

Juniper Hill Civic Association
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 31, 2010

The meeting commenced at 7:40 pm.

The following officers were present:

Sue Mirialakis, President

Arthur Chisolm, Treasurer

Alphonso Leonce, Vice President

Seth Segall, Correspondence Secretary

Millicent Stewart, Recording Secretary

Approximately (?) Civic Association residents attended the meeting.

Meeting Minutes for October 13, 2009 were distributed, along with an agenda. In the Minutes, a church address was *corrected* from Russell Street to Juniper Hill Road. Napoleon Mitchell then motioned that the minutes be accepted and they were.

Sue thanked everyone for coming, especially those who joined us from the Chelsea Park area, and let everyone know that there were free Grocery Bags available in the rear of the room, along with Con Edison brochures and energy saving information. She then reviewed the Juniper Hill Civic Association March 2010 Newsletter items.

Old Business

Traffic Safety: It was suggested that mirrors around curves be installed, but after the Police Chief spoke with DPW, there are no plans to address this issue. We can consider installing mirrors ourselves (cost?). Traffic strips will be installed to provide speed information. Officer Dandreaano told us that the town speed limit is 30 mph, even though we feel that curves should be 15 mph. It was mentioned that it's primarily residents who speed, although many others use Juniper Hill Road as a short cut to Central Avenue. Speed bumps were deemed impractical and dangerous.

We are still trying to get statistics on accidents at Russell & Fulton St, but because this is White Plains's jurisdiction, it has been difficult.

It was suggested that Juniper Hill Road be made into a one-way street, perhaps add sidewalks, but we felt it would be inconvenient to the residents if streets were narrower or one way.

Sue has been trying to speak with the DPW Commissioner to check the status of the water problem on Juniper Hill but has been unsuccessful, perhaps because of the storm cleanup actions.

Sanitation Safety: We were told to speak with our neighbors regarding garbage and unleashed pets. Ordinances are in place regarding these safety issues, and some of us may not be comfortable taking it upon ourselves to address them.

We need to let Paul Feiner know that we are not happy with the responses we have been getting, and Napoleon (member of Policy Advisory Board) will share our concerns and frustration with Police Chief DeCarlo.

New Business

Dues were collected, and we shared that there are 200 households in the Juniper Hill Civic Association but only 30 paid members.

Chris Gallo-Con Edison joined us, along with Mr. Moses Awakie, to discuss Energy Efficiency. He shared some Tips on Saving energy with us.

CFL Bulbs (Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs).

- They cost more up front but lasts so much longer (about 7 years) and uses 75% less kwh energy
- CFLs take a little longer to get fully bright
- They must be disposed of properly because of mercury (do NOT vacuum up can take to Home Depot)

ESCO vs. Con Ed employees *Con Ed employees will ALWAYS show their ID

- Notice will be coming out with next bill with a number to contact if concerned regarding employees
- Con Ed is not authorized to regulate others doing business, i.e., other supply companies coming out and asking to see bill to solicit business. Check ConEd.com

Energy Savings

- Best to turn lights off, even if only for 10 minutes
- Use energy star appliances to get the most efficiency and save on electricity
- If need to replace appliances, air conditioning units, etc., check rebates for upgrading – CERTA (Call: 1-877-870-6118 for rebate information)
- Con Edison will install programmable thermostat for FREE if you have central air conditioning.

It was asked who makes the decision whether power lines are above or below ground, since Chelsea Park's lines are below ground. We were told it's extremely expensive to put lines under ground and maintain them. However, Chelsea Park's lines are below ground because it was a new development. Arthur shared with us that Feiner sends information re. new developments and underground power lines to an E-list.

Napoleon asked about power surges and priority repairs if it takes only 20 minutes to fix. We were told that repairs will first be made where they will restore the highest number of residents. Peter also shared that OSHA will not allow technicians to go into certain waterlogged areas because of safety concerns.

Officer Peter Dandreano, Crime Prevention Officer, Greenburgh Police Department joined us to discuss the procedures to start a Neighborhood Watch Program and answer any other questions we may have.

A Neighborhood Watch Program is two-way communication between the Police and Residents. Because there were only about 7-10 officers on duty that night, we need to be the eyes and ears for activity.

- There should be NO patrolling by residents and NO guns
- There is NO cost involved with starting one
- Primarily it's Neighbors helping Neighbors
- Coordinators for each Block works with Office D'andreano
- Can have your home evaluated for safety

Coordinators/Block Captains must meet for one hour to set up Program in a very interactive environment. Coordinator is the contact when police activity is in the area. Email correspondence is extremely important - timely.

CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) provides the training sessions, and provides emergency sheltering if necessary.

Seminars are available to provide information on:

- Different ways to secure your home
- Landscaping for safety
- What is suspicious
- Statistics

It was asked if residents must give information and make a formal complaint when they see something suspicious. We were told that we should call the main police number 914-682-5300 anonymously. Also, if we identify ourselves as a neighborhood watch program member, we can get a good response because we would have been trained.

At this point, about 8 attendees said they were interested in the program. Napoleon mentioned that Greenvale Circle always had an "informal" watch program.

Sue is requesting that anyone interested in participating in the program, please email her or call her at 914-448-0035.

Additional

A Real Estate Agent was in attendance and stated that 114 Juniper Hill Road is for sale (is a 5-bedroom high ranch home) – she can be contacted at 914-548-4505.

We still need block captains for Russell Street, Walnut Street, and Prospect Street. The Association would like to set up a telephone chain for contact information and emergencies, and we still need an email distribution list.

Some of the attendees mentioned having a welcome committee for new residents, and some commented that they had been welcomed when they moved here.

Plans for Summer Event

Volunteers for the summer Barbeque were solicited, and Seth, Eddie, and Steve Baptiste (cook) were “volunteered”. Seth will coordinate and schedule the first meeting, which will be held in May. Possibilities on where to have it are Jackson School and the Seventh Day Adventist church, but we feel it should be more local and held at the School. We are aiming to have the barbeque mid-July, since there is no perfect time with summer vacations.

Miscellaneous

Someone asked about burning benches, and the town ordinance was referred to – releases unhealthy carbon in the air, etc.

The Civic Association sign on Fair St. will be moved to the corner of Juniper Hill Road and Fair St. so it can be clearly visible beyond the street sign.

We again asked how we can get more residents to come out to meetings; perhaps communicate “what’s in it for them.” Napoleon stated that he is willing to distribute to Civic Association residents the “benefits of being a member.” We also continue to seek special interest groups.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Millicent Stewart, Recording Secretary

Sue Mirialakis, President
Juniper Hill Civic Association