Bryant, Secretary.