

Glenbrook Neighborhood Association

General Meeting Minutes, January 15, 2014 **Glenbrook Community Center Gymnasium, lower level**

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm. 60 people in attendance.

A motion to approve the minutes of the September 18th, 2013 meeting was made. The motion was seconded and the vote was unanimous to approve.

Anita Kozminsky, Membership Chair, announced that we currently have 158 residential members and 46 business members.

Anita maintains the GNA website, **www.glenbrookassn.org**, and will continue to update it with photos and information as needed.

Meryl McDaniel, Treasurer, gave the Treasurer's Report. We currently have a bank balance of \$6877.

Christie Fountain, President, reported that Grade A Market now regularly patrols a route recommended by GNA to search for stray shopping carts. GNA members can call Alex, the new manager, to report other carts they don't see.

The CVS development is on schedule for an early summer 2014 opening, and the train station canopy should be completed in early spring. Ten new trees have been planted, a new, mid-platform stairway is in, and new signs are on the way.

Linnea McManus, board member, reported on the Neighborhood Cleanup/Swap/Shred that was held last fall. She thanked City Carting for providing the dumpster and shredder. It was very successful, and another will be held in the spring.

Linnea and **Dan Bivona**, board member, organized the annual Caroling for Cans event in December. Over 200 cans of food were collected for the Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County.

The GNA once again provided hot chocolate at the Glenbrook Tree Lighting. The Stamford Chorale surprised the crowd with songs. Christie thanked **Julia Brennan**, event chair.

The next meeting of the Transit Oriented Development group will take place in early March. Check their website at **www.glenbrookspringdaletod.org** for more information.

The plans for a new development at 467 Glenbrook Road was discussed. This will be the first development subject to Village Commercial District zoning guidelines. After input from GNA members and Transit-Oriented Development consultants, the builders have changed their plans to better fit in with the Village Commercial District Zoning concepts.

The ground floor apartments may be easily converted into retail storefronts when market forces encourage more retail development in the area. Parking will be in the rear of the building. The building will consist of 17 1- and 2-bedroom apartments at rents lower than downtown Stamford prices. The Zoning Board will look at the plans at their meeting on January 27th, 2014. **Kristine D'Elisa**, board member, will speak on behalf of the GNA at the Zoning Board meeting. The consensus of the members present at the quarterly meeting is that this type of development is appropriate for the area. A copy of the application was available for members to examine.

Christie Fountain introduced the following community leaders and GNA business members:

- **Mrs. Edith Presley**, Assistant Principal, Julia A. Stark Elementary School
- **Cheryl Henchar** of Cheryl's Creative Services, an email marketing company
- **Jay Fountain**, City Representative from District 7
- **Carlo Leone**, State Senator, District 27
- **Dan Fox**, State Representative, 148th District

All 3 elected officials commented on progress regarding a crossing guard who was struck by a moving car at the corner of Courtland and Maple Tree Avenues, as well as the possibility of adding cars or re-tooling the train schedule on the New Canaan Line to better serve commuters.

Kristine D'Elisa, Chair of Sustainable Stamford (www.sustainablestamford.org) and GNA board member, introduced the new program "SolarizeStamford" (www.SolarizeCT.com/Stamford). Through this program, Stamford residents can purchase solar panels for their homes at reduced prices, as long as contracts are signed by April 15th. Residents will also qualify for state and federal tax credits if they add solar panels to their homes.

Representatives from 3 solar companies—Astrumsolar, Encon, and Renewable Resources—were on hand to explain the process and hand out information. The viability of adding solar panels depends on each individual home's characteristics and they may not be right for everyone. All 3 companies offer free estimates.

Don Spitzer, GNA member, reported on his experience with the solar panels he had installed by another company about 3 years ago.

There will be a Solar Energy Open House in Belltown on Saturday, February 1, at 67 Leonard Street from 11am-2pm for those who would like to learn more about solar energy and adding solar panels to their homes.

Christie reminded members to contact Stamford 311 to report illegal dumping. Call 203-977-4140 or google Stamford 311.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm for refreshments (cupcakes provided by Cheryl Hencher's client Anna's Cakery) and an opportunity to meet with the solar installers, as well as to examine the application for the new development at 467 Glenbrook Road.

Submitted by Miriam Kliewe, acting Secretary, Glenbrook Neighborhood Association