

WEST HARRISON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Meeting: November 17, 2005 at the West Harrison Fire House

Attendance: Total 53. Board members present: Geri Barbagallo, Jeff LaGrotte, Lisa Faillace-Sciliano, Mario Gallo, Fred Sciliano, Lori Wilson, Gregg Rosenberg, Charlie Russo, Angela Amodeo.

Fred Sciliano opened the meeting and welcomed all.

The **minutes of the October 19 meeting** were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Jeff reported a balance of \$2200.00. Expenses this month included a \$1000.00 deposit for the April 1 dinner dance \$500.00 for the tree lighting banner.

Committee Reports:

Parks and Recreation – Charlie reported that Donna D'Alesandro met with Ron Belmont (recreation superintendent) and toured the new field and reviewed the progress. Donna submitted a report that said the field is shaping up really well. It drained very well with all the rain. The cement is poured for some facilities. The back stop is being installed. All the gravel and underground piping is in. The electrical work is started for the new lighting, and then the turf will be installed. They are looking at a December 30th deadline.

There will be another tour given by Ron on November 23rd at 11:00am. Charlie gave names of other fields that this contractor has done, as listed in Donna's report, that can be viewed. They are:

Lakeland High School-Shrub Oak
Fordham University-Bronx, NY
Syracuse University (Carrier Dome)-Syracuse, NY
Stamford High School-Stamford, CT
Manhattanville College-Purchase, NY
Columbia University-NY, NY

The general contractor is ELQ Industries. Sub contractors are DeRosa Tennis, Field Turf and Verde Electric. The turf company's website is www.fieldturf.com. You can review their references there.

Beautification (Public Works & Utilities) – Lisa Failace-Sciliano reported on the Harrison Beautification's fund raiser at the Westchester Country Club that raised funds to put up two clocks in town, one in West Harrison. She thanked contributors for their donations to their fund raiser.

Seniors – Rosemary Verano introduced members of the committee and spoke of the meal program that is all set to go, chicken marsala, rice, and green beans for the first lunch, and other activities that have been advocated by the committee. 25 seniors have signed up for the lunch so far. They must be dues paying members of the recreations senior citizens. The committee has been invited to the next town board meeting to receive thanks for the work on this project.

Fred reported that the town board thanked the WHNA at their last meeting. Ron Belmont and Joe Cannella were very complimentary that the committee got this going, not only for West Harrison, but also for the down town senior group at their center. Fred told them what a great job Rosemary and the committee had done.

Fund Raising – Mario Gallo reported they are having a meeting in 2 weeks. They are planning the anniversary dinner dance for April 1st to be held at Annatone's on North Broadway in White Plains. They need new members for the committee and volunteers to work on the auction and journal.

Fred reported that he sent another letter to the Post Office regional manager, Riccardi. He still didn't get any written specs for a potential postal site. He wants to set up a post office committee. Please sign up.

Tree Lighting Ceremony: Angela reported that the plans for the tree lighting on December 1st are well under way. There will be music. We have gotten a young local professional singer, Kathryn Raio, to join us, to lead us in song and to sing a couple of solos, along with recorded music that we will provide. There will be lots of food, most donated by local merchants and the Mayor and members of the town board and town official will join us. We will need volunteers to help out that evening. The following have agreed to provide refreshments of some kind or have or will provide some service for us: Corporate ID Systems/Sophisticated Signs, Community Mutual Savings Bank, Underhill Mini Mart, Pepsico, Silver Lake Pizza, Via Appia, Michelangelo's, Vasi's Deli, Pilone's, The Jottery.

Fred announced that there will be no December meeting.

He let everyone know that Ed Dibuono, the code enforcement officer had a heart attack, but is doing well and is expected back to work soon.

He talked about the good year that our new association has had and reviewed some of the accomplishments – senior meal program, helped in some of the new town planning and zoning changes, got the no parking sign in front of the bank, crosswalks, addressed the homeless men problems, addressed a number of traffic problems, continue to advocate for a post office. Some goals for the association would be – post office acquisition, lake cleanup, streetscape implementation, library improvements.

Membership – Angela reported that we now have over 200 members. We need people to join as dues paying members to support the WHNA and give the resources to continue operating.

The meeting was opened up to the floor for discussion.

1. The senior center is not adequate. Needs more room and better facilities.
(The town's phase 3 project is supposed to address a renovated or new senior center maybe in 2007. An architect has done a survey for improvements and reported to the town. The senior committee will advocate for this. Not much to do for more space right now.
2. Don't put money into that building. Put up new building where the hockey rink is now.
3. Get publicity for the Tree Lighting Ceremony and for the Post Office need for West Harrison.

The meeting was adjourned. Next meeting will be in January at a date and place to be determined.

Respectfully Submitted,
Angela Amodeo, Secretary
West Harrison Neighborhood Association