

WEST HARRISON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Meeting: January 17, 2007 at the West Harrison Fire House

Attendance: Total – 29 : Board members present: **Lori Wilson, Gregg Rosenberg, and Mario Gallo.**
Board Members absent: Fred Sciliano, Geri Barbagallo, Jeff LaGrotte, Lisa Faillace-Sciliano, Angela Amodeo, Charles Russo.

Lori Wilson presided and welcomed all.

The **minutes of the last meeting of September 20, 2006** could not be approved because of an insufficient number of board members present.

Treasurer's Report: Gregg Rosenberg – Balance is \$9,200.00. We will be sponsoring 2 Little League teams this spring for a cost of \$400. Jeff will present a recap of 2006 financial statement at next meeting, and the budget for 2007. We placed a \$2000.00 down payment for the April dinner dance. Great news – we have been approved as a 501c3 organization. Our dues and donations are now tax deductible.

Tree Lighting Ceremony Recap: We had a great turnout. There were “wonderful” comments from the membership. The food went fast. Next year we will have the stage across the street on the mall so as not to block entrances to businesses on Taylor. Help is always needed.

Planning & Zoning Committee: The town has received a proposal for a development off Underhill Ave. at the site of Clark's Towing. Homes proposed – 5 facing Daniel St., and 4 facing Harrison St.

There will now be no storage shed built near Preston School. It will go a LMK instead.

Ed DiBuono is back to work from an extended sick leave (enforcement officer). Our board members had a meeting with the mayor and he assured us that illegal housing is still a concern of town government. The mayor knows how WHNA feels about this issue and the board will continue pursuing action on it.. Some plans in the works cannot be discussed at this time. Keeping pressure on. Forms for illegal housing reports can go to Mr. Fitzsimmons at the building department.

The new Master Plan draft will be unveiled at a town board meeting on February 13. Meetings for public presentation will be set up.

Public Works Committee: Lisa is stepping down as co-chair with Gerri. We need someone to take her place.

The streetscape project is underway. Telephone poles going in. some parking spots lost – up to the utilities. Poles must be moved to redesign roadways and sidewalks. The mayor will be here at our February 28th meeting to update the project.

The clock will be installed in the intersection in July and there will be some kind of town July 4th celebration.

Parks & Recreation Committee: The committee met to talk about the Heritage Trail project. We have some commitment from Eagle Scouts for the cleanup involving individuals projects. We want to install new signs. We need volunteers in the early spring for the cleanup.

Silver Lake cleanup – the town is committed to the carp project – stocking the lake with these fish to scavenge the bottom growth. Permits are pending and hoping to proceed in the late summer. (This was an idea brought to the mayor by the WHNA board).

We will have a summer barbeque at the park on June 9th, free to members and nominal cost to guests.

Fundraising Committee: 2nd Annual Dinner Dance/Silent Auction with a journal will be held on April 28th, 7:pm to 11:30pm, at Antonee's. There will be a DJ, open bar, and sit down dinner at \$65/person. Volunteers are needed – see Mario. There will be assigned seating this time.

Membership Committee: Lisa is stepping down – Angela will be chairman and she needs a co-chair. Dues are \$20/person, \$15/ over 65. Letters are going out to remind us to pay dues. We will produce a newsletter and we need volunteers to help.

Traffic & Safety: We will invite Chief Hall to a future meeting. The Harrison Police Department is involved in a child safety education program and the WHNA is donating \$112.50 to support supplies for 50 children. (Concerns from the membership about speeding on Underhill Ave. will be passed on to chief.

Seniors Committee: Meal program going well. Ceramics hasn't started yet. We are looking for suggestions for programs. We hope to see the plans of the new senior center building and have input to be sure it meets the needs of the seniors. We will be following up on the buddy program. H & R Block is to review senior taxes. We are working to get a column on seniors in the local newspaper. At the completion of the new pool we will work to get a water aerobics classes. We requested a CPR and fire safety class. The intergenerational program hasn't started yet.

Youth Committee: New committee that Lori will chair. Teens have no acceptable hang out. We are looking to partner with the town to find ways for the kids to spend their leisure time and will talk with Chief Hall about options. What about a teen center? We need ideas from our membership – teen swim, kids on committee.

Next Meeting - February 28, 7:30: Mayor Stephen Malfitano will be our guest. He will update us on the streetscape. If we get electronic plans we can email to membership. There will be an earlier meeting that the mayor will schedule to speak about the new Master Plan.

Tickets to Oldies Concert on March 24, at HHS, by the HHS softball team are available – see Gregg.

Guest Presentation - George Klein of the Sierra Club, with Karen Schultz: He spoke on the clubs view of the adverse environmental effects of the Westchester County Airport on our drinking water and air quality and provided a slide documentary. The Lower Hudson Group is a part of the Sierra Club which was founded in 1892 to follow environmental issues and political issues that effect the environment. The airport is too close to the reservoir and pollutants increase with the size of the airport. The FAA doesn't have to report toxic emissions – it can supersede environmental law. We are affected by emissions. There are resolutions for no expansion but we must be vigilant. Plans for expansion are back and we can't get pledge for no expansion. The County owns the airport and can stop expansion. They need to hear from the community. It is the largest corporate airport in the country. Non-expansion is no additional flights, gates, etc. or increase in footprint or capacity. DEP and EPA support the Sierra Clubs position. By today's environmental standards, this airport would never be allowed at this location. The National Academy of Sciences stated Westchester County Airport is a serious threat to our drinking water. 75% of the airport can have unlimited expansion. Only 25% is subject to an agreement with Westchester County. Expansion increases the likelihood of accidents and spills. A public hearing is anticipated in March. The notice for the meeting will be on the club's site – www.sierraclub.org. It is vital that the public attends. On January 24, there is an Airport Advisory Committee Meeting at 7:30pm at the airport terminal to review updates of environmental scoping. "A safer airport should not equal an expanded airport." The County of Westchester has the power to stop expansion. Call county legislators – 995-2800, send letters – Sue Swanson, Mary Rogowsky. Call people to go to meetings.

Respectfully Submitted,
Angela Amodeo, Secretary
(As recorded by Margaret Kennedy)
West Harrison Neighborhood Association