

## WEST HARRISON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

### **Minutes of Meeting: June 16, 2005, West Harrison Fire House**

**Attendance: 48**

**Fred Sciliano** opened the meeting at 7:45. He introduced our guest speaker, our representing **County Legislator Bob Astorino**. He gave a brief introduction of himself and his goals and then took some questions and comment from the floor. He promised to look into the problem with the light at Westchester Ave. at the bottom of White Plains Ave. which is controlled by the county. He watched a video taken and narrated by **Tony Sanchez** that showed the terrible traffic situation in the morning at that light and White Plains Ave. and Locust St. It showed the problems and dangers and the stagnated egress from the area. Mr. Astorino's e-mail is [raa8@westchester.gov.com](mailto:raa8@westchester.gov.com) and he can be contacted with concerns.

**Jeff LaGrotte** gave the treasury report. Balance is \$2200 through May and half of this total is through donations. We have 115 dues paying members. Expenses are low so far. He has filed an amendment to our incorporation to get a charitable organization status which will be beneficial.

The minutes of the last meeting in May were approved,

**Fred and Lisa** had a follow-up meeting with Code Enforcement Officer Ed DiBouno. He reported there have been 83 town wide illegal dwelling raids so far, 75% of them in West Harrison, and 52 prosecutions as a result. The commitment of the court is there and action is being taken. And judges are enforcing the fines, but most people are paying the fines and signing agreements to allow re-inspection for 2 years with 24 hours notice. Letters are going out town wide from the town lawyers about the illegal apartment task force and actions that are being taken. We need to speak up to protect our neighborhood.

**Holiday Tree Lighting: Your secretary** reported on plans for this event that will be held in early December. We have gotten preliminary approval and pledge of cooperation from the mayor and the department of public works. We will ask for the use of the firehouse for refreshments after the lighting and the singing of carols. (The plans were enthusiastically received by the membership.)

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Planning, Architecture & Zoning** – **Fred** gave the report prepared by the Chairman **Carlo Nero**. There is a large subdivision being planned for Sherman Ave. and Fred and Carlo will be attending the zoning board meetings on it. A subdivision on Park & Hancock was approved by the zoning board. There are 2 subdivisions on Woodside Ave. in process and another in process on Gainsborg & Madison. The Aquario restaurant has an expansion in process. A Siino building behind the apartment building on Pearl & Lake is in process with commercial space and apartments above. They discussed Tony Sanchez's traffic study at White Plains Ave./Locust/ Westchester Ave. There is a new liquor store going in down the street with nice sign and awning. There are proposed changes for corner lots having 15 foot setbacks and a reduction in lot coverage from 35% to 30%. They will meet again on July 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Membership & Communications** – **Lisa** reported on the ongoing membership drive. 600 letters are out and more ready to go.

**Public Works, Utilities & Beautification** – **Maryann DiSimone** reported on the committee meeting with Bob Wasp and Councilman Joe Cannella. They reviewed sanitation and highway issues: bus stops, condition of the library property, handling of recycling bins, streets to be repaired, cleaning

of storm drains, pickup of leaves and branches, tree plantings, street cleaning equipment problems. A task list is being kept.

**Seniors - Rosemary Verano** reported that the committee will be touring the Rye Brook Senior Center to review their meal program which is a good model for us to follow. Meals are catered and there are less mandates. She wants to do a census to compile needs for the seniors. They will meet with Joe Cannella to get something started with a trial meals program. They will address the under use of the downstairs room at the Mintzer Center.

**Fund Raising - Mario Gallo** reported that they will have a table at the Its Great to Live in Harrison Day celebration on Columbus Day. They are looking to do a neighborhood cookbook. They are hoping to have a one year anniversary dinner dance.

**Fred** reported on a new possible post office site – the owner of Aquarios restaurant has offered his garage and he is willing to work with them on renovations. Also being looked at is the old Lake Farms Market and the former post office site on Underhill Ave..

**Gregg Rosenberg** spoke of our new website that will have meeting minutes and informational postings.

A plea was made by board members for membership. The dues are low and we need funds to keep going. There were several comments from the floor complementing the board for establishing this organization and encouraging funding by paying membership dues and donations.

**Discussions:** A short discussion spoke of the sex offenders living in the county shelter at the airport that are passing through town on the way to White Plains. Legislation needs to be changed in Albany to commit those that are likely to repeat. These violent sexual predators need to be housed in a more secure facility. We need to find out from Chief Hall if they notify anyone in the town about predators in the neighborhoods.

A member complained about the postal kiosk in the library. It is never working properly and she is disgusted with the problems there and the lack of a proper facility.

There are homeless men gathering in the woods around the lake.

The next meeting will be on September 15. Other meeting dates will likely be October 20, and November 17.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Angela Amodeo, Secretary