

President's Report

Laurel Lindstrom

Date: 9/14/05

Past Meetings/Workshops:

- Meeting at NordenPark with Spinnaker on 8/18 (see attached report)
- Tree Advisory Committee (TAC) met on 8/23. Laurel attended as a member. Nick Overall attended as an ENNA Tree Liaison. Items specific to ENNA area were plans for tree planting and adopt-a-spots (old and new).
- ENNA Programs and Projects (P&P) Committee met on 8/23 & 9/7 (see attached reports)
- Planning Committee of Common Council – discussion of Affordable Housing on 9/1 – Laurel attended
- MNPC meeting on 9/7 (see attached report)
- Anti-Litter Task Force rescheduled to 9/23
- CNNA meeting on 9/12 (see attached report)

Future Meetings/Events/Workshops:

- ENNA Fall Event at the Town House at Mill Hill Museum on 9/26 at 7 PM
- Tree Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting on 9/27 at 6 PM
- 'Programs & Projects' meeting of the ENNA Board – date to be determined
- Fall Neighborhood Cleanup on 10/1 from 9 AM to 12 Noon in Hendricks Avenue/Sherry/Yankee Doodle/Elton Court area near Exit 16. Participants to meet at commuter parking lot at 9 AM.
- MNPC meeting on 10/5 at 10 AM
- Anti-Litter Task Force on 9/23 & 10/7 at 12:30 PM
- CNNA meeting on 10/10? at 7:30 PM
- Next regular ENNA meeting is 10/12 at 7:30 PM at City Hall in Room 101
- P&Z meetings (see calendars and agendas available on City website)

Communications of Note:

- Email to membership on 8/20, 8/28, 9/1 (2), 9/10 (see email bulletin page on ENNA website).
- Laurel received several emails and phone calls from members and others regarding ENNA issues (email correspondence, and reports of phone conversations, have been forwarded to Board members as FYIs)

Media coverage about ENNA: (see Media page on ENNA website)

- Article in the Hour on 8/28 profiling the ENNA
- Community Briefs in local papers published meeting notices for the ENNA 9/14 meeting.

Programs & Projects Meeting Report:

Date of first P&P meeting: 8/23

Present: Laurel Lindstrom; Gordon Tully; Wendye Pardue; Sarah Hunter

Items discussed:

1. Liberty Square Revitalization – continued planning
2. Fall Newsletter – First draft completed. Discussion on cost.
3. Annual Meeting – September 14 – Discussion
4. September Event – September 26 – Discussion/planning continues
5. Fall Neighborhood Cleanup – October 1 for ENNA Fall Cleanup in Yankee Doodle/Sherry/Elton/Hendricks neighborhood (without large-item pickup so no DPW assistance needed). Planning continues.
6. Other Projects
 - Adopt-a-Spot at Strawberry Hill and Tierney – members taking turns weeding and watering
 - Adopt-A-Spot at East Avenue and Sunset – needs a new sign because it was moved to the new site
 - Adopt-A-Spot at EN Train Station – billboard removal on hold
 - EN Cemetery Historic designation
 - Roundabout Campaign
7. Other Programs
 - Website
 - Street Reps
 - Tree Liaisons
 - Watch List Properties: 42-44 East Avenue; NordenPark; 73 Strawberry Hill Avenue; Cove Marina; Head of the Harbor; etc.

Date of second P&P meeting: 9/7

Present: Laurel Lindstrom; Wendye Pardue; Sarah Hunter

Items discussed:

1. Fall Event – East Norwalk ‘then...and now’ – September 26

Date of next P&P meeting: to be decided

Report on ENNA meeting with Spinnaker regarding NordenPark Development:

Date of meeting: 8/18

Attendees: Laurel Lindstrom (ENNA), Marija Bryant (ENNA); Maribeth Becker (ENNA); Kim Morque (Spinnaker); Candace Schafer (Spinnaker)

The ENNA representatives were informed by Spinnaker Real Estate Partners, LLC, the owner of the NordenPark property, that an application for a housing development on the eastern half of the site will be filed with the Norwalk Planning & Zoning Department at the end of September.

As the president of the neighborhood association, I was approached "as a courtesy" by a Spinnaker representative to meet with them prior to the formal application process. At their request, no press or general membership notices were released. A limited number of ENNA board members were invited to attend the meeting, which took place this past Thursday evening in the cafeteria of the NordenPark building.

Kim Morque and Candace Schafer, representing Spinnaker, provided the following information.

- Spinnaker purchased the NordenPark property in 2000. They improved the western portion of the property by removing a chain link fence, adding landscaping and making the existing building more attractive and functional. The building, which includes Norden Systems, is currently 91% leased. Zoning changes were required to allow the current types of office uses.
- The property was once farmland and became an Industrial Park in 1960/68 for Northrop Grumman = Norden Systems. At its peak Norden Systems employed 3500 employees. The property was sold to MetLife in 1997, and then purchased by Spinnaker in 2000.
- The total NordenPark site is 78 acres - 75 acres in Norwalk and 3 acres in Westport
- The 38 acres on the western portion of the site will remain - with the NordenPark building, Norden Systems and parking areas - as is. Spinnaker currently has this portion of the property up for sale.
- The 40 acres on the east are now undeveloped woodland, for the most part - where no buildings exist. This is the area where the housing development is proposed. Spinnaker plans to retain ownership of this portion of the property.
- The 40 acres is zoned AA residential on the Westport land - and Restricted Industrial in Norwalk. The property is bounded to the north by the I-95 and the south by the railroad tracks.
- Restricted Industrial zoning does not permit housing so a zone change will be required by the Zoning Commission to allow housing to be developed. The current uses, geared toward manufacturing, are no longer needed. For economic reasons, according to Spinnaker, the zone should permit housing. The Zoning Commission will need to approve the housing development application. Both the zoning regulation amendment and the application approval will require public hearings.
- Watercourses (streams) run through the property so the application will also need to be approved by the Conservation Commission, which will also require a public hearing
- There will be an emergency entrance/exit into Westport - but the main entrance/exit will be into Norwalk onto Norden Place. Cars can turn left (south) to go to Rte. 136 or right (north) to go to Strawberry Hill Ave.

The plan that Spinnaker presented calls for:

- 328 condominium units of 1, 2 & 3BRs - mainly 2BR & 3BR. Some would be constructed as flat-over-flat buildings - four 4-story buildings with 10 units per floor. Other units would be designed as townhouses. The development is not an affordable housing development - but a certain percentage of the units would likely be offered as affordable to make the development more attractive to the city. There will be a clubhouse. No retail will be included in the development.

Kim Morque provided me with contact information, asking that I call him with any questions we may have. The ENNA Board has not met since we were presented with this plan, but we will await your responses before proceeding further.

Coalition of Norwalk Neighborhood Associations Report:

Date of last CNNA meeting(s): 9/12

Laurel and Maribeth attended representing ENNA, Marija attended representing the NPT.

Walter Briggs, Chair of the Planning Commission, was guest. He updated the group on the Master Plan process. Those present have several concerns that the plan will not prevent out-of-control development – most specifically condominium developments. That the City plans to hire a writer and not a professional planning consultant to put the entire plan together is of serious concern.

West Avenue revised revitalization plan not yet ready from NRA – still being reviewed in department but will be available for CNNA to review soon.

Potential uses of old police station building discussed. CNNA members present and members of subcommittee agree the building should be demolished and the park property returned to open space.

NordenPark planned condo development was discussed briefly.

Date of next CNNA meeting(s): 10/12

Mayor's Neighborhood Preservation Committee Report:

Date of last MNPC meeting: 9/7 at 10 AM

Laurel attended and presented the following conditions to be addressed:

- Continued speeding and lack of law enforcement on Strawberry Hill Ave S. Hill remains one of the main "race tracks" in Norwalk, with cars and motorcycles speeding 24hrs a day. Flashlights near school crossing, signs, and the new traffic light by the 95 overpass have not been effective in reducing speeding. In addition, the occasional police presence seems to ignore speeders.
 - What can the citizens do, can we report cars (plates) so that they get a call/warning from the PD?
 - How can we inform the PD when the police repeatedly "overlook" blatantly obvious offenses including speeding and red lights?
 - Why does the mayor and PD not measure the effectiveness of the speed-reducing activities put in place, realize they do not work and

look for more effective solutions? It is common knowledge that things only change when results are measured and people are held responsible for them.

- Noise disturbance from speeding on Strawberry Hill Ave and neighbors on Raymond Terrace
- The speeding on SH also results in significant noise levels waking kids up at night. Similar situation is occurring when a neighbor test the engine of his beefed-up Mustang until late in the night
 - What can we do about this?
 - If we call the PD, would they act on this?

I just want to say thank you for representing ENNA at these City-wide meetings. Thanks for your hard work and dedication to our area in Norwalk.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our concerns. I have a few for Ludlow Manor.

- No storm drains. The street has one storm drain at the end of the street. There is a 5 foot river that flows down the street in a heavy down pour. Lee Alvord is aware and has pictures from me showing the situation. Also, the houses on the pine hill side have no where to pump their sub pumps from the basement. There are many springs and a high water table makes for wet basements.
- The side walk from Ludlow Manor to Marvin School is terrible. The city calls it a foot path so they have lower expectations of its usefulness. They have stated that they can not expand the walk because the stone walls that line the "foot path" are owned by the residents along the path. Something must be done. This sidewalk is the main pass to the school for Pine Hill, Ludlow Manor and beyond. The city can not just throw its hands up in the air and say we can't expand the walk so we will do nothing. Given this is also the pass to the beach I would think people without children would also care.
- Another thought is the Ludlow Shopping center and the Tanning booth store across the street. You may have already thought of this but, is there a way to designate the surrounding properties and stores around the cemetery as historic? If they were historic then a committee could be created to manage and require the historic look and quality of the surrounding properties. Grants could become possible to provide funding for renovations.

Hi - thanks for the request:

- Garbage Collection and Recycling - seems that they are putting in minimum effort and don't care. After pick up I have to go and pick up the garbage that falls out of the cans or the truck. The cans are tossed all over. I have lost 5 garbage can lids in the last 3 months.
- Traffic - I can't get out at the end of Saxon or Myrtle Street Extension without a long wait. The people coming off of Raymond Terrace are dangerous. Getting the .8 miles to the entrance way to I95 south takes

me 10 to 15 minutes. The traffic lights need to be adjusted to create a better flow of traffic.

Given the national impact of the disaster in New Orleans, it is hard not to think about ways we can all conserve gas.

I hope the federal government will suggest to citizens that we conserve in order to leave affordable fuel available for our industry, school buses, and airlines, to avoid an economic disaster.

I feel fortunate to live in East Norwalk where I could bike for errands, groceries. I wish there was signage on the local roads to protect me.

Bike use, recreational or errands, is on the rise. Could the mayor agree to put up signs like the one I've attached? (But in color)

The issue with cars for sale / unregistered vehicles continues on our street. It has gotten worse again in the past couple months with the return of posting 4sale signs in auto windows. There are consistently two vehicles parked on the street, usually without plates, usually with for sale signs. Typically another vehicle or two are parked in the business parking lot. The car dealer typically uses a NY license plate which may or may not be valid.

The issues:

1. Unregistered vehicles parked on residential street
2. Running an automobile dealership on Olmstead Pl.
3. Evading vehicle registration in CT

This has been a continuing concern and an ongoing "business" for many years. When will someone do something to put a halt to it?

- If you would please address traffic with all this new housing. Plus making a left out of Myrtle Street is a huge challenge with the cars parked on the left. Some times they even park on the side walks. (The first house closest to the corner of Myrtle). No parking up to Raymond Terrace would help so you could see on coming cars. Also we need new no parking signs in the area they have faded.

I think you're on target with my concerns: traffic, housing development(s) in the area and general beautification.

Regarding concerns to be brought to the Mayor's Neighborhood Preservation group. I do not believe that our neighborhood is being preserved at all. We are

facing development projects all over the area. The Pepperidge proposal, Strawberry Hill, the Gibbs property and now Norden.

Development can be a very positive thing, however, when our roads are in disrepair, children can't read and the taxpayers are subsidizing a number of ineffective granted agencies we now get to have even more traffic on our streets. Norwalk is slowly turning into Stamford. We need smart planning. We have watched while our taxes increase and our quality of life decrease. We do not have the infrastructure in place to sustain all of this development in such a short period of time. Again, this is NOT smart planning! While Rowayton, West Norwalk and Silvermine are allowed to preserve their communities, East Norwalk and the surrounding areas are taking a beating. I pity the residents of South Norwalk that are sitting ducks for this mayor and redevelopment and their belief that the eminent domain ruling was a good decision.

Something's got to give here there are some very unhappy residents here in town that has had it with some of the decisions regarding development, the roads, the schools and of course the parking issue. These concerns are on both sides of the aisle. Republicans and democrats alike are unhappy.

Perhaps the members of the Mayor's Neighborhood Preservation Committee will take a good hard look at what's being proposed for our area and encourage some of this development to happen gradually, make sure that the infrastructure in place to ensure a good quality of life for ALL residents of Norwalk.

Good luck Laurel and thank you for all that you are doing for East Norwalk (even though my husband believes that the stoplight at Norden and Strawberry Hill was a stupid thing to do-I told him it was because of the upcoming development-which irked him even more, even though he is not against SMART planning and development).

- I would like to see crosswalks at the 2 entrances to Ludlow Park on the Gregory Blvd side of the park (crossing from the park to Roland Ave and Alden Ave). I also think that those small yellow "state law: yield to pedestrians in crosswalk" signs that you can stand on the yellow lines in the middle of the street should be placed at the crosswalks as well. I think this would provide a safer crossing for the neighborhood children and adults using the park, and also may help calm traffic as well (which is a whole separate issue). I honestly can't recall if there are crosswalks on the other side of the park going to Marvin School, but if not, they should be considered as well since cars are directed to park there.
- The cars parked illegally at the corner's of Cove Ave and First Street (around Partner's Cafe) often makes turning from Cove Ave to First Street, and vice versa, difficult and dangerous. Very often at night, cars are parked right on the corners of where those 2 streets meet, making it difficult to see oncoming traffic and physically difficult to make the turns onto Cove Ave from First St. -- especially if there is a car at the Stop sign on Cove Ave. I drive through there daily, and have observed near minor

accidents on several occasions due to this. It would be great to see more visible "no parking" markings on the curbs or street, and more enforcement of the parking violations from Norwalk Police, perhaps with the cooperation of Partners, if those cars are patrons of their establishment. There is usually room to park further down on Cove Ave. *(Please note that I enjoy Partner's Cafe and am not intending to be anti-Partners.)*

- My wife and I have physically submitted a complaint to the Zoning Dept regarding a business sign on William Street (Residential Zone) Safe and Sound Day Care should not be permitted to post a business sign on City Property along a residential street. The Zoning Dept was officially notified over 60 days ago. They told us that it would take up to 45 days to investigate, which seemed ridiculous at the time, but at this point, this complaint needs to go further.

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

Tree Liaison's Report

Laurel Lindstrom & Maribeth Becker are Tree Advisory Committee members and Nick Overall is an ENNA Tree Liaison.

Activity Summary: continuing work on Adopt-A-Spots and attendance at Tree Advisory Committee meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Laurel Lindstrom