

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

**March 8, 2006
Minutes**

Board Member Attendees: Laurel Lindstrom (president), Maribeth Becker, Sarah Hunter, Erik Nees, Wendy Pardue

Guest presenters: Mayor Richard Moccia, Police Chief Harry Rilling, Director of Public Works Hal Alvord, Public Works Traffic Engineer Fred Eshraghi

Street Reps: David Park (Strawberry Hill Avenue)

Others: Liz Ayn, Dorothy Oman, Tom Gorzkowski, Al Raymond, Dianne Witkowsky, Judi Most-Roseff, Mike Roseff, Stanley H. Thomson, Lee Fleming, Scott Bruder, Ellen Bruder, John Lombardi, Bruce Miller, Joe Santo, Richard Lowenthal, Robert Koch (Hour reporter) and several others who did not sign attendance sheet.

1. Meeting called to order at 7:35 PM.
2. Public Participation – none at this time.
3. Minutes
 - a. February 8, 2006 minutes accepted as presented by unanimous voice vote.
4. Reports
 - a. Treasurer's Report – Gordon Tully on Medical LOA; Laurel Lindstrom reported that a separate ENNA bank account has been opened specifically for contributions toward the Liberty Square improvement project.
 - b. President's Report – Laurel Lindstrom
 - i. See attached president's report.
 - c. Mayor's Neighborhood Preservation Committee – Laurel Lindstrom
 - i. Laurel informed Committee of today's ENNA Strawberry Hill Avenue Traffic Safety Forum and invited committee members to attend.
 - ii. Issue of traffic safety on Howard Avenue presented. Fred Eshraghi, Traffic Engineer, will evaluate.
 - d. CNNA – Maribeth Becker
 - i. CNNA meeting discussed "Slow Down Week" and how associations can support.
 - ii. Hal Alvord presented information on the Tree Program.
 - iii. Zoning Task Force and link to historical people discussed.
 - iv. Looking for support for a demolition moratorium.
 - e. NPT – Marija Bryant
 - i. No report in Marija's absence.
 - f. Tree Liaison Report – Nick Overall
 - i. No report in Nick's absence.
 - g. Environmental Report – Diane Lauricella
 - i. No report in Diane's absence
 - h. Newsletter Report – Sarah Hunter
 - i. Board members to submit articles for newsletter.
 - ii. Publication date is March 20 (first day of spring).
5. Programs and Projects:
 - a. Norden Place property

- i. Zoning Commission hearing on March 6th. Hearing closed but no decision will be made until after Conservation Commission closes its hearing
 - ii. Conservation Commission to continue the February 28th hearing on March 28th (for applicant's rebuttal and commissioners to ask questions – no public participation).
- b. Liberty Square Neighborhood Center Improvement Project
 - i. Letter sent on February 21 to Liberty Square property owners updating them and providing a fact sheet.
 - ii. Working on CT Trust grant application.

6. New business – None

7. **Strawberry Hill Avenue Public Forum on Traffic Safety** – started at 8 PM – Co-moderated by Laurel Lindstrom and David Park. Forum panel: Mayor Moccia, Chief Rilling, Hal Alvord and Fred Eshraghi.

- a. **Laurel Lindstrom** introduced the purpose and goals of tonight's forum and gave a history of ENNA involvement with traffic calming – including spearheading the placement signposts with reflective yellow material to better alert drivers in the school zones on SHA.
- b. **David Park** described Slow Down Days and invited residents to participate by making and displaying their own signs in their front yards.
- c. **Chief Rilling** provided additional information on Slow Down Days scheduled for the week of March 20. Other Slow Down Days will be scheduled later in the year to focus on other driving issues. Chief Rilling explained that traffic calming includes education, engineering and enforcement. Stated that it “begins with us” by driving responsibly.
- d. **Mayor Moccia** talked about the misconception by some that tickets issued produce revenue for the City. City doesn't get any money. It all goes to the State. He asked that residents contact legislators to add a \$20 surcharge so that the City could receive the surcharge.
- e. **Hal Alvord** discussed the engineering and education prongs of traffic calming. He said that his public works department had re-established a traffic management section in the past year with additional staff hired – including Fred Eshraghi, Traffic Engineer. Mention was made that there are more schools on Strawberry Hill Avenue and that in this year's Capital Budget there is a request for \$80,000 for a Traffic Calming Plan for Strawberry Hill Avenue. He stated that funds of \$120,000 are also requested for a Citywide Traffic Management Plan.
- f. **Fred Eshraghi** displayed a design map for Strawberry Hill Avenue regarding his recent work to create a School Zone from Westport Avenue to William Street. It would include the three schools – Norwalk High, Nathan Hale Middle and Naramake Elementary. Signs would be placed limiting speed to 20 miles per hour from 8 AM to 4 PM. The 25 miles per hour would continue at other times and at other locations on SHA. Current signs would be evaluated for removal. He said that crosswalks need to be safe. But enforcement is needed.
- g. **Public comment and Q&A**
 - i. Speeding in non-school hours from 11 PM to 7 AM a problem – Chief Rilling will evaluate
 - ii. Parents parking along SHA near NHS create safety issue – principal to be contacted per Chief Rilling.
 - iii. Never seen anyone get a ticket. Police cars speed. School buses speed. Chief Rilling explained that police vehicles may be responding to a call. He said that residents should report if buses speed. He said that more tickets were issued than residents believe.
 - iv. Traffic signal has been requested for SHA at Tierney. Status? Hal Alvord said that it was still requested in the Capital Budget for the upcoming year because it was not approved last year. A resident said that until the Traffic Management Plan and the study for SHA are done it may be a waste of money to put in the traffic light. Hal said that a traffic signal (light) costs \$200,000. Laurel said that the Capital Budget public hearing is on April 4 at 7 PM. Residents can also contact Common Council members prior to the hearing.
 - v. New York City model in past for busting people for quality of life issues promoted. Chief Rilling said that the police do enforce quality of life issues. He mentioned education in schools and work with the Board of Ed. Also at prom time – education provided by the police on traffic safety.

- vi. Norden Place developers have recommended a light at SHA and Beacon. Hal said that it may not happen. More studies are needed by public works.
- vii. Lack of shoveled sidewalks. Side streets near the schools – like William Street – create safety problems for pedestrians when sidewalks not shoveled and children and others have to walk in the streets. Police to be notified – and they do warn and ticket. Suggestion made to be aware of special needs of some neighbors who may be elderly or handicapped. It may be a role of neighbors to help out.
- viii. Losing State aid is many cases
- ix. Community policing suggested. Chief Rilling stated that it is a union issue. He is unable to organize his department for community policing unless union contracts are changed. Union concessions are needed. He defined community policing as dividing the City into 4 to 5 equal grids. Each would be headed by a lieutenant. Under the lieutenant would be sergeants and patrolmen. The benefit would be that each grid – or section of the City – would keep the same officers. Officers and residents would get to know and trust each other. Chief Rilling said that the day and evening officers in East Norwalk remain the same – even without community policing.
- h. David and Laurel thanked the participants.

8. Next regular board meeting: Wednesday April 12, 2006.

9. Meeting adjourned at 10:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Laurel Lindstrom.