

## **NORWALK ASSOCIATION OF SILVERMINE HOMEOWNERS (NASH)**

Meeting minutes for February 15, 2010

Respectfully submitted by Eric Nelson.

The meeting took place at 100 Comstock Hill Ave, the home of Lee Levey.

Board members in attendance: Anne Carbone, Leigh Finely, Christine Glidden, Leigh Grant, Linda Lee, Lee Levey, Alex Modica, Christine Names, Eric Nelson & Sue Palinkos.

Absent: Heather Dunn, Brad Hotchkiss, Kathy Karnell.

The meeting was called to order by Lee Levey, President @ 7:40 pm.

**House Tour 2010:** Leigh Finley reported. The tour has been set for September 25, 2010. Leigh Finely, Mona Levey and Kathy Karnell met in January & came up with a list of perspective houses. They visited about 12 houses and had two tentative yeses from the Kammerman's house and The Sinclair's house, both on Silvermine Ave. Other houses under consideration are the Lily Pond's house, the Culpepper house, (Coca-Cola heiress), Salon Borglum's "Knockers" barn, Vance Packers' house, Robert Berry house, Boyle house, Fred Jahn's house (illustrator), 198 Mill Road, 315 River Road (three barns), and Payton Grimes' house. Goal is to have five to six, and possibly seven houses on the tour. Since one or two of the houses abut the lower Silvermine cemetery, they also discussed adding a cemetery tour as part of it. Linda Lee mentioned that when the historical society has given a cemetery tours, they have had volunteers stand in front of the gravestones of famous people. These volunteers people dress up as the person and act in character. The committee also e-mailed many of last year's volunteers, and most of them responded that they would again help.

**Treasurer's report:** Linda Lee reported that since the last meeting, she had received \$1,400 in checks, to help defray the costs of the attorneys. One person had asked one of the Nash board members how much money was spent. Lee Levey suggested we should send out some general information on how much has been spent by NASH. Leigh Grant brought up that we need to discuss the timing of payments of the attorney, and alternatives to having to pay immediately. We've already paid the attorney about 15,000.

**Website Report:** Christine Names asked for feedback on the website & everyone said they were very pleased with it. Sue Palinkos suggested that we invest in PayPal software for the NASH website. This way people could pay for membership, house tour tickets, make contributions on line. Sue also talked

about getting some e-mail blast software. This is a software package that essentially leads people to the website. Sue mentioned that a potential issue with accepting on line contributions is coordination between the treasurer and the Communications chair to make sure membership lists are updated.

**CNNA:** Lee Levey presented the update as well as represented NASH at the last CNNA meeting. The Budget Director of Norwalk spoke and discussed how the city stacks up compared to Stamford and Bridgeport in terms of costs. Apparently Norwalk in comparison is more efficient in that there are fewer municipal workers per citizen. The Director noted that if they can't bring the budget down for the town, there may have to increase taxes.

Second item was the Silvermine Homes development. Lee spoke on that for about 45 minutes. CNNA sent a letter in support of our position to the zoning commission and the conservation commission. The importance of consistent NASH representation at CNNA meetings was also noted.

**Mayor's President Meeting:** Christine Names attended. Five or six neighborhood representatives were also in attendance. Mayor Mochia spoke. There was a question on the Washington Avenue extension & whether or not Yankee gas had adequately addressed some of the issues there. The proposed Norwalk Hospital facility expansion was also discussed. Aside from the changes inside the hospital, the parking lot will be demolished & rebuilt. This raises the question of where the parking is going to be in the interim. Depending on how this is handled, it may be a potential issue for the neighborhood.

**Historic District:** Leigh Grant provided an update on houses in the historic district. Apparently there was royalty living in the Dave Marsh House. Also Warner Pratt's autobiography specifically mentions the Dave Marsh House in connection with his development of Microfiche. This should solidify the case for this house being deemed a historic property. Leigh also noted that Paul Grassiano & Greg Dietrich are still owed \$6,000 in connection with their work on The Historic District.

**Nature Habitat:** Nothing current to report. Both Lee Levey & Eric Nelson noted that the State of CT has open space grants that may apply towards preserving this piece of property. Eric is going to explore this prior to next meeting.

**249 Silvermine Avenue:** Lee Levey spoke on current developments with this as well as the need for as many of us as possible to attend the various Conservation Commission & P&Z meetings. Leigh Grant wondered if we had a summary of our points that we could bring to the attention of the commissioners. Lee Levey read a draft letter from Peter Viteretto of the SCA in support of our position that the proposed Conservation Development is not desirable as currently configured.

Alex Modica wanted to know if we had an end goal in mind. It was generally agreed that a lower housing density would be more appropriate for the site.

**501(c) (3):** Lee Levey received all of the completed paperwork from Eric Stokes and will be meeting with an attorney to move this along.

**Miscellaneous:** It was noted that The Silvermine golf course has applied a liquor permit. The general consensus was that we should support this since a successful golf course helps to minimize that potential development of that property.

Christine Names is continuing to work with the Keep America Beautiful Committee and thought that was important.

Lee Levey noted that the police seemed to be taking some more notice of events in Silvermine, such as the recent break-ins. On the day of the last break-in, four or five police units responded very quickly. The board kind of generally felt that we should send a letter to the police department, thanking them for their vigilance.

Meeting was adjourned.