

# WEST HARRISON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES OF MEETING: November 14, 2007, West Harrison Fire House

**Attendance: Total - 70: Board members all present:** Fred Sciliano, Lori Wilson, Gregg Rosenberg, Jeff LaGrotte, Charlie Russo, Mario Gallo, Angela Amodeo, Gerri Barbagallo, Lisa Faillace-Sciliano.

**Vice President (Acting President) Lori Wilson** opened meeting. She congratulated our president **Fred Sciliano** on his election as Councilman/Trustee for our town/village of Harrison, and introduced him. **Fred** stated that he is honored to have been elected councilman/trustee and will serve with honesty and integrity and thanked everyone for their support. (*He will resign as president of WHNA.*) He is very proud of this organization (*that he helped to found 3 years ago*). He highly complimented this board of directors and spoke of the importance of keeping this board intact and asked the membership to support keeping it as it is in the upcoming election.

The **minutes** of the last meeting of **October 17, 2007** were approved.

**Lori** – made a statement about Harrison Watchdog group. The mission of this organization (WHNA) is about building community and working with town officials, based on creating a better quality of life. This group called Harrison Watchdog disparages people personally (website info) and is not the kind of organization that we support.

**Lori** – introduced three of the four candidates running for trustee seats and each made a brief statement on their own behalf. They were Geri Barbagallo, Lisa Faillace-Sciliano, and Gregg Rosenberg. (The fourth candidate, Mary Malara, made her speech at the last meeting.)

**Board Elections: Trustee Mario Gallo** explained the voting procedure. Only members in good standing (dues paid for 2007) could vote. Paper ballots and voting booths were supplied and the voting was done as the meeting proceeded.

**Senior Committee Report: Ro Verano** - The ceramic program hasn't resumed while they are waiting to hire a teacher. Some problems with the lunch meals were mentioned. The architect is showing the final plans for the new senior center annex. Discussed wheelchair accessible van and computers for seniors. Asked for members to join this committee.

**Parks and Recreation Committee: Charlie Russo** – Members walked the Heritage Trail (around the lake) with Mayor Malfitano and Councilman/Trustee Joe Cannella. They walked and discussed plans for the area. Many were pleasantly surprised at how nice it is and could be. They want to make the trails more accessible. It is very pretty and the improvements they want to make will be very good for the community.

**Building Community and Fundraising: Mario Gallo** – Holiday Treelighting Ceremony is on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. We will have a soloist and the student choruses of Harrison High School and S.J. Preston Elementary School will be with us. We need volunteers to help that night.

**Traffic & Safety/Public Works: Gerri Barbagallo:** Regarding the Buckout road disrepair – Bob Wasp told us that resurfacing is not planned yet but patchwork will proceed and future project will be worked on.

**Membership & Communications: Jo King** – We will have a new utility table at the entrance. Please always sign in. We will have a suggestion/question box there for your comments if you would like to use it and the board will respond at the next meeting. Our membership/dues collection drive will begin in mid January. Rose Grosskopf is a new member of our committee.

**Next Meeting – January 16, 2008**

**Linda Levine (NYS Assemblyman Adam Bradley's representative):** He has spoken against the illegal immigrant licensing proposal that the governor wanted to institute. He has spoken to some of our members about some problems with STARR applications. Call them if any are still having problems – 686-7335. Also working on concerns with the DOT project

**Election Results: Mario Gallo** announced the results of the election. Trustee election vote 3 out of 4:

**Lori Wilson** - unopposed for **President** - 61 votes

**Angela Amodeo** - unopposed for **Secretary** - 61 votes

**Lisa Faillace-Sciliano** - **Trustee** - 52 votes - elected

**Gregg Rosenberg** - **Trustee** - 50 votes - elected

**Gerri Barbagallo** - **Trustee** - 47 votes - elected

Mary Malara - Trustee - 20 votes

**Guest Speaker: Greg Kisloff, DOT Community liaison for the I287 ongoing construction project.**

He understands the concerns of the community about the quality of life issues with this project. He listens to and attempts to resolve problems. It is being done in very close proximity to various neighborhoods. The completion date is the end of 2009.

1. Westchester Ave. bridge over I287 – area of congestion – this stage should be completed in October of 2008. The closed connecting ramp is tied to this work and will be opened again in the same time frame.
2. Lake St. overpass – is being completely demolished and reconstructed with temporary being constructed in mid January. Working on MPT (maintenance and protection of traffic) all the time and welcome suggestions from the public any time. Involves relocating of many utilities on N. Kensico Pl. and is very time consuming. There is excavation for a retaining wall and lane improvements to the roadways. Very complex.
3. Landscaping – understands the communities are extremely upset with the loss of so many trees – tremendous impact. WHNA and other neighborhood groups will be contacted to be a part of the planning to replant the landscape. The plan is to spend \$1 million dollars on landscaping project after the construction is completed. The original deforestation was by the Tennessee Gas line company, so situation is a combination of the 2 projects.
4. Westchester Ave. - Overhead signs – one along Anderson Hill Rd. and one along Westchester Ave. Submitted plans to Harrison town will minimize impact of signs on Locust residents. (*Floor – timing of lights should be adjusted at overburdened intersection for morning rush. Causes bottlenecks and lots of frustration.*) *He will call local town, city and county to find out if adjustments can be made for this.* Fencing behind Locust will be built, not sound barrier. They are looking to making improvements to temporary bridges. Don't walk along road – dangerous. Call 253-0595 to report any dangers. (*floor – no "West Harrison" on directional signs on 287.*) *He will address this.*
5. Box culvert concern – met with town officials to see how the drainage will be handled. Mike Chubba, project coordinator addressed this. At frontage road along 287 separating roadway, a drainage culvert is to be built. Will be huge detention area to hold and slowly release the water. The principal of the project and their attempt is not to make any worse but may not be able to make any better. Watershed area is beyond the project scope. Will lessen slightly flow of water into watershed but can not improve it – are controlling the release only, not changing it. Water has to take its natural course. Diverting it will just put the problem into another area and they cannot do that. They will not dredge the Mamaroneck river – that is not part of the project.

Respectfully Submitted, Angela Amodeo, Secretary