

## **WEST HARRISON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

### **Minutes of Meeting: May 24, 2006 at the West Harrison Fire House**

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

**Lori Wilson** opened the meeting with a welcome to all.

The **minutes of the last meeting of April 26, 2006** were approved.

**Treasurer's Report: Jeff LaGrotte** –. Balance is \$13,600. Dues for 2006 are coming in steadily. The decision has been made to purchase insurance for the Board of Director's and we are getting quotes on general liability insurance.

**Lori** reported on the meeting that the board held with Mayor Malfitano and Councilman Cannella:

1. They insisted that they are committed to continue working on shutting down illegal housing and the process is ongoing, it has not stopped.
2. The issue of a post office in West Harrison has proven extremely frustrating since the USPS apparently does not want to put one here, but the efforts will continue.
3. The Mayor assured us of the value of the continuing traffic stops and reported on the number of illegal activities or objects that they have found through them.
4. They discussed a number of ideas to tackle the illegal parking issue.
5. The homeless camps behind the lake have been cleared out. Our police department is working with the White Plains police and the County police to keep these out. Residents should let them know what they see. Communication is important.
6. Unofficially, the DOT is not going to build a noise barrier wall and is not going to remove the intersection as they had planned, but he is looking to have this put in writing. (Linda Levine, present, assistant to Assemblyman Adam Bradley reported on the letter that went out to residents and said that this was official and these things would not be done. Lori thanked her and Mr. Bradley for their valuable assistance on this issue.

### **Committee Reports**

**Membership & Communications: Lisa Faillace-Sciliano**– May 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. We will publish a West Harrison Neighborhood Association newsletter and a West Harrison Business journal (not for fundraising, but as a member service.)

**Seniors: Ro Verano** – they held two meetings in May. They met with Councilman Joe Cannella, Recreation Superintendent Ron Belmont, and seniors recreation director Rocco Troiano to discuss the ongoing WHNA sponsored programs. The successful lunch program is continuing into the summer at Preston School. Pilone's Deli will continue to prepare the meals. They are looking to make some choice changes from suggestions. The suggestion to the senior club that they elect a board of directors to run their meetings and business has been accepted and they will have elections in the fall. They met with the director of the children's center, Stephanie Donworth about a Grandparents program with the seniors and this will be planned. The Harrison Report newspaper editor was approached by Ro about some publicity for the seniors and they will publish a once a week column on the seniors activities with seniors from the centers being the reporters. The paper will also publish the lunch calendar. Ron Belmont will look into status of the kiln and will hire a part timer to teach ceramics. Regarding the future, the committee made it very clear to the town officials that there is a serious concern about the safety of the seniors in the present building. Even renovations to make use of the downstairs area will not change that. The committee

suggested only a new building, even a prefab or temporary if necessary, is desperately needed in the near future. The committee is looking to work on securing grant money.

**Planning and Zoning: Mary Malara** – she spoke to Ed DiBouno. Illegal housing raids will began again on May 12. They declared one house unsafe and put a stop work order on another house, and found 5 illegal apartments, all on one block on Lincoln Ave. He welcomes the cooperation of the neighborhood association and will be continuing with the availability of police escorts. Discussed various parking problems in neighborhood. Most come back to illegal housing, so will address all efforts to it and the town know that. Developed liaison with White Plains Police, Officer John Donworth and will keep informed. Discussed illegal realtor advertising concerning illegal apartments and a letter being prepared concerning it. At the town planning board, an error was found in the steep slope law and it was corrected; and potential town house zoning was turned down. Spoke to Bob Wasp about having constable ticket disheveled properties. Mary spoke on a personal note about garage structure to be built by the school board near Preston. She is in process of fact finding on the issue which she opposes. Joan Walsh, present, said the structure will be about a 50 by 60 feet building to store trucks and other supplies like fertilizers.

**Public Works: Lisa** – met with Bob Viscome about tree plantings. They are focusing on removal of hazardous trees and stump removal. The town is going out to bid for new trees. They have a list where many trees were taken down and will establish some nice landscaped areas. White Plains Ave. will be completely repaved after work is finished. Main work will be starting on Gainsborg in the summer.

**Parks and Recreation: Charlie Russo** – Spoke to Ron Belmont about additional advertising of events – banners, boards, etc. and about more security at Park. Talked of attendants at gate and having police make more patrols. Park personnel will have to be more pro-active. Parking permits would be difficult at this time. Lake cleanup – Ron thinks grant should be forthcoming for cleanup and trail identification. Town historian Barbara Specht offered services to help. Additional grant monies may be available. Mary Malara and Joan Walsh are securing an area map to understand boundaries for heritage trail. Area has a lot of history. Charlie asked for volunteers to help on this project and thanked Ron.

There will be no general meetings in the summer months. Committees and board will meet at various times. The **next general meeting** will be in **September** at a date to be determined.

**Guest Presentation: Mayor Stephen Malfitano, Bob Wasp, and the Diversified Technology Consultants with an updated plan for the West Harrison Park and Streetscape Renovations:**

The Mayor informed that the original streetscape renovation plan has been expanded and will now include the area all the way through Taylor Square and the Lake/Underhill intersection, a new entrance to the park, and other changes to the original plans. The clock purchased by the Harrison Beautification Committee will be placed in an island to be created at the Lake/Underhill intersection. There will be a left hand turn lane at Madison. Sidewalks will be made 14 to 16 ft. wide and will make café style dining possible. Granite curbing will be installed and concrete stamped and colored sidewalks in front of the fire house will stand out. There will be new lighting, trees, planters with benches built into them. The parking lot will remain basically the same. There will be a new 4 corner intersection at Grant St. slowing the flow of traffic with a new turning lane. Copies of the sketches of the park plan and streetscape plans were distributed. They haven't determined yet the need for a traffic light. Will work for safety. A new asphalt walking pathway (a colorized new material) has been installed at the new field. This same kind of material will be used all around the site with pathways near the lake and through the area. The "biggest issue" of what to do with the overhead wires was reviewed extensively by the Mayor, Bob Wasp, and the consultants, Mr. Curtis and Mr. Mascia. Getting rid of them is best, but there are significant restraints to doing so. They asked all 3 utilities to study, design and propose cost to relocate these facilities underground. The utilities reported back and the results were explained. Their engineering departments met and presented a detailed analysis with 2 alternatives. 1.) One pole system – 4 or 5 different levels of utilities; major feed for ConEd, major Verizon fiber optics, local services; majority of hardware is on left

side; bring all overhead from one side all to the other. 2.) Totally underground system. When utilities put lines in ground, they are entitled to 100% reimbursement of that cost. There is minimal cost for them for overhead relocation with some cost that the town will have to carry, but could also be minimal. Complete underground is massive work and switch over process. Numbers quoted by ConEd were 2.3 million dollars alone, plus another half million for the town. Verizon could be another 1.3 million and \$100,000 from the town. Cablevision - \$250,000. \$4.4 million in written quotes. Old pole lines would have to stay work and that would be for at least 2 years, delaying any other work until then, and it could be much delayed after that. Some of the buildings owners would have to bear additional upgrade costs of 25 to 50 thousand dollars to accept the new service. Business district would be in an extended state of chaos for at least 2 years and probably more. Mail feeder lines from White Plains to the airport make the cost here much higher than other locations. Relocation of utilities does not warrant grant money. In the 1 pole system relocation, more aesthetic poles are available. The cost and time circumstances make the underground option much less attractive.

Pat Galluzzo, the West Harrison fire chief, voiced concern about turning the fire truck at the new intersections planned on the north end of Lake St. He was assured that the designers are aware of the need and will plan accordingly. Another concern from the floor was about the cross walk to the park. A tunnel or bridge cannot be added. Extensive discussion ensued concerning the intersection and crosswalk and traffic and safety.

The second phase of the park plan was reviewed, design plan copies provided. This includes the new pool complex area with 2 pools, an octagonal roofed pool house, and new parking area, with "unbelievable views of the lake". The main pool is three times the capacity of the current pool. Study was done on usage. It will be a walk in at one end and have lap swimming capability at the other end. The other one is a kiddy pool. A walking path connects pool area with lake front to main entrance past lakefront gazebo to the athletic field. The park area is actually being expanded to the north into the existing woods. The existing service building will remain.

Construction bids should be done by September. They are fairly confident that the pool should be operational by mid summer, 2007. New recreation building will be built in phase 3.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Angela Amodeo, Secretary  
West Harrison Neighborhood Association

**Attendance: Meeting of May 24, 2006**

**Total: 75**

John Fuerst	Tony Sanchez	Philip DeIacova
S. Bauleu	Ron Belmont	Jim Carpenito
Rhona Zeytoonian	Tom Scappaticci	Vito Forgione
Bob Wasp	A. Graham Curtis	Fred Mascia
Steve Malfitano	David Hall	Pat Galluzzo
Joan Walsh	Judith LaRocca	Abe Surow
Kathy Shallo	Jerry Shallo	Bert Ricci
Louise Roselli	John Vasta	Frank Cipriano
Nina Cipriano	Rocco Marsico	Al Fiorelli
John Markowitz	Robert Robertson	JoAnn King
Elaine Carlucci	Rose Grosskoph	Linda Levine
Richard Buehler	Anna Gaudenzi	Connie Tartaglia
John Saldi	Nick Saldi	Bruce Winkelman
Roxanne Torres Beecher	Albert Gaudenzi	Carole Buehler
Bill King	K. Woodford	Mary Malara
Janet Sylvia	Alice Montemarano	Virginia Hobby
Christine Odorkiewicz	Ann Neville	John Neville
Rich Conrad	Lynda DeSantis	Angela Amodeo
Fred Sciliano	Lori Wilson	Lisa Faillace-Sciliano
Jeff LaGrotte	Greg Rosenberg	Charlie Russo
Mario Gallo	Fred Riguzzi	Frank Reames
Barbara Reames	Maryann DiSimone	Peter Girillo
Teresa McCauley	Nick Renna	Manuel Cabrol
Anthony Errico	Vincie Errico	Margaret Donahue
Ro Verano	B... R....	Ben Siino