

**Minutes**  
**West Harrison Neighborhood Association, Inc.**  
**General Meeting**  
**September 17, 2008 Leo Mintzer Center**

**Welcome:** Lori Wilson reported that Adam Bradley was not able to attend this meeting, as expected. This is a disappointment as we had hoped to hear from him. (Linda Levine was present on his behalf) Bob Wasp and Town Councilmen Joseph Cannella and Fred Sciliano would be present tonight to give updates.

**President's Report:** Lori Wilson stated that WHNA sponsored an informational meeting regarding the Falcon Group Project. This meeting was held on July 31<sup>st</sup> at St. Anthony's School gym. Jo Ann King will report on Planning and Zoning later.

**Minutes** of June meeting will be reviewed and approved at our October meeting

**Treasurer's Report:** We have over \$21, 500 in our budget. The bell (see below) is our first major donation to the town.

**Youth Committee Report:** Lori Wilson reported for Kelley Dolce - Committee will be meeting Monday, 922<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 pm at the rec. This meeting will be discussing the older members of the youth in our community. WHNA donated pizza and soda to the Counselors-in-Training (CITs) at the end of the year party. This was done in appreciation for their wonderful work over the summer (they are not paid).

**Senior Committee Report:** Lori Wilson reported for Rosemarie Verano. The seniors have been meeting to look at different styles of furniture for the new Annex building. They will be making a recommendation on what they think would be the best. They have requested a meeting with Ron, Rocco and Joe Cannella – their semi annual meeting to discuss needs.

**Parks and Recreation Report:** Charlie Russo reported that the fencing for carp has been approved and will be going in next month. This fence is in the water so that the carp cannot escape and swim away. The carp will be coming in late spring. *The Heritage Trail* signs will be purchased and installed by WHNA. The committee will be meeting in October to finalize the signage. *The Bell* is here in town and will be placed between two flag poles across from the WHFD. There will be a plaque dedicating the bell to the fire department. It will be installed as one of the last things as streetscape is finished. A question was asked about the Town Clock. This clock, paid for by the Harrison Beautification Committee, is in town and will be installed after the streetscape is ready for it.

**Planning and Zoning Report:** Jo Ann King reported that committee is dwindling and that there are just she and Lori on the committee. We may be small, but are mighty! A majority of the WHNA Board members met with government officials and town officials in August to discuss the illegal and unsafe dwelling issue in West Harrison and Harrison. The WHNA Board's response will be forthcoming at our October meeting, if not before.

## Questions and Comments:

A question was raised about **Cablevision** cutting channels out, including public access and educational channels, which is unacceptable. John Neville said that Cablevision had given him a box so that he gets all the channels. The box would solve the problem. We will check on this. Nancy Paul stated that the **traffic** at White Plains Avenue and Westchester Ave is horrendous and an accident waiting to happen. There is a DOT meeting 9/24. A concern was also raised about the **speeding** on Underhill Avenue between 6 and 6:30 am. There is speeding also on Lake Street coming into WH. We will check on this. Someone suggested alternate side of the street parking for snowplowing. This has been considered in the past and is not an option. Someone asked about the amount and sizes of **election signage** allowed. We will check on this. Charlie stated that you can have **\$ relief in regards to water and sewer** if you are not hooked up for these services. Water: Bring a copy of your tax bill to Joe Accocella who will bring it to the town board who will contact the county who will remove you from the tax roll for this. This may take 9 months. Septic: if you have been paying for sewer services, the county will pay you to have your septic cleaned every 3 years or \$275/6years for septic inspection. Call 211 for county office information. A question **about tree lighting** was raised. The town hopes to have these jobs finished: sidewalk to the library, poles on store side of street removed, one coat of asphalt, curbs in, area cleaned and provisions for electric service. The **Sidewalk on east side of Underhill Ave** between Madison and Daniel needs repair badly.

Linda Levine, Adam Bradley's representative, apologized for his absence and said it could not be helped. She spoke about the **Star Program** for rebate checks. If you were part of the program last year and received a checklist year you do not need to do anything this year. You are automatically in this year's program and will receive approximately the same amount as last year. If you are in the enhanced Star Program, you will have approximately a 40% increase in amount received. If you were not part of the program last year you do need to apply by December 31<sup>st</sup>. Call Adam Bradley's office 686-7335 for information/application. Adam has been active in the carp project, has written a letter to the Town Planning board in opposition to the Sherman Avenue Project. He is actively working with the **DOT for beautification** / landscaping of project. He met onsite with the Dept of Environmental Conservation re: Beaver Brook, trying to get information to have it be a beautiful wetlands.

## Updates by Bob Wasp, Town Engineer:

We have quite a few projects going on at the same time. We have a total of \$13.7million of construction work going on in the Town of Harrison. \$12.7 million of that is in West Harrison. There have been many years of planning. The park is a special project which includes \$½ million in drainage work. The streetscape is more than just sidewalks, etc. These are things that need to be done. A wonderful thing is the \$2.5 million utilities project that the residents wanted.

Some of the projects in town have been delayed, some accelerated.

**Mintzer Center Annex** will be 4,000 sq ft with a kitchen, senior area, reception area and large room. It will be energy efficient. It is being constructed offsite and should arrive approximately on Oct 12<sup>th</sup>. The supports and foundation are in We are on schedule with this project. The Mintzer Center will probably not be here in the future, as this structure is not the best we can do in this town. (A question was raised about the potholes on driveway entrance and exit to the parking area)

**Streetscape:** This is a \$3 million + project. It is on schedule. They are now replacing sewer drains in the roadway. Fire Dept has constant access in and out. Sidewalks are on schedule to be completed for October events. Verizon poles on business side of street will be out between Oct. and Christmas. Cleaning and leveling of street would happen in time for Columbus Day events. Pavement of roadway will probably be done by 2<sup>nd</sup> week in Nov. Con Ed poles on opposite side of street will be there until the end of winter. The town engineering office, especially **Michael Amodeo**, is working very hard with the business owners! Landscaping should be done by March.

**Pool site development:** Bob is very pleased with the development of this project. They are building the walls and grading and building the roadway. The drainage walls are done Exit road will be completed soon. Contract work was awarded on Aug 6<sup>th</sup> and the pool will be done by May 15<sup>th</sup>. His office will stay on top of this project for the swimming season to begin on time. "This is important!" The last piece of this project will be the park entrance, as the road will go where the old pool is now.

**Carp project:** For algae control in the lake, has been approved by the DEC There will be 25 ' gate so they do not escape This is necessary as they need to be contained due tot the fact they are a dominant fish and will eat all other fish up . The town of Southeast has used carp for their Lake Cannetta (sp?) and has been very happy with it. There will be no fishing, as we don't want to lose all our carp. The Town of Harrison is paying for all this and is reaching out to White Plains for support in this matter. The gate and purchasing of the carp will go before town board in March for final approval. The carp plan is simple, effective and we will see results in quality of the lake in only 2 years. The total cost is \$24, 000...a far better, and inexpensive and more ecologically sound way to clean the lake than other methods. **Main Street** is a \$1 million project There will be a change in profile of road, a replacement/repair of sewer/interceptor, major drain and modification of drains, regarding of road (losing the dip in the road), utilities work-poles will stay, sidewalks put in on south side of street, Public notice in papers on 9/23/08, bids in by 10/5, bids awarded 10/23. Shovel in the ground should be Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be 4 months of intense infrastructure work including new pipes and then 2-3 months of finishing work and landscaping. There will be a one-way flagman. We will have some inconveniences but it is important to do this work. Questions were raised as to bad weather during project. At the most, there would be a shutdown of only a couple of days.

**Hazard Mitigation Plan** has been filed with FEMA/SEMA regarding the town's plan in case of blizzard, flooding, power outages, tornados, WHNA Rep will meet with planning group. With this plan approved, the town can obtain federal monies. First Meeting is Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Town/Village Board Member Joe Cannella** spoke of new fine legislation for illegal/unsafe dwelling in town that will be open to a public hearing. (This legislation will be announced at the next Town Board meeting) \* He also spoke of zoning change proposal he made to town board regarding a possible moratorium on zoning changes unless approved by town board.

He also spoke of the master plan for the town and that it should be coming to the board for final approval. In his opinion the Sherman Avenue Project is not going to go through as proposed.

\*If anyone has a complaint about a property being illegal/unsafe and reports it to WHNA, WHNA would be the official complaint party in notifying the town offices