

WEST HARRISON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF MEETING: October 17, 2007, West Harrison Fire House

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 and welcomed all.

The **minutes** of the last meeting of September 18, 2007 were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Jeff LaGrotte - Balance of \$17,700.00. No figures ready yet on the 2 recently held events – picnic and Harrison/Columbus Day booth.

Building Community & Fundraising: Mario Gallo – Our Membership Appreciation picnic on September 28th was attended by over 100 people with a lot of fun and a wonderful day for all with a very exciting Bocce tournament. We were a presence with a booth serving desserts at the It's Great to Live in Harrison/Columbus Day celebration. We are now planning for our Annual Holliday Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday December 7th with a rain date of Sunday December 9th.

Parks & Recreation: Lori – We have a date with the Mayor for a “walk through” around the lake trail with representatives of the Department of Public Works and others. Anyone can join us. We will give suggestions and plans work up by this committee for a cleanup to highlight the Heritage Trail. We will meet at the sign on Heritage Hill (Gray's Lots), at 10:00 am on Saturday, November 10th.

Seniors: Rosemary Verano – Will be getting more info shortly on progress of the annex building at the Mintzer Center. Ceramics will be starting soon. We are looking to start a Friday lunch program in the near future – we have Monday and Tuesday lunch at the Mintzer now.

Public Works/Traffic & Safety: Gerri Barbagallo – There will be no further sidewalk repairs for a while due to the need to fund other projects like the flood prevention work at the end of Main St. They are working on providing a larger viaduct to collect water there, using larger piping to alleviate the flooding problem. Lori has asked the commissioner and the engineer of plan for proper traffic control and info when that work begins and Gerri will speak to Chief Hall. Paving work is almost completed in West Harrison with just Lincoln Ave. to be done. (*Floor - A member asked that we inform the town that the northern end of Buckout Rd is in need of re-engineering and paving.*)

Youth Committee: Lori – They met recently and presented information gathered from other towns. They found that the town of Eastchester utilizing various locations, like churches, schools, etc. for serving the population that we are looking to – 14 to 19 year olds. We are getting ideas from the older teens themselves with some as committee members and by encouraging others to talk to us. If you know of youth in that age group, encourage them to come and join us or get their ideas.

Membership & Communications: Jo King – We know have 205 members for 2007 and we are always looking for more neighbors to join. Please sign attendance when you come in. Gregg Rosenberg (webmaster) – we send out email meeting notifications and many other items of information during the whole year. Let us know if you want to get our emails.

WHNA Board of Directors Elections: Lori – Elections will be held in November for five slots. Nominations are as follows:

President – (Note: These elections will be held on November 14, which is after the town elections.) Fred Sciliano will run unopposed for president if he does not win the town election for councilman. If Fred does win the town election, then Lori Wilson will run unopposed for president.

Secretary – Angela Amodeo

3 Trustee seats – Present trustees Gregg Rosenberg, Gerri Barbagallo, and Lisa Faillace Sciliano, and member Mary Malara. (Vote for 3 of the 4)

Mary Malara came forward and gave a speech for her election which included a bio and her community involvement.

Harrison Beautification Foundation: Lisa Faillace Sciliano – reported on their upcoming fund raising dinner and auction on November 15 at Emilio’s restaurant. They raised the funds for 2 decorative town clocks that they donated to the town last year at their last fund raising dinner. This time they are planning on some additional gateway signs for the town. They have done many beautiful plantings around town. West Harrison’s clock is being stored and will be installed when the streetscape project is done. They have a nice photo display in the glass case at the town house. We may do something similar to display our events.

Report from State Assemblyman Adam Bradley: Linda Levine (his assistant) – Adam and his young daughter had a wonderful time at our picnic. He would like to know if those that did the Star Program applications had any problems and discussed the process with those present. If anyone needs help you can call their office and ask for Linda and she will help. The school tax bill says whether or not you are eligible. Many have had rapid turnover applying on line.

The **next meeting** will be on Wednesday, November 14. Board elections will be held. To vote, you must be present at the meeting and be a registered paid member. We hope to have the DOT liaison, Gregg Kisloff, as our guest but that is not yet confirmed.

Guest Presentation: Supervisor / Mayor Steve Malfitano – He said he was asked to come to update us on our local projects. Streetscape – check has been sent to Con Ed. This means the process of locating all the utilities underground will begin within a couple of weeks, with the other work starting after all the utilities are done, which should take under 3 months. A new bid process, needed because of the new utility plan of the wires going underground, will probably be ready in December. The underground utility plan also has been extended to include all the wires through Taylor Square – all utilities will from the top of Taylor Square to Sam’s Service Station will now be buried. They reduced cost by \$5 million dollars by leaving some lines above ground across the street. They hope to have the whole streetscape done by June. It will include wider sidewalks, attractive lighting, stone benches and planters, stamped concrete crosswalks, etc. There will be a new island formed at Lake and Underhill where the new clock from the Beautification Foundation will be placed. Taylor Square is actually being lengthened somewhat. Passidomo Park – site work now being done is associated with construction of the pool complex and the new entrance/exit. Because of insufficient bids on the project –there was only one and they will have to re-bid - they are assuming it will not be ready for next summer. The last phase will be approached design-wise soon – new recreation center with indoor swimming pool. The middle part of the park will be opened up for more people space and more accessibility to the lake. We have a gem of an asset. Mintzer annex building for seniors - this project was always intended to be an immediate solution to immediate needs. Longer range planning will produce plans for a future real legitimate senior facility. In the meantime, this one will be a fine facility, a permanent structure, an inviting building. Bidding will be done in November. The construction will go quickly – about 4 or 5 months. The water system in West Harrison was interconnected to Westchester Joint waterworks in

August. This was done for improved water quality and water delivery service. The town has essentially invested several million dollars in the water system here but there has been essentially no change in the water rates. They are putting in a new 12 water main under Old Lake St. and then continuing another time to Purchase St. Public Works garage - inefficient serving West Harrison from downtown garage, so town is going to utilize more of the Nike Base for our services. Will be relocating some sanitation routes soon with no trash storage there. Carp for the lake – more compliance needed with the DEC. Working on getting these final approvals. The lake was not as bad this year. Other from floor discussion – the rink at Mintzer will be taken down soon and stored until another suitable place for it is found. Discussed speed on Lake St. Speed limit being reduced. Will be enforced. Over weight trucks are ticketed. There will be some kind of light system at park roadways. Walking trail will be established connecting park, lake, and streetscape. Over 30 drainage and sewer projects now identified and going to bid. The main street pipe work has begun. He spoke about history of the water filtration plant that must be built in Purchase by the airport. Town has no choice in the matter. There are substantial fines for delay. Construction must begin after final approvals, will take years to build at a cost of 65 million, of which Harrison will pay 45-47 %. Full environmental study was done. Most of residential West Harrison will pay 25-35% increase in water rates. Fordham University will be leasing 400 Westchester Ave., long vacant, no impact tax wise.

Note: As the meeting was being adjourned, member Joan Walsh stood up and started talking by saying that she wanted her comments in the minutes. She stated that she is running for Supervisor / Mayor against Steve Malfitano and should have been allowed to speak to as he was. She was told that we are not a political organization, but she says that anytime a candidate makes a speech at this time of year it is obviously political. ***(We are a bipartisan, non-political organization. The supervisor / mayor was previously asked to come here to give the membership updates on the ongoing neighborhood projects as he has been doing for the last 3 years.)***

Respectfully Submitted,
Angela Amodeo, Secretary