

WEST HARRISON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Meeting: September 22, 2005, West Harrison Fire House

Fred Sciliano opened the meeting and welcomed all.

The **Minutes** of the last meeting of June 16 were approved.

Jeff **LaGrotte** reported \$2800 in the treasury. Expenses are relatively low now. Money was raised from dues from our ongoing membership drive. He spent a lot of time this summer doing the paper work for the 501c3 tax exempt organization status.

Guest Presentation: Denise DiBiasi for the Harrison Beautification Committee

The newly reactivated organization is back with enthusiasm and plans to improve the “face” of Harrison. She told of their plans to obtain a large landscape clock for the Taylor Square triangle area and other endeavors. They will be having a silent auction on November 11 with a journal and an open bar, and will have a booth at the IGTLIH celebration in October. They have huge support from the town board and Joan Walsh. They need donations and memberships.

Fred reviewed the associations activities and issues over the summer.

1. **Lori Wilson** personally started a petition drive for a post office in West Harrison and sent 980 signatures to Congresswoman Lowey, Senator Schumer, Senator Clinton, and to officials at the USPS. A letter was sent from the USPS to the residents in return that was pretty much meaningless. Fred and Lisa Sciliano met with Congresswoman Lowey and she is behind us fully. The postal authorities apparently do not want to put a facility back here so they are dragging their feet. We will not accept that. Fred is working to get them to give the necessary specifications to put a package of proposals together, and we will be keeping the pressure on. (There was much displeasure voiced by the membership on this issue and a brief discussion ensued as to future tactics including picketing, press involvement – newspaper columnist, news12, etc.
2. The letter sent out to our membership after the murder of the White Plains woman at the Galleria Mall by a sex offender homeless man that was transported daily to White Plains from the county shelter at the airport.
3. The meeting held by board members with Chief Hall. **Geri Barbagallo** reported that he was confident that the shelter was going to be moved from the airport as has been reported. He promised extra patrols in our area for the times the children were moving in and out of summer camp during the day.
4. **Geri** also reported from that meeting that we asked the chief for crosswalk signs at certain locations and got them. She stated that Chief Hall has been very responsive to all our issues.
5. Membership drive letters sent out and brought in people over the summer.

Committee Reports:

Membership - Lisa and Angela reported on the membership drive. We now have 189 dues paying members.

Seniors – Rosemarie Verano reported that the committee has visited centers all summer to review their meal programs. A meeting was held with Joe Cannella, Ron Belmont and Rocco Triano where they worked with Rosemarie and the committee to plan the new meal program based on Rosemarie extensive proposal. A survey was sent out that achieved a remarkable response. The pilot program will probably begin in October with meals costing \$4.75/ea, \$2.00 to be paid by the senior and \$2.75 by the town. She met with the deli that has been supplying the meals for the Rye Brook program and they will supply us with a full hot meal on Thursdays. Lunch will be from 11:30 to 12:30. They also a planning a similar program for the downtown center. Councilman Cannella and

Mayor Malfitano are fully behind it. They have also decided to open up the center to other programs for the seniors like ceramics, etc. and being available more days of the week. Wheelchair transportation is being looked into. Goal is to eventually have a 5 day senior/meal program, but for now as many days as possible. The meals are developed by a dietitian. Eventually we will hope to get a caterer from this neighborhood. Rosemarie stated that an announcement was made that the senior center will now be open 5 days a week. This is an issue that the committee has pushed for. (Compliments were given to Rosemarie for her superior effort on this committee and the unfolding outcomes.) She also told us that Joe Cannella said that an architect has reviewed the Mintzer Center property for proposed future renovations.

Traffic and Safety – (see above #'s 3 & 4)

Planning and Zoning – **Carlo Nero** reported on their short meeting of Sept. 9. They are monitoring the 14 lot subdivision on Sherman. Also watching the proposal of a 5% reduction in lot coverage (which Fred said that the town board was to vote on soon) and discussion has started on a steep slope ordinance. **Fred** continued that there is no ordinance for grading property in the town code so the engineering department is looking into formulating one. The Parkview Ave. house that was stopped is in court because of falsified house plans. Short discussion on the possibility of a franchised establishment setting up in the vacant bakery. Many members don't want such a presence here. Suggestion was to send letter to the landlord about it. **Fred** said the streetscape project has been delayed because of some design problems like the intersection at the above the park entrance and the question of overhead vs underground wires. He also announced that the code enforcement officer, Ed DiBouno is still seeking out illegal housing although it was temporarily curtailed because of the work down south. It is continuing and resume as usual soon.

Public Works – **Lisa**- ongoing waterworks project will be monitored. Flooding on main street this summer was unfortunate. Some illegal dwellings were found there. Bus stops were painted at our request. Will be talking to Bob Wasp about tree plantings. They do it 2 times a year. Residents can request where trees are needed. Street Sweeping has been a problem for secondary streets.

Parks & Recreation – **Fred** – people have been upset with condition of the lake (green slime and thick undergrowth). Town needs to do something maybe in conjunction with White Plains. There was a sewer leak into the lake. Facts not clear on how or why or how long this happened. The work has progressed quickly on the field with drainage begun and light poles removed and junk cleared from corners that has expanded the area. Goal is to finish in December. Town engineers visit often. (Comment on the amazing opened up look now that we can see the lake after the selective tree removal at the shore.) Some fill is being taken by town trucks to the Nike base for usable fill and contractors are otherwise selling it to others as is his right. Complaint from floor – Bob Wasp told speaker some time ago that federal money was giving a grant for a lake cleanup. What happened to it and why was it never done?

Fund Raising – **Mario Gallo** – will have a booth at IGTLIH celebration on Columbus Day where we will sell pastries and we will need volunteers. We have planned a 1st anniversary dinner dance on April 1st, 2006 with a journal and silent auction. We plan to have either hats or tee shirts available for sale after the tree lighting in December.

Special Event – **Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony** – **your secretary**: The date has been set for December 1st and will take place at the triangle in Taylor Square. The appropriate town officials have been notified. We plan to have refreshments here at the fire house after the lighting and the singing of carols. We need volunteers for that day and help in making posters for the event, especially to hang in the schools. **Gregg Rosenberg** has procured a donation of refreshments from Pepsico.

The **next meeting** in October will be announced at a later date. We are trying to get to the Mintzer Center for the elevator as some have requested and will let you know. The fire house is looking into installing a chair lift soon. Some suggested future speakers are Rocco Triano if we get to Mintzer, Bob Wasp, Nita Lowey and Westchester Water Works.

Floor discussion followed on a few issues:

- Rezoning of 8 acres on Mamaroneck Ave. to allow for townhouses.
- Speed on Columbus Ave. coming from Lake St. – incident where car went onto sidewalk
- Election signs overstaying their welcome
- Issue of “silver lake” reference on one sign being offensive to some
- Issue of candidates for county legislator on both parties signs in West Harrison being the downtown candidates that don’t represent us and we can’t vote for. Who are our candidates.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Angela Amodeo, Secretary