

NORWALK ASSOCIATION OF SILVERMINE HOMEOWNERS  
Monday, April 15, 2013  
223 Silvermine Ave.  
7:30 pm

**Board Members in attendance:** Leigh Finley, Leigh Grant, Ken James, Linda Lee, Lee Levey, Alex Modica, Christine Names. **Absent:** Chip Brown, Heather Dunn, Eric Nelson, Sue Palinkos. **Advisory for Habitat:** Bob and Henrietta Lachman, Myriam Bossuyt.

**Treasurer's Report:** Approximately \$31,000.

**Minutes:** None presented.

**Nature Habitat:** Jane Didona of Didona Associates presented a process on which she would base her plan. She has been in business since 1989 as a landscape architect. Projects have included/include Waypointe and the old Fitch School. The plan would be based on understanding the site and the community: creating a balance between the human experience and the nature habitat. This is an opportunity for a different ecosystem and edge environment including: educational signage, a “non” parking lot, walls as historic indicators, Native American history, Silvermine Art. Her firm is able to facilitate workshops, get funding, communicate with the proper authorities and neighborhood, etc. Her presentation was accompanied by a basic concept topographic photo map with dotted lines for a trail and green squares surrounding the necessary meadow/gas line.

**Discussion following:** Suggest applying to be included in Wells Fargo grant list. Myriam suggested on paper considering a maze.

**501(c)3:** Done. Suggest moving forward on D & O insurance.

**Communications:** Nothing to report on website. A meeting is set for membership committee on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Community Relations:** Comstock is on the repair list rather than the repaving list for next year. The damaged area on Silvermine is included. The 500 yards on Buttery have been rescheduled for 2015. Revamping of the city's recycling program will include non-separated, “single stream” items in a 64 gallon container.

**Council Activities:** some discussion of present activities including those of Warren Pena and Hispanic caucus and NEON.

**Historic District Update:** There are preliminary plans for a restaurant and for houses of one-and-one-half storeys made from converted barns with separate studios and large barns for public meeting space/farmers' market/catered events in the parking lot. The barn part of the Tavern would be an 80-seat or so American-style restaurant. The Tavern itself would have three residences inside it. The other buildings would remain as residences. The store's plans were uncertain. Lee, Christine, and I met with the developer twice and with Frank too the second time. The difference between this developer and the artists' habitat developer is that this one has financing. So far there have been open and transparent conversations and the town is in the loop. The Village District would require changes and public hearings for the new ideas to go through and the Common Council would have to vote on it. There will be a public meeting in Silvermine for residents when the developer has his plans together and has visuals. Therefore there is a process of give-and-take and a large public hearing contingent to anything happening. Furthermore, Norwalk will not want to go against the residents' wishes. We are all aware that our hopes for the Tavern to continue as an historic inn have diminished over the past five years.

**New Business:** Boardmember, Ken James, has accepted employment elsewhere and is leaving the area. We will miss his quiet and informed counsel on the board and his presence as a good neighbor and friend in Silvermine.

**Old Business:** Reminder of the upcoming Tree Festival.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Grant, Secretary