

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

**September 8, 2004  
Minutes**

**Attendees:** Laurel Lindstrom, Marija Bryant, Marie De Leo, Erik Nees, Gordon Tully.

**Absent:** Richard Brousseau Jr.

**1. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm**

**2. The minutes of the August 11, 2004 meeting were accepted**

**3. President's Report:**

- a. Laurel will attend "Finding Solutions for Main Street and Neighborhood Revitalization," to be held by CEDF in New Haven on 17 September, 04. Laurel will donate the \$65 fee and be reimbursed. Website is [www.ctmainstreet.org](http://www.ctmainstreet.org).
- b. Laurel will attend free Pro Bono presentation on 22 September 04, "Political Activities and Influencing Legislation." Website is [www.probonopartnership.org](http://www.probonopartnership.org).
- c. Laurel will attend the free DEP "Second Information Workshop on Illegal Dumping Enforcement," in Hartford on 23 September, 04.
- d. Laurel received some e-mails...
  - i. Member and Adopt-a-Spot helper Nancy McClelland cited a need for a crosswalk or stop sign at Seaview at the end of Osborne, a similar need at Overton's, and a need to enforce speed limits on Seaview with a sign and ticketing. A copy went to Frank Mauro and the Mayor.
  - ii. Lindsay Grenier regrets Fall Gathering, but is willing to help set up.
  - iii. David Shockley of Sonick is scheduling our fall cleanup in October, sent a copy to the Mayor.
  - iv. Dues-paying member Larry Rossi, a Fire Commissioner, will try to attend Fall Gathering.
- e. ...and a letter from David Brown to the Mayor, citing many good reasons for including the East Norwalk Library in the city system. David has pursued this effort for some time.

**4. Treasurer's Report**

- a. Marie submitted two versions of the Income and Expense report, one corresponding to our legal fiscal year ending June 30, and another up to present date. As of July 1, we had \$560.83 cash on hand; currently, we have \$419.66.
- b. All are encouraged to keep track of our hours and reimbursable expenses. Those who have been doing so in the past should now submit them to Marie. It is appropriate to move money through the organization to reflect the actual activity going on.
- c. We do not yet have a flow of consistent donations.
- d. Expenses for the Fall Gathering will have to be covered by additional contributions.
- e. Keep receipts for that event!

**5. Amended By-Laws**

- a. After a brief discussion, Gordon Tully moved and Erik Nees and Marija Bryant seconded that we adopt the amended By-Laws as written. This was unanimously approved.

**6. Historic East Avenue Cemetery**

- a. Laurel would like to reach a meaningful milestone on the cemetery historic designation before the Fall Gathering.
- b. The application will be to the Commission on the Arts, Tourism, Culture, History and Film of the State Historic Preservation Office. Once registered on the State Register of Historic Places as a Historic Property, the state will register the property with the National Register of Historic Places.
- c. Laurel walked the cemetery with Dana Laird of the Norwalk Historical Society, who is very knowledgeable about local cemeteries. She took pictures and made descriptions for the applications, which pictures were passed around (very clear).

- d. An inventory form and cover letter are needed. There followed a discussion about how exhaustive an inventory would be required, and whether a book in the library with an inventory of the cemetery dating from the 70's would do the trick. A full inventory would be prohibitively expensive for the near term (\$5,000 or more).
- e. Laurel phoned the Association for Gravestone Studies, and will report info she gets from them.
- f. Worst case would be abandoning the effort—stay tuned.

#### **7. Adopt-A-Spot – Fall Planning**

- a. An extensive and rambling discussion included the following points:
  - i. The site in front of the City Hall has lousy soil, is hard to see, is too narrow, and is dangerous to tend.
  - ii. Marie is in favor of having city tree-tenders drop off chips directly to the site, rather than us picking mulch up at a central location.
  - iii. The small white sign currently on the site is not visible. Although the larger green sign is not our favorite, we will not rock that boat, and will use that sign, which is being advanced by Don Nelson and is approved by all.
  - iv. It was generally agreed that fewer types of showier plants are appropriate, at least at the City Hall site.
  - v. Cheap Chrysanthemums, Russian sage, and Echinacea are available.
- b. Decisions were made as follows:
  - i. Volunteers will at a time undecided dig up the perennials at the City Hall site, and Marie will pot and store them for future use. They will plant Chrysanthemums for the fall, and when they go, mulch the site and leave it for the winter. In the spring, volunteers will plant Russian sage and Echinacea, and install a larger sign.
  - ii. Laurel will put in a bid for the two traffic circles at Ludlow playground for our use in the spring. If we get these areas we will decide later how to plant them.

#### **8. Next Neighborhood Cleanup**

- a. To be at Wall Street in October (see email from David Shockley). There was no further discussion.

#### **9. Fall Gathering**

- a. After a brief discussion about the name, it was decided to hold a planning session at Marija's house at 6 PM on Friday, 10 September, 04, with pizza and beer. [The meeting was rescheduled 9 September—time not known as of this writing].

#### **10. CNNA**

- a. Gordon and Laurel described their meeting earlier in the day regarding the Norwalk Center proposal with Bill Kraus, Bob Wagman, Tony Doumlele, and an expert visitor Jim Leahy. Jim is an ex-lobbyist, and now runs a consulting firm to help non-profits take on projects of various sorts. He had many useful ideas, including setting up a 501-C4 corporation. There will be a CNNA meeting on Monday next.

#### **11. Other Business**

- a. The new work on Strawberry Hill seems to be successful, and traffic is slowing down. The solar-powered lights at the crosswalk at King Street work well (only after sunny days, and after some adjustments—Erik talked to Frank Mauro about these). The BrightSide reflectors are quite visible, running from Tierney to County. Discussion followed about how ENNA can take proper credit for this, as the city will also want to claim it.
- b. Marie noted that the sidewalks in her area are not being maintained, and are a hazard. Suggestions are welcome for appropriate action.
- c. The Mayor's Neighborhood Preservation Task Force is currently spending a lot of time on the issues raised by ENNA, which is encouraging. Nothing was said at the last meeting by P & Z about the pending ZBA matter concerning the building at 19 Fort Point. No decision was made about what, if anything, ENNA wished to do about this derelict building. Gordon suggested that the information collected about past violations be made available to the ZBA.

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 PM.**