

## **WEST HARRISON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

### **Minutes of Meeting: February 28, 2007 at the West Harrison Fire House**

**Attendance: Total – 75:** Board members present: **Fred Sciliano, Charlie Russo, Angela Amodeo, Mario Gallo, , Lori Wilson, Gerri Barbagallo, Gregg Rosenberg.** Board members absent: Lisa Faillace-Sciliano, Jeff LaGrotte

**Fred Sciliano** presided and welcomed all.

The **minutes of the last meeting of January 17<sup>th</sup>** were **approved**, as were the **minutes of the meeting of November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006.**

**Treasurer's Report: Gregg** gave the report for Jeff. \$10, 800 balance. We are officially a 501c3 tax exempt organization. Dues and contributions are tax deductible and no sales tax on purchases. The application process was an arduous task but was worth the effort. In 2006 we ended with \$10,700 cash and raised \$18,000. The 2007 budget will be announced soon.

**Fundraising: Mario** – Our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Dinner Dance and silent auction will be held April 28<sup>th</sup> at Antonees, with a sit down dinner, DJ, and journal. We need members to volunteer their help. Get tickets and donate to the auction. We will be having a picnic on June 9<sup>th</sup> that will be free to members with a nominal fee for guests.

**Seniors: Ro Verano** – We had a meeting on Jan.31 with Rocco Troiano, Ron Belmont and Joe Cannella in attendance. The hot lunch program is running well. Everyone agreed that it has been a success, with lunches being served at both senior centers on Mondays and Tuesdays. Goal is to have lunch 3 times a week. St. Anthony's will be contacted concerning the possible use of their cafeteria for the program during July & August for instead of the Mintzer center since they have air conditioning. The senior exercise class has been well attended at both centers with an average of 30 seniors each class. Rocco will set up a CPR/first aid/choking class and also give training in using a fire extinguisher. They discussed starting a water aerobics class this summer. They discussed the plans for the new senior modular building that should be ready this summer. The ceramics studio will need supplies to start a class this spring. We are looking to get some donated.

**Planning & Zoning: Mary Malara** – List of illegal apartments has been compiled and given to Mayor 3 weeks ago. She discussed the proposed development off Underhill Ave. called the Villas that has single family attached houses that the area is not zoned for.

**Parks & Recreation: Charlie** – They met and planned the cleanup of the Heritage Trail around the lake. Bob Viscome is town liaison. Eagle Scout is proposing a plan and other youth organizations are interested like the High School REEF club. Barbara Specht, Town Historian, has contacted a museum curator from Greenwich that has inspected the formations. Signage will be installed for notes on history, horticulture, geology. A curator from the county will also give input. It will be a wonderful extension of our park. Some local contractors are willing to go in there. We need a lot of help – volunteer.

**Public Works/Traffic & Safety: Gerri** – Chief Hall is coming to our next meeting to address some concerns and answer questions. Discussed some problems after the first snow storm with Bob Wasp.

**Youth: Lori** – We need members for this committee. We need to help provide programs where teens have a place to go. They are shooed out of different areas now and not allowed to congregate. We need a safe, acceptable place for them to go. We hope to have the first meeting in April. Please join.

**Membership & Communications: Angela** – Jo King is the new co-chair with Angela. Members' dues reminder letters are out and dues are coming in. A nice response so far. Please pay your dues soon. We are planning a newsletter to be out in April.

Next meeting will be Wednesday March 28<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are available for the HHS oldies show.

**Fred introduced Mayor Stephen Malfitano:** He gave an overview of the West Harrison projects and concerns. The Villas development – official position of town is that B zone can build one, 2 family home even side-by-side, but the zoning doesn't allow 2 deeded side-by-side anywhere in town. Must be sold as one deed. It is very clear that our zoning doesn't support condo, must be individual owner.

He thanked the WHNA for the compiling of the list of 150 illegal apartments which he gave to the building department and action is in process. A task force with a significant number of people including police will be dispatched twice a week. Each and everyone on the list will be investigated. We have updated the fines and fee schedules. There will be increased criminal penalty for illegal dwelling and will institute separate substantial civil complaint with a fine of \$1000 a day. (floor – names should be published.)

Streetscape – work is commencing, Verizon has begun replacing the poles. The final bid package is due; work to begin in early April. Areas of sidewalk will be colorized stamped concrete, very decorative. Numerous granite planters across the street. Also sidewalks on inner border. Taylor Square will have a full face lift. In front of firehouse there will be a product in the roadway of colorized stamped asphalt. Walking trails will tie in with the park. Should be done by Labor Day. Patience will be needed during the work. The spur at end of Grant will become the entrance to the park – to bid in early May. Exit from park will eventually be across from the end of Columbus. The next park phase will be the pool complex – plans are ready.

Mintzer Center annex for seniors – he will formally request for it to be put out to bid. It will be a 3800 sq. ft. Butler type building and is designed specifically for senior programs. It is going on the right side of the existing building and to the left of the Shell Station. He showed plans and drawings. There is quite a bit more space than what is available at the center now. 110 to 125 seniors participate in the program now and this will be a great enhancement.

They found a document from 1945 that seems to prove that the town owns the lake.

Downtown, 2 projects will commence in a few months – a recreation project on Oakland Ave. and a new court house at the old train station.

Master Plan update presentation: The mayor stated that this is the first presentation to the town, an updating process for the town's master plan, which they had determined was a valid document, and that the best direction to go in was to update it. The committee has been involved with the process of reviewing and updating and the town board was purposely out of the process. The committee is a real mix of town people with members of the planning board, town employees and town board liaison Joe Cannella working with the planning consultants of BFJ Planning. The draft document was delivered to everyone at the same time, the mayor and town board included – it is a workable draft – it is “a document of the people” of Harrison, not of the mayor or town board or planners. There will be two more public forums for comments and suggestions, all of which will be compiled and the final draft will come from this, then go to the town board for either more work, acceptance or rejection.

The mayor then introduced Town Planner, Patrick Cleary: He talked about the makeup of the advisory committee, him being a member, along with our president, Fred Sciliano in his capacity as Chairman of the Architectural Review Board, Joseph Cannella, Deputy Mayor/Supervisor, Ron

Belmont, Recreation Super., Holly Bukofser, Chairwoman of the Environmental Comm., Mark Fisher, Chairman Zoning Board, Tom Heaslip, Chairman Planning Board, Joe Latwin, Deputy village Attorney. This draft document was specifically formed to solicit discussion and recommendations, and encourage all to participate in the process. He will keep records of all issues brought up here and at the other forums planned. He can be emailed at [pcleary@townharrisonny.gov](mailto:pcleary@townharrisonny.gov) . He introduced Harlan Sexton, BFJ Planning Consultant who presented the draft plan and displayed numerous charts. She stated plan is definitely a draft; chapter needs to be written after community participation, after hearings and public forums. The actual plan is heavy on graphics. (A meeting agenda with issues pertinent to West Harrison was supplied and limited copies of the master plan draft.) The first part is an update of the 1988 plan – a town-wide analysis of functional areas that affect all. The second part is of specific areas and the last part is all issues collected. One map is a future land use plan – what would happen on every square inch of town. For West Harrison, a synopsis of physical features – she described what’s included in the plan and how to read the graphics. Some concerns for WH – park, Mintzer Center, parking – what’s here, what works, what needs attention. Hoping to get any corrections from the public. No large scale changes a planned for West Harrison. We need design guidelines for building exteriors. The committee did not agree on what to do about the Lake Street Quarry – expectation is something will happen there some day – recommendations needed from residents for when owners sell. She proceeded to take discussion, recommendations, and questions from attendees. Consensus was apparent on no chain stores or restaurants and on the urgent need for a post office.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Angela Amodeo, Secretary  
West Harrison Neighborhood Association