

# WEST HARRISON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES OF MEETING: January 16, 2008 West Harrison Fire House

**Board members all present:** Lori Wilson, Gregg Rosenberg, Jeff LaGrotte, Lisa Faillace-Sciliano, Charlie Russo, Mario Gallo, Angela Amodeo, Gerri Barbagallo.

**President Lori Wilson** welcomed all and introduced our new **Town Councilmen/Trustee Fred Sciliano** in attendance as a member, our former president. She praised him for his efforts as one of the founders of the WHNA and as president of this organization for its first 3 years. (She welcomed **Town Councilman/Trustee Tom Scappaticci** also in attendance and also a member.)

The **minutes** of the last meeting of **November 14, 2007** were approved.

**Treasury Report: Jeff LaGrotte** – Balance is \$14,100.00 and books are closed on 2007. In 2007, \$18,000.00 was raised and \$15,000.00 was spent, this being \$3,000.00 ahead of 2006. We have a preliminary 2008 budget. Fund raising and dues remain an important component.

**Lori** introduced former trustee **Gregg Rosenberg** appointed by this board of directors as our new vice president.

She told of the WHNA participating in honoring **former Mayor/Supervisor Steve Malfitano** at his last town board meeting. Our organization joined other town groups in presenting him with a certificate of appreciation, soon to be a permanent plaque. Lori read the speech she read at that meeting thanking Steve for his tenure and service to the town of Harrison, and for his openness and assistance to our association.

She also read a letter that she wrote to our new **Mayor/Supervisor, Joan Walsh**, a member of this association, congratulating her, and reminding her of the concerns of West Harrison and hoping that we will all work together – that she will work with us for the future. She has agreed to meet with the board of directors of the West Harrison Neighborhood Association in a couple of weeks. She will be our guest speaker at our February meeting and will be attending our dinner dance in April.

### Committee Reports

**Building Community and Fundraising: Mario Gallo** – We have decided not to have a picnic this summer and to make it an every-other-year event.

The Board of Directors of the WHNA has decided to rename our “Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony” to more accurately reflect its meaning. It will now be known as the “Christmas Tree Lighting and Holiday Celebration.”

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Dinner Dance and Silent Auction will be held on April 12<sup>th</sup> at Antonee’s, with full multi-course sit-down dinner, open bar, DJ, silent auction and journal. This is our one major fundraiser of the year. We need donations of new items, gift baskets, donated services or events to auction. And we need journal ads. Committee meets next on February 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Parks and Recreation Committee: Charlie Russo** – We will be trying to get our Heritage Trail project back on tract as an important part of the new park renovation. We need people to join us. A White Plains neighborhood association contacted Lori and they want to work on the trail on their side of the lake.

**Senior Committee Report: Ro Verano** - No new meeting to report on. Waiting to air some issues with new administration. Rocco (*recreation director of Seniors Club*) and team are now in charge of the lunch program (*that was initiated, set up, and managed by this committee of the WHNA*). We need more seniors to join our committee to help work on issues. There is no word yet on when the new senior building will be started.

**Public Works /Traffic & Safety/: Gerri Barbagallo** – State Assemblyman Adam Bradley has set up a meeting for Monday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at the Mintzer Center for all interested residents on our areas flooding issues. Lori read correspondence from Michael Amodeo of the engineering department on the Main St. water abatement project. The county may have involvement. The consultant working with them is satisfied that the NYDOT- I287 project has no negative impact on the Main St. flooding.

Bob Wasp will talk to us tonight about recycling rules according to the county laws.

(In response to concerns from the floor, Gerri will contact Chief Hall to discuss the ongoing problem of trucks speeding down Underhill and Lake that may be overweight, many possibly overweight trucks coming to and from the quarry, and increased speeding on White Plains Ave. Also, from the floor, Locust Ave. residents were notified by the DOT about concrete foundation work being done soon, will be at residents back property lines but will not disturb their yards. Mr. Wasp added that his office has been tracking this part of the project and staying on top of it to be sure that they are not impacting private property.) (Lori mentioned condition of library grounds and Mr. Wasp said he has plans in the works.)

**Youth Committee: Lori** – meeting on Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. Need members to join this committee.

**Membership & Communications: Angela Amodeo** – We had 207 members for 2007. We need our members to renew their dues for 2008 and we are sending out reminder letters soon. We have new table and suggestion box. Give us names of new residents so we can invite them to join. Tonight we will choose a “Member of the Month” from those attending. A name will be drawn from all current (dues-paid) members present and they will be presented with a gift purchased from a local merchant.

**Lori** asked for members to sign up for committees. Consider sharing your ideas even if you can’t make meetings. She relayed information from Mayor Walsh on a ConEd rate increase being proposed of 33% on delivery portion of bill. The county is taking comments on this increase before an upcoming hearing. You can call 800-335-2120 or email the county website before February 8<sup>th</sup>. (Floor – concern about Villa’s housing development not following zoning laws and loss of parking with extra driveway.)

**Next general meeting is Wednesday, February 13**, with special guest Mayor Joan Walsh.

**First Member of the Month** was chosen, **Richard Swenson**, and he was presented with a bottle of wine purchased from Silver Lake Liquors. (His picture will be put up on the website.)

**Guest Presentation: Bob Wasp, Commissioner of Public Works:** The construction site at Passidomo Park is setting the stage for the new pool complex. Schedule has had to be moved up and pools will not go in until the end of the summer. Re-bidding is being done now. Next Thursday it will go for town board approval for minor change and then go out for bid in 30 to 40 days. The new access road, a part of Phase 3, will happen after the old pool is gone. Phase 4 will involve a new recreation building with small lap pool. Structure needs to be sized to needs and a location finalized. The concept plan is going to board next Thursday. Location of that building will also finalize plan for access road.

Streetscape contractor is ready. Cablevision and Verizon contracts were the hang-up that has held up the commencement of this project. Last price is almost ready, and once they have the final construction plans from those 2 utilities, it will be a go.

Leaf collection – as of January 11<sup>th</sup>, no more bulk pickup. Any new leaves can only be collected if placed in brown paper bags. Street sweeping – one sweeper is dedicated to West Harrison and Purchase. Sometimes there are access problems on a street. We will get the police to help if necessary. Let us know if there’s a problem.

Pot holes – cold patch being applied now. Call or email DPW: 670-3100, 3103, 3104 to report.

Main Street drainage – the county has committed assistance to get this done and our engineering department is working very hard on it and doing a great job.

Senior Center annex – bid documents are in office and ready to go out. Working on some changes, then ready to advertise. Fire codes had to be addressed. We had to get the design absolutely right and that took longer than expected. Construction should take 4 to 6 months. Looking at August or September for completion.

Recycling – We have been working with the Westchester County recycling law of 1992. Harrison has been very proactive in its recycling program. We have been awarded for the stellar job that we do. Now the county is taking it to the next level by enforcing the letter of the law. As of February 1<sup>st</sup> the laws will be enforced and fines may be issued to home owners. The town will be fined if recyclables are mixed in with regular garbage. Our workers need to be the police on this. It will come down to them if fines are issued. They will use stickers issued by the county to refuse improperly separated trash. The size of the containers is restricted to the size of the blue recycling boxes although you can use your own container. Separation is: metal / plastic / #1 & 2 glass in one container; paper / newspaper / cardboard in another. They cannot be mixed with each other. *(He supplied printed info sheets and booklet.)* No contaminated containers, no plastic bags, no peanuts, no styrofoam, no waxed cardboard like cereal boxes, no paint cans, no caps, no aluminum siding. Cans must be cleaned. No panes of glass, no mirrors, no drinking glasses, vases, no light bulbs. Cardboard boxes need to be flattened and bundled. He will check on how and whether shredded paper should be recycled and collected. Paper should be placed in bins, cannot be recycled in plastic bags. You can see info on the Public Works page of the town's website and the Westchester County website. *(Both can be accessed from our website – [www.whnainc.org](http://www.whnainc.org))*

Respectfully Submitted,  
Angela Amodeo, Secretary