

# President's Report

Date: 4/13/05

## Past Meetings/Workshops:

- CNNA on 3/14 & 4/11(see CNNA report attached)
- TAC met on 3/22 – Neighborhood Tree Liaisons to meet next month for a workshop; Wall St./East Wall St. tree planting discussed without any decisions as yet. Laurel attended as a member.
- ENNA 'projects' meeting on 3/23 (see report attached)
- Planning Commission public hearing on Mid-Harbor planning study on 3/30 – ENNA comments submitted (posted on ENNA website), Laurel presented at hearing
- Merritt Parkway/Route 7/Main Ave. Interchange project public comment meeting held by Connecticut DOT on 4/5. Laurel & Gordon attended, but because of lateness of hour left before being called to speak (75 names on list to speak) following DOT presentation.
- M F DiScala presentation for ENNA on 4/6 – heard presentation of Parcel 3 Wall Street Plan & former Gibbs College site proposal from Mike DiScala & Steve Cecil (architect). Approx. 20 people attended. Mr. DiScala agreed to attend a future ENNA meeting as the Parcel 3 plan proceeds.
- Tree Liaison Workshop on 4/7/05 – Laurel attended for Maribeth
- Pepperidge Farm property presentation of housing plan & public hearing to Conservation Commission on 4/5 – Laurel attended and spoke encouraging Commission to take time in considering this application because of new information presented to them, several outstanding concerns and the need for taking time because of the size of this project.
- MNPC meeting on 4/13 (see MNPC report attached)
- Anti-Litter Task Force and/or subcommittee for the April 30<sup>th</sup> City-wide Cleanup met on 3/11 – Laurel participated as a member.

## Future Meetings/Workshops:

- Tree Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting on 4/26 at 6 PM
- 'Programs & Projects' meeting of the ENNA Board – date to be determined
- Citywide Cleanup on 4/30 from 8 AM to 4 PM
- CNNA meeting on 5/9 at 7:30 PM
- Next regular ENNA meeting is 5/11 at 7:30 PM in Room 101
- P&Z meeting in month of April & May (see calendars and agendas available on City website)

## Communications of Note:

- Email to membership on 3/29, 4/4 & 4/9 (see email bulletin page on ENNA website)
- Article in the Advocate on 4/6 & article in the Hour on 4/7 (see Media page on ENNA website) on DiScala presentation event. News 12 also

covered event. ENNA mentioned in April 13 both Advocate and Hour coverage of Pepperidge Farm hearing.

- Community Briefs in local papers published meeting notices for the 4/6 and 4/13 ENNA meetings
- Laurel received several emails from members and others regarding ENNA issues (all email correspondence has been forwarded to Board members as FYIs)

Programs & Projects Meeting Report: 4/13/05 (drafted on 3/25)

Date of last P&P meeting: 3/23

Present: Laurel Lindstrom; Gordon Tully; Maribeth Becker

1. Mid-Harbor Planning Study Public Hearing: Laurel had highlighted points in the study document. The group went through the draft and reviewed and discussed highlighted points. Laurel will draft some ENNA comments for the Planning Commission public hearing on March 30. The city's plan is posted on the city website (link posted on ENNA Calendar page)
2. Capital Budget Public Hearing of the Planning Committee of the Common Council on March 31: The group decided that there is not enough time to prepare a recommendation from the ENNA
3. Street Reps and the Citywide Cleanup on April 30: Maribeth will email the confirmed street reps (done 3/25); send a blanket email to several others alerting them to save-the-date for the event (done 3/25); draft an ENNA letter to the editor on the Street Reps and the Citywide Cleanup (in progress) and send it to the board for review prior to submission; and start calling people on an extensive contact list provided by Laurel from the ENNA 'members' list to ask for help for finding Street Reps and with the Citywide Cleanup. Laurel will follow-up with an email to the entire ENNA email list to save-the-date for the Citywide Cleanup. Laurel mentioned that the city will have weekly press conferences starting April 4 -- with a neighborhood group present for the first (ENNA has opportunity to be the one) to encourage other groups to get involved. Laurel will contact Alanna Kabel.
4. DiScala Presentation on April 6: Laurel had revised flyer that was reviewed at the meeting. Brief discussion. Laurel has been in phone contact with Mr. DiScala to keep him informed. Gordon suggested distributing the flyer to residents that would be most impacted by the development (on East Avenue). Laurel announced the room and time change for the meeting (A300 at 8 PM) based on room availability at city hall.

Date of next P&P meeting: to be decided

Coalition of Norwalk Neighborhood Associations Report: 4/13/05

Date of last CNNA meeting(s): 3/14 & 4/11

March 14: At the meeting Mayor Knopp presented an overview of his neighborhood initiatives. On the West Avenue item, there was discussion and fine-tuning on the draft of the letter to Seligson and Sheehan including: mention that a consensus hadn't been reached; a list of all the concerns that had come up in CNNA discussion on the project; and a desire to keep the communication channels open. Paul Littell and the 3-members of the Board had drafted the letter. The item related to development at the Pepperidge Farm site property will be addressed at the next CNNA meeting.

April 11: At the meeting Pepperidge Farm site was discussed. Condominium development will be presented for public hearing on April 12 at 7 PM Room A333 at the Conservation Commission. Laurel plans on attending. The Merritt Interchange public information session held by the DOT on April 5 was discussed. Those present at the CNNA meeting expressed the view that the planned project was more massive than needed. One member association is planning a public meeting for April 20 on gang violence that the police chief will attend. Gordon Tully will present an alternate plan for West Avenue at the May 9 CNNA meeting.

Date of next CNNA meeting(s): 5/9

Mayor's Neighborhood Preservation Committee Report: 4/13

Date of last MNPC meeting: 4/13

At the meeting Laurel asked for status report on the following previously reported ENNA items:

- Possible contamination in brook along Knight St. – Health Dept. item referred to Mayor's Water Quality Committee Chair Tony D'Andrea. New report from Laurel that she had spoken with TD who, after receiving directions to get to site from Laurel, said he would investigate. TD reported to Laurel at that time that based on her description of the orange discoloration in the water there was no water quality concern to address. Staff at MNPC confirmed that water samples were taken. No significant bacteria found.
- DPW items outstanding from ENNA 11-page report submitted May 2004 following the Walking/Bus Tour – Connie Blair of DPW (Customer Service Center) working on list. Laurel has heard from CB, and noted by drive-by, that the metal projections in the sidewalk on Osborne at Van Zant St. have been removed. CB is handling this independent of the MNPC so does not need to be addressed at the MNPC.
- 22 homeless people sleeping under the Stroffolino Bridge reported by ENNA 'member' – NPD item (see email from Deputy Chief Palmer). New report from Laurel of seeing one homeless person lying under the bridge in a makeshift home in the afternoon of 4/8/05. Chief Rilling present at MNPC

meeting and will follow-up. Mayor reports successful resolution of an issue with a homeless person loitering/living in Ludlow shopping Centre area last summer.

- Illegal parking of cars in center area of Liberty Square lot reported by ENNA 'member' – NPD item – area owned by city but parking is unrestricted so anyone can park there 24 hours. Laurel reported emailing the member re information provided at MNPC mtg and received email response that he would work to have parking area unrestricted use changed. This item has been removed from the agenda of the MNPC.
- Litter, including drug paraphernalia & condoms, in Constitution Park and Liberty Square reported by ENNA 'member' – no department took ownership. Laurel reported intention of ENNA to target this area, and the bank of the river under the Stroffolino Bridge, during the Citywide Cleanup on April 30. This item has been removed from the agenda of the MNPC.
- Cars double-parked on Prowitt St. blocking way of emergency vehicles reported by ENNA 'member' – NPD and Fire Dept. item. At the MNPC meeting Laurel asked Chief Rilling who to contact at the NPD as items come up in the ENNA. He indicated that email could be sent to him and copied to Deputy Chief Palmer. They would then contact the officer that was assigned to handle it.

At the meeting Laurel reported the following new ENNA items:

- Refrigerator with door attached dumped on river bank State property area near St Ann's Club. Laurel emailed this item to Connie Blair prior to the MNPC meeting (and received a response) so did not need to enter it as a discussion item.
- Activity (zoning violation?) at 293 Strawberry Hill Avenue – P&Z item Laurel emailed this item to Aline Rochefort prior to the MNPC meeting (and received a response) so did not need to enter it as a discussion item.
- Graffiti on trailers at Andrews Field & litter under NHS trailers. Laurel would like NHS Band to coordinate a cleanup of the parking area, paint over the graffiti on the trailers and to man the full-litter-bag Drop-Off site at NHS. Laurel will coordinate this with the NHS Band. Staff at the MNPC will contact the Band president and he will email Laurel.
- One-hour parking limit on Wall Street near Fat Cat Pizza not adequately enforced. A van parked for an extended period of time blocking a new store. It should be transient parking available for customers. Item was entered as a discussion item but Laurel will also follow-up with an email to Chief Rilling and Deputy Chief Palmer listing all the outstanding police-related items.
- The green car on Park Hill is still there, with police notice on it (this is well over a month). License # is 447 SEY. This item not discussed. It will be included in email to the NPD.
- Andrews Field incident of gunfire and late night gathering place for large numbers of young people. Laurel introduced this at the MNPC meeting but the Mayor cut off discussion, indicating that he had already been in contact with the neighbors and it would be handled elsewhere. He did not elaborate.

- Increased 'gang' violence – incidents have occurred in the ENNA area – impacts all of Norwalk. Not discussed at the MNPC.
- Concerns of increased violence in the schools. Not discussed at the MNPC.

Date of next MNPC meeting(s): 5/4 at 10 AM

Tree Liaison Report: 4/13/05

Tree Liaison Workshop: 4/7

Orientation book reviewed. Hal Alvord, Director of Public Works and Tree Warden for Norwalk presented information. Additional information provided by Deputy Tree Wardens Alex Turgis and Paul Sotnik. Don Nelson, Chair of the Norwalk Tree Advisory Committee (TAC), and David Tracy, president of the Norwalk Tree Alliance, also presented information. Laurel received an orientation book as a member of TAC and was provided with an additional copy for Maribeth (unable to attend), as the ENNA Tree Liaison.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Laurel E. Lindstrom