

# Cool Spring/Tilton Neighborhood Association

## Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2010

Attendees: See attached list.

**1. Welcome** to members of CSTNA. Meeting chair: C. Zahradnik

### **2. Fall Activities**

- Daffodil planting at Cool Spring Park planned for Oct. 22 (11:00 am-2:30 pm) and Oct. 23 (11:00-noon).
- Haunted House activity for children on Oct. 26 (2-4 p.m.) at Regency Healthcare. RSVP by Oct. 20.
- Some confusion about Tree planting at Tilton Park. (Since the meeting, we have learned that DCH will take care of the tree planting around Oct 20.)
- Hazardous waste, electronics, shredding on Nov. 6 (8:00 am-4:00 pm) at the Riverfront. Three boxes of paper/household is the limit for shredding.

### **3. Holiday Season Activities**

- Holiday house and outdoor lighting tour scheduled for Dec. 4. Contact Ed Weirauch to have your house (indoors, outdoors, or both) on the tour.
- Christmas caroling on Dec. 12. Contact Sally O'Byrne to host either the soup supper or dessert afterwards.

### **4. New Community Police Officers:**

Cpl. Alex Schupp (302) 463-4207

[alex.schupp@cj.state.de.us](mailto:alex.schupp@cj.state.de.us)

Cpl. David Ledesma (302) 547-3694

[david.ledesma@cj.state.de.us](mailto:david.ledesma@cj.state.de.us)

The high turnover of police officers occurs because they are reassigned or promoted.

### **5. Change in Accounting Period**

Vote to amend by-laws to change accounting year to July 1-June 30, as a convenience, corresponding to the City fiscal year.

Motion to vote to amend by-laws for accounting year:

In favor: All.

Opposed: None.

### **6. Ideas for Clean Wilmington Day**

Due to budget constraints, there will be no special pick-ups. B. Freel asked the Association for ideas:

- Ask residents to volunteer to use their own trucks to transport organic yard wastes to mulching and recycling centers, i.e., Bellevue.
- Continue leaf collection by City with vacuum vehicle.
- Coordinate community-wide yard sale and clean-up day. Rent 2 dumpsters for trash collection on clean-up day and next day, take dumpsters to recycling areas. Home Depot has portable dumpsters that may be available to the Association for reduced cost.
- Decide on pick-up dates. Residents suggested dates in Dec. and late April.
- Contact L&I before clean-up day so no Instant Tickets are distributed.
- Improve educational efforts since littering is a serious problem.
- Clean up leaves and litter over storm drains before storms since City does not clean up leaves and litter over drains.

## **7. Community Garden Project with Public Allies**

Public Allies, an AmeriCorps program, is interested in initiating a community garden project but the scheduled representative was a no-show.

## **8. Delaware Humane Association**

Patrick Carroll, Executive Director, informed attendees about the DHA, a privately funded organization which runs a no-kill shelter at 701 A St. mainly for dog and cat pets. The organization's primary activities are:

- Providing adoption for dogs and cats.
- Low cost spay/neuter surgery.
- Humane education.
- Temporary shelter, i.e., after Hurricane Katrina, Crestview Apartment fire, domestic violence.

DHA limits the number of pit bulls housed since there is a great oversupply. Bark in the Dark is their fund-raising cocktail party.

## **9. Councilman Sammy Prado** reported on properties at 1005 and 1007 8<sup>th</sup> St.

The City intended to purchase these blighted, problem properties and rehabilitate them but this initiative fell through. The properties reverted to single family dwellings since the variances for multi-family use lapsed; however, 2 speculators bought the properties and appear to intend to make apartments. According to City representatives, the conversion of 802 N. Broom St. does not set a precedent.

Comments from attendees:

- An up-coming ZBA meeting will provide a forum to express residents' views.
- The City has so many vacant properties that it seems the City prefers to have properties occupied, even allowing properties with lapsed variances to become multi-family dwellings by speculators.
- Several residents are concerned with properties on the market for very low prices on their streets.

## **10. Representative Gerald Brady** reported:

A resolution has been submitted for the Board of Realtors for changes to the Seller's Disclosure Form. The changes include asking whether there are any variances, whether any variances have expired, and whether the property is in a historic district.

Comments from attendees:

- Important to clarify that a property is in the local and national historic district since the local district has the jurisdiction to impose standards.
- Is the CSTNA on record to oppose variances unless we make a compelling case?
- **ACTION ITEM:** M. Glass, C. Zahradnik to include the topic of being on record to oppose variances on the agenda for the November meeting.

## **10. New Business**

- Neighborhood Watch

Several residents reported involvement in the Neighborhood Watch program. More residents are needed to become involved to make the program a successful.

- Copeland Quartet is scheduled at the Swedenborgian Church for January 16, 2011.
- "Get Out The Vote" initiative is important and supported by CSTNA.
- Streetlights are being up-graded with brighter lights.

## Attendees

Ed Weirauch

Tammie Williams

Patrick Carroll

Jim Dolan

John & Judy Fardoulis

Bill & Barbara Dunn

George Lodewig

Jeff & Robin Kusumi

Joe Grey

Prakash Seshadri

Lisa Zimmerman

John Shaw

Liza & Eric Zumsteg

Councilman Sammy Prado

Representative Gerald Brady

Mitchell & Anne Glass

Connie Smith

Clara Zahradnik