

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

**May 11, 2005
Minutes**

Board Member Attendees: Laurel Lindstrom (president), Maribeth Becker, Erik Nees, Wendye Pardue, Marija Bryant

Guests: Jim Gardella (East Norwalk resident)

1. Meeting called to order 7:45 PM.
2. Public participation on non-agenda items: none. Guest is attending to learn more about the ENNA.
3. Maribeth Becker moved and Wendye Pardue seconded approval of April 13 minutes as presented; approved unanimously.
4. Adopt-a-Spot and Adopt-a-Riverbank
 - a. Adopt-a-Spot part of Norwalk's Clean and Green initiative. 25 spots are available. ENNA requested a traffic island at Tierney Street and Strawberry Hill Avenue. Will be able to use the sign from last year's City Hall site.

MOTION: ENNA to take responsibility for the Adopt-a-Spot at Tierney and Strawberry Hill Avenue for the 2005 season. **Approved unanimously.**

ACTION: Request to draft scale drawing of the site so that volunteers can start planning the planting for the site.
 - b. Adopt-a-Riverbank part of Norwalk River Watershed initiative. Discussions ensue regarding involvement and what's required to maintain a portion of the riverbank.

ACTION: Agree to continue to explore and obtain more information from Norwalk River Watershed.
5. Reports:
 - a. Treasurer's Report – Gordon Tully
 - i. Gordon not at meeting; no Treasurer's report
 - b. President's Report – Laurel Lindstrom
 - i. See attached president's report for details.
 - ii. Discussion re: East Norwalk Train Station. Third Taxing District to assume responsibility for the area as per an agreement between Don Nelson (Clean and Green) and David Brown (Third Taxing District). Laurel to explore the role of Third Taxing District as well as determine what role ENNA should take in making recommendations and volunteering labor to create and maintain the spot.
 - iii. Senator Bob Duff and Representative Toni Boucher will attend a future ENNA meeting based on their availability.
 - iv. New contact for tree related issues in Norwalk: Connie Blair, 854 3200; email customerservice@norwlkct.org.
 - v. Thank-you reception for organizations and volunteers who participated in the April 30th Citywide Clean-up is Friday, May 13 at 5 PM in the Community Room of City Hall. ENNA volunteers plan to attend.
 - vi. Gordon Tully and Maribeth Becker will attend a meeting with Michael DiScala at the Norwalk Historical Society to discuss the development plans for parcel 3 (Smith Street and East Wall Street).

Maribeth adds that the Redevelopment Agency's estimates for residential units were lower than the number of units in current plans. Redevelopment notes that the lower figures reflected public input; the higher figures reflect developer economics. Board concurs that all of East Wall Street should be monitored as properties on a "watch list" for historic preservation, scale, and appropriateness to the area.
 - vii. Incidence of violence in Norwalk. Is it perception or fact? Laurel Lindstrom will obtain report from Mark Palmer of Police Chief Rilling.

- viii. How to fund actions of the ENNA? Discussions regarding suggestions in email previously submitted to Board as well as a request for additional ideas to discuss at next Board meeting. Related to that question: How to activate more members? Suggestion that street reps are a good start; personal calls to engage and involve.
 - ix. Roundabout Workshop report. Gordon Tully's insightful report attached.
6. Programs and Projects:
- a. Newsletter
 - i. Plan for another issue during the summer. Discussion about frequency; no concrete resolution. Suggested topics include a write-up on the new exhibits at the Norwalk Museum – Dunne's Hardware Store installation (original store was open for xx years at Liberty Square location) and "Angry Waters" (a commemoration in photos and personal stories of the 1955 flood that devastated downtown Norwalk's Wall Street area).
 - b. Next Cleanup
 - i. What role should ENNA play? Discussion includes recommendation that ENNA take an advisory role to neighborhoods and encourage areas to initiate their own local clean-ups. ENNA will help organize and support.
 - ii. Suggestion of instituting a "big item trash day" in Norwalk similar to Darien and Stratford. Laurel Lindstrom to discuss at Mayor's Neighborhood Meeting.
 - iii. Ludlow and Liberty Square plan is moving forward. MetroNorth has agreed to remove billboards from the East Norwalk train station site.
 - iv. East Norwalk Cemetery historic designation is progressing.
 - v. Proposed development in area:
 - 1. As mentioned earlier, Gordon and Maribeth to meet with DiScala and Historical Society re: development on Smith Street and East Wall Street.
 - 2. Gibb's College site (East Avenue). Another DiScala development; not on any formal agendas as yet. DiScala is working with neighbors to preserve views and address Village District requirements.
 - 3. Pepperidge Farm site. Currently, under review by Conservation Commission; will most likely be approved. Next step is Zoning Commission; Laurel will attend meetings once on the agenda as her time allows and keep Board informed
 - 4. Norden Park. Spinnaker was to present plans to ENNA; meeting cancelled because property is being sold. Any change in use will require a variance. Will monitor progress.
 - 5. Fitch Park. The property in front has been sold to developer and the building will most likely be demolished. Currently, no permits have been applied for or plans submitted.
 - 6. Guest participation: Mr. Gardella provides information on his plans for the property by Calf Pasture Beach (Cove Marina). Plans call for 30-40 high end condominiums. Agrees to present plans to ENNA when closer to being finalized.
7. Other Business: none
8. Next regular board meeting: Wednesday June 8, 2005, Room 101, City Hall
9. Meeting adjourned at 9:45.

Respectfully submitted, Marija Bryant, Secretary.