

WEST HARRISON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Meeting: March 28, 2007 at the West Harrison Fire House

Attendance: Total – 38: Board members present: **Fred Sciliano, Charlie Russo, Angela Amodeo, Mario Gallo, , Lori Wilson, Gerri Barbagallo, Gregg Rosenberg, Jeff LaGrotte.** Board members absent: Lisa Faillace-Sciliano.

Fred Sciliano presided and welcomed all.

The **minutes of the last meeting of February 28th** were **approved.**

Treasurer's Report: Jeff - balance of approximately \$14,000.00. A number of expenses coming up with dinner dance. Working on a preliminary budget with an objective to predict how much funds will be left to put back into the community.

Linda Levine, Assemblyman Adam Bradley representative – reported that they have been in contact with DOT about the closure of the White Plains access at Columbus Ave. They said the ramp had to be closed to facilitate reconstruction and will take time and is just a temporary measure. They have installed and opened a temporary pedestrian bridge that is accessible. Morning traffic is a problem, but they will be reopening Columbus to Westchester Ave. when this is over. The Westchester/Locust Ave. fence will be replaced in the next 1 ½ years and will not impinge on property. They will put in a low fence with trees. New drainage system being done where the Bark Park was at the end of Main St. in White Plains but will be reopened. The vast areas that have been deforested will be replanted with young trees. (Except those areas that were cleared by the TVA for their gas line visibility.) The DOT liaison that they work with is Greg Kisloft, 253-0595. Adam is working very hard to restore the healthcare cuts that were made in the state's budget. (Joan Walsh-town clerk-said that the DOT met with the town and they will be showing them plans for landscaping.)

Fundraising: Mario – Our 2nd annual Dinner Dance and silent auction is one month away, April 28th at Antonees, with a sit down dinner, DJ, and journal. We need members to volunteer their help. Proceeds will be used for various purposes in the community. Buy tickets, take ads. We will be having a barbecue picnic on June 9th and we will give an update on that soon.

Seniors: Lori Wilson for RoVerano – Rocco will contact St. Anthony's to request use of their cafeteria for the seniors summer lunch program. Rocco has planned classes in exercise and cpr. Ro contacted Peekskill about their program, and will look to the White Plains YMCA for an aerobics swim program. The fire Marshall, Steve Surace, has concerns about the placement of the new senior center building being planned, but the town board passed the resolution 3 to 2 and will work out the logistics. Ceramics will start in April.

Planning & Zoning: Mary Malara – the town board passed the senior center resolution 3 to 2 to advertise for bids and mentioned the issue of placement with the fire marshal. Ron Belmont wants to keep the skate rink where it is and Steve thinks the building should go there. The other side is too close to the gas station. The Master Plan will be revised after all the town meetings are held. At the planning board meeting last night, the building of a total of 20 new homes in West Harrison were discussed – some in Park Lane area. A lot had to do with steep slopes, wetlands – all to be reviewed. Construction has started on The Silver Lake Villas project. They will appear before the planning board on April 11, for a subdivision requirement for part of the project.

Fred announced at the request of the Villa's management that there will be an informal presentation made at Michangelo's Restaurant on April 11 at 5:00 pm. Any interested resident is invited. They also have asked to come to our next meeting, April 18, to show their project and answer any questions. (The board agreed to put them on the agenda.)

Parks & Recreation: Charlie – Plans are being discussed on being the Heritage Trail cleanup and construction – researching history. Bob Wasp has assigned Bob Viscome to work with us on the cleanup. Machines will go in where able. An Eagle Scout candidate, Michael Agazzi will go in with a group within the next few weeks. Bob Viscome has been very helpful going in there a few times a week already. Committee members will identify plantings – speaking to a geological expert and checking guidelines for signage and cost, contacting people in the County for money. Need help in purchasing ideas. Some contractors are willing to work with us. Meeting next week.

Concern has been raised about use of the field by outside interests preventing our kids from having free time there. Manhattanville College has been there. (Need to invite Ron Belmont to answer questions on that and a few other things.)

Public Works/Traffic & Safety: Gerri – this committee needs members. We need an update on tree planting. The street sweeper has been doing a lot of side streets.

New Youth Committee: Lori – this committee is on hold while gathering members.

Membership & Communications: Angela – About 155 members have renewed by paying 2007 dues. We have 3 new 2007 members – total 158, this from a base of 266 over the 3 years. Be sure to see our website to read minutes and see announcements. Gregg Rosenberg does a great job with this site. Our mailing list has been cut – only dues paying members will receive mailings.

Guest Speaker:

Harrison Chief of Police Dave Hall – He began by commending the WHNA for organizing this part of town and helping to keep residents informed on what is going on and what is needed. Complaints and problems are always forwarded to him by this board.

In the last few weeks the police department notified the building department of 10 violations of illegal apartments that they discovered during their activities. We can notify him or the building department of illegal apartments. This issue is a big problem that affects all aspects of the town. We may have to address 2 side street parking in the future even though it will make street cleaning a problem among other things.

360 Parking tickets were written in West Harrison from January to March 7th. There were 526 moving violations with 280 of them for speeding. Enforcement is the only thing that works. Resident parking permits may be good idea for parking lots. Traffic stops and police presence seem to be preventing burglaries – those numbers on the White Plains side of the Hutch are much higher than on the Harrison side.

In response to a question, he stated that there is no organized police/building department task force on illegal apartments, even though they have gone out on a few raids in the past.

He discussed various issues with the membership and guests.

There was a floor discussion on issues with the Villas project and questions to Mary Malara on her perception of misrepresentations by the builder.

Next meeting – April 18 – Assemblyman Adam Bradley. May meeting – we will invite Ron Belmont, Superintendent of Recreation. June meeting – suggestion to invite the town justices.

Respectfully Submitted,
Angela Amodeo, Secretary