

GLENBROOK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
January 21, 2015 Quarterly Meeting
Glenbrook Community Center

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by Christie Fountain, GNA President.

Miriam Kliewe made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 17, 2014 meeting (emailed to GNA members) which was seconded by Anita Kozminsky.

MEMBERSHIP: Anita Kozminsky: Currently 231 residential and 48 business memberships. Several new memberships were collected at the meeting. New members were encouraged to stand and be recognized, which several did.

TREASURY: Christie reported, in Meryl McDaniel's absence, that there is \$5,000 in the bank. FY2015 will end June 30, 2015. All revenue is from membership dues and contributions.

OLD BUSINESS:

The GNA website and Facebook page are continually updated. Go to www.glenbrookassn.com for viewing Glenbrook news and updates. The site also has a link to the Facebook page.

Save the date of May 9, 2015 for the Spring Clean-up day. We had lots of **volunteers** in the fall and look forward to seeing everyone again in the spring. Mike Battinelli was instrumental in removing graffiti from several locations in the fall clean-up. GNA volunteers were easy to spot in the Fall clean up as they were sporting the new day-glow yellow vests that say GNA VOLUNTEER.

The hot chocolate booth at the Glenbrook Volunteer Fire Dept's Christmas Tree Lighting on December 13 (postponed a week because of bad weather) was staffed by GNA board members Zdenka Zeman Linnea McManus, and volunteers.

Mike Battinelli attended the Community Resilience Workshop for GNA on December 1st.

Sheila Toner, volunteer coordinator for the Historic Resources Inventory, gave a review of the program. There is a \$24K grant to inventory historic homes in Glenbrook. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!** There will be a training session for volunteers on completing the surveys for this study. You will not be knocking on doors or speaking to homeowners. The surveys will be completed by viewing the outside of the homes.

As a follow up to Ernie Orgera's (Director of Operations, City of Stamford) presentation at the Sept 17th meeting, he has received a list of traffic concerns suggested by GNA members. Details are on the back of the January 21st agenda.

The 17-unit apartment building being built on Glenbrook Road is progressing quickly and is still scheduled to be ready in the summer. Drive by and take a look at the first Village Commercial District (VCD) project in Glenbrook.

Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Feasibility Study: Funded by the State. The last of three public meetings in Glenbrook was held on November 12. The consultants post all maps and reports on www.glenbrookspringdaletod.org.

Crescent Street streetscaping project included new curbs, sidewalks, brick amenity strips with street trees and lamp posts, street paving and crosswalks. Take a walk down the street and see the improvements. Sadly, all three bollards on the corner of Crescent/Taylor Reed have been knocked over by trucks. The last section near the train tracks is on hold because the City needs to arrange access with Metro North. GNA has asked our elected reps and senator in Hartford for assistance in communicating with Metro North.

NEW BUSINESS

There is a public hearing for capital budget funding for continuation of streetscaping on Glenbrook Road on Tuesday, February 3rd at 7:00 pm, Government Center, 4th Floor cafeteria. GNA is planning on having a contingency attend. Call Christie Fountain if interested.

Laurie Doig had the new GNA “clings” (decals) available at the meeting. Start looking for them on car and shop windows!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Business members are listed on the handouts for the meeting.

Elected officials, also listed on handouts, presented updates and progress on their agendas. Jay Fountain spoke about issues with City Carting and speeding on Courtland Avenue. He mentioned the new conveyance tax on homes over \$1M, the Senior Tax Abatement program, and the tight capital budget for 2015. Carlo Leone gave updates on the 7 committees on which he sits; William Tong spoke about taking additional action to protect kids as a result of the Stamford High issue; and Caroline Simmons gave an update. Dan Fox updated us, and also told us about taking 18 family members on the train from Springdale to Glenbrook for ice cream cones at Little Monkey Café and making it back in time for the next train from Glenbrook to Springdale.

Jen Godzeno updated us on People Friendly Stamford’s participation in the passing of the Complete Street Ordinance.

The Stark School Starry Night fundraiser was highlighted by Sue Lacovacci.

PROGRAM: WHAT WOULD ATTRACT MORE BUSINESSES AND DEVELOPERS TO GLENBROOK?

The Panel, which actually sat in the order that new developments happen, consisted of Thomas Madden, Director of Economic Development City of Stamford; Dave Killeen, Associate Planner City of Stamford; Don Corbo, commercial Realtor New England Properties; and Nino Antonelli, Vice President First County Bank.

Thomas Madden is new to Stamford, coming from Westchester County where he participated in a 7 county strategic planning committee tasked with "How can we take out Stamford?". Smartly, Stamford hired him for the defense!

Dave Killeen handles elements of zoning as they pertain to new developments. When VCD was voted on in June 2009, Springdale opted for four (4) stories (44 feet height limit) with a setback. Glenbrook opted for three (3) stories (35 feet height limit). GNA will be hearing more about the height limit issue when the TOD consultants submit their recommendations. The VCD zone is unusual in that it has design guidelines, such as buildings close to the sidewalk, and parking behind the building.

Don Corbo puts together a property and buyer, and was instrumental in the 17-unit apartments at 467 Glenbrook Road. He mentioned a couple other properties in discussion for Glenbrook.

Nino Antonelli handles the finance end of new developments. First County Bank has financed projects in Glenbrook, and he said that most properties go right away in Glenbrook.

Thomas Madden summarized that Glenbrook provides options for life cycles. It provides apartments or condos for young adults just starting out. It provides homes for families, as well as options for older adults who want to downsize and stay in the neighborhood. Walkability is a big key, especially for the train and the shops. Glenbrook will need density to support retail shops.

The meeting adjourned around 8:45 with people staying for questions and refreshments provided by Grade A.

The next Quarterly meeting will be held Wednesday, March 18, 2015.

Becky Collins, Recording Secretary