

Norwalk Association of Silvermine Homeowners (NASH)

Meeting minutes for March 16, 2009

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Karnell.

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

Board members in attendance: Leigh Grant, Lee Levey, Alex Modica, Eric Stokes , Christine Names, Leigh Finley, Christine Glidden, Kathleen Karnell, Linda Lee, Christine Glidden

Absent: Anne Carbone, Sue Palinkos, Brad Hotchkiss, Heather Dunn.

The meeting was called to order by Lee Levey, President

Acceptance of the previous meeting minutes: Accepted

AGENDA

Website:

Alex advised that the mission statement of NASH is now up on the website, as well as the history of what NASH has accomplished. Working on links to the city of Norwalk, government and commuters. There will be a recap of the interchange progress on the website as well. There will also be a log in for board members.

Membership Drive:

NASH has received \$2,150 from 71 people so far. Christine Names indicated that there were two more streets we missed because of the reevaluation. Leigh Grant stated that we really need to step up the communication for NASH.

Report from the Mayor's Neighborhood Preservation Meeting

Leigh reported that the Mayor indicated that the City hopes to sign off on 95/7 in March. The pension fund has suffered but there has been a minimal reduction in city personnel, some of it being lack of replacement for retirement. Some stimulus money will go to the fire station. April 25th is the target date for a city-wide cleanup.

The Fire Department asks that people make sure their homes are numbered with 3 inch high letters in case of emergency. Please change your smoke detectors now just as you have changed the time on your clocks.

In reference to the disrepair of some of the roads (River Road in particular), DPW reports that the combination of sleet, snow and rain has been the worst ever this year and that this combination exacerbates road disintegration. Cold patches are temporary fixes and always pop out of the pavement. The asphalt plants don't open until the end of March. You can call Customer Service 854-3200 to report the need for road repairs and to get on the list. There are alternative recycling options: Used Motor Oil can be recycled at Autozone. Rechargeable Batteries, Inc Jet Cartridge and Cell Phones can be recycled at Staples and Best Buy. Car batteries can be recycled at LaJoie's. Contact the stores for details.

Interchange update:

Alex advised that this is a slow process. Studies now have to be done and loose ends need to be ironed out, i.e. how should the Perry Avenue Parkway Bridge look? Should it look like a historical bridge or not? Many different designs have been presented.

Historical Update:

Leigh Grant and Christine Names have been researching homes. This is difficult to do as records are very sketchy and there are gaps in everything. Christine is working on title searches. We have extended the deadline by three weeks to get further information and to do it correctly. Leigh made a motion to extend the timelines, which was agreed upon. Christine indicated that she is working with Phil to get copies of worksheets on individual homes and will start again. Will obtain design standards for Perry Avenue and historical areas.

Lee Levey is trying to get information on two patents created by Vernon Pratt. Vernon Pratt invented a patent for a microfilm reader and fire detectors sometime in the early 60's. There appears to have been about six more patents built on his original patents. Leigh Grant is looking into why Perry Avenue is called Perry Avenue. Through research, she has found that there may have been an Andrew Perry that may have been the source of the name!

Comstock Hill Habitat/Park:

Lee Levey said that he is in the process of trying to schedule a walk through of the property in late April with Hal. There was mention of a "Clean and Green" sign of which NASH does not want to be apart of as we do not want to fall within the guidelines required for such a sign.

Silvermine Tavern:

Lee Levey advised that there was a small meeting to try to put together a group of people that might be interested in purchasing the tavern. The present list price is now \$3.5M. There was also some discussions regarding what it would cost to renovate the building, etc. Presently, there is no nonconformity with the Tavern for zoning. If it ceases to operate for one year, it will not lose its "use" status. There remains a question in regard to whether or not the Tavern can be sold in parcels. At present, the zoning commission will not allow this. Most likely, that is probably because they are trying to keep them all together. There was also a

discussion of a façade easement which can be granted by the property owner. However, the city does not recognize such deed restrictions.

501(c) (3) Status:

Megan had completed some of the paperwork needed to obtain a 501(c)(3) status. Lee will obtain the information from Megan. We also need to call a local attorney to obtain cost estimates to have this completed. Both Lee Levey and Kathy Karnell will do this.

93 East Avenue:

Lee Levey advised that the Norwalk Preservation Trust is going to try to purchase the property for \$1. They are willing to take on the tax burden as well.

Meeting was adjourned.