

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

Meeting minutes for October 4, 2010

Respectfully submitted by Eric Nelson.

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

**Board members in attendance:** Heather Dunn, Leigh Finley, Leigh Grant, Lee Levey, Alex Modica, Christine Names, Eric Nelson & Sue Palinkos.

**Absent:** Linda Lee

**Others in attendance:** Daniel Grundman

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Leigh Grant presented for Linda Lee. Leigh noted that a \$4000 invoice from ACR had been received for work done on researching the Silvermine Historic district.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes for the June 21, 2010 were approved as amended.

**House Tour 2010:** Leigh Finley reviewed the results of the Historic house tour. In general it was a great success although the proceeds were down from prior years due to increased costs and lower sponsorships & ad sales. This was attributed to the state of the economy in general. Leigh also passed out a spreadsheet detailing the expenses incurred in running the tour. Several points were made.

- 1) Mona Levey mentioned that bills need to be passed through the Norwalk Preservation Trust to take advantage of their 501c3 status. The NPT was clear on wishing to see all bills prior to issuing a final check to NASH.
- 2) Alex Modica wanted to know how the income & expenses were in comparison to former years. Leigh Finley indicated that the expenses were generally in line with prior years with the exception of the printing cost which were almost double. This was due to the use of a full color booklet instead of the black & white ones from prior years. The general consensus was that the full color brochure was worth the added expense.
- 3) We ended up with a few extra copies of the Raggedy Anne & Andy book. These were to be sold to the Norwalk Museum.
- 4) Leigh Finley was also preparing a post tour analysis of the event in the hopes this would be of use to future house tour committees.
- 5) Meghan Ferrell generously agreed to donate her services in preparation of the Tour Brochure. The Board discussed this and agreed that she should be compensated due to the amount of work involved.

- 6) During the tour, one of the homes sustained damage to a solar light that was used to illuminate the driveway. The board agreed to replace the light
- 7) Leigh Finley & Lee Grant both suggested that the search for appropriate houses for any future tours be started well in advance of the tour. Leigh Finley has composed a spreadsheet of potential houses for future tours.

**Communication:** Christine Names reported: We have 6 new NASH members as a result of the House Tour & membership drive. We also discussed using a software service called "Constant Contact" to improve, formalize our communications with NASH membership. Cost was minimal, \$250/yr, and the board agreed it would be a good idea to explore. As action items, Christine will be setting up a NASH G-mail account and will evaluate "Constant Contact" on a free trial basis for the next meeting.

**CNNA:** Heather Dunn reported: The Norwalk town website has been updated and apparently not all the reviews are favorable. Some people have experienced difficulty in navigating the new site and the new site does not allow for a search by street. This complicates our ability to check the membership list against current Silvermine residents. There were also questions & concerns raised about town involvement in the maintenance of neighborhood parks most notably Fodor Farm.

**Mayor's Neighborhood Preservation Meeting:** There was nothing of substance to report from this month's meeting

**Historic District:** Leigh Grant reported: Leigh indicated things were up to date in applying for the Silvermine historic district. She will review the draft of the proposal as well as put together up to date maps. Work is also proceeding on Verner Pratt house and Leigh will be creating a write up for the website on the Camp family, who also occupied that property.

**Kathy Lacouture:** Kathy was a resident & friend of NASH who passed way in September. A memorial is planned at the Silvermine Tavern on October 17<sup>th</sup>. The board also discussed some appropriate ways Kathy could be remembered. Several ideas were put forth and the one with the greatest support was to carve out a garden in the Nature preserve on Comstock hill Road when that project is developed.

**501(c) (3):** Lee Levey reported: Lee met with the attorney and documents were resubmitted to the IRS. The approval process for a 501(c)(3) has become much more cumbersome due to increased IRS scrutiny.

**Board Membership:** Lee Levey reported: Danny Grundman spoke and regretfully declined to join the board at this time. He expressed concern that his personal views on certain town issues might be misinterpreted as views of NASH if he became a board member. We all appreciate his consideration of the offer

and asked him to reconsider in the future. Lee Levey indicated that several other invitations were still being considered.

**New Business:** None

**Old Business:** We revisited the question of having the dam at the Silvermine Tavern lit at night. At present, the owner of the tavern has declined due to cost considerations.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:27