

Newton Highlands Neighborhood Area Council

Meeting Minutes – June 3, 2010

Attending: Janice Bourque, Srdjan Nedeljkovic, Paul Gilbert, Barbara Darnell, Scott Gordon, Groot Gregory, Peter Meyer, Alderman Richard Blazar, Alderman Victoria Danberg, George Mansfield

Srdjan called the meeting to order at 8:10pm

- Discussion of Safe Sidewalks:

Safe Sidewalks is an advocacy group that seeks to encourage the use of sidewalks and walking by addressing the need for safe, cleared walks. The first issue they wish to address is snow removal during the winter months by the residents and the city. Here are some of the issues raised:

1. Contracted snowplowers push the street snow onto the sidewalks particularly at street corners making it impossible for any resident to shovel through the mound.
2. Brookline has written requirements in its contracts with independent snowplowers that they cannot do this. Newton should do the same with loss of contract for violations.
3. The City sidewalk plower often only does one side of the street and the timing between the street plowing and then the sidewalk plowing is not coordinated.
4. The number of sidewalks plowed has been reduced over the years.
5. A clearinghouse of “assisting shovelers” for those unable to remove the snow should be provided.
6. Residents with private driveway plowers need accountability for their snow being pushed into the sidewalks or neighbor’s driveway.
7. Areas for children taking the bus should be parking and snow free.
8. Grace periods need to be addressed for when residents are out of town or away for the winter.

Safe Sidewalks is meeting with a number of organizations to compile concerns and solutions and will report back in the future.

- Treasurer’s report: Scott reviewed current bank account status and the purchases for May which included the Verizon bill and the purchase of a tent to be used for Village Day and other Area Council outdoor events. He purchased a higher quality tent so we anticipate it will last for several years. Scott also reported that discussions with Justine regarding the distribution of the \$3,000 from Whole Foods toward the bridge beautification project are ongoing. He did mention that it seems as if the Area Council will have access to less than we originally thought.
- Village Day, 2010
 - Janice will be coordinating signage, information sheets about the work of the Area Council and other handouts to be distributed throughout the day. She will also get

some trifold displays to present the info in an attractive way. We will post photos of recent neighborhood events including the winter social, Halloween and the skating rink.

- Barbara will inquire whether or not the Mayor will be at Village Day.
- Road race plans are set as are arrangements for the silent auction.
- There are 68 confirmed booths at this time.
- Peter will get in touch with Newton Police to make certain that the A/V tech can drive into the square around 10:30 to setup his equipment.
- Scott has ordered t-shirts and has organized a new Area Council logo.
- Janice reported that the Hyde newsletter was printed and needed volunteers to label names before mailing. Several Council members agreed to label and committed to have it done Saturday evening.
- Scott will produce a first draft of the Area Council annual budget for all members to review. The budget will give us a clearer view of our revenue and expenses and allow us to manage cash flow more effectively.
- The date for the first Newton Highlands Area Council annual meeting has been set for October 7, 2010, location and agenda to be determined.
- Groot has been updating the Council website and has distributed a copy for members to review. He will do some additional work before submitting it to the City's IT department.
- Agenda for next meeting on July 1:
 - Review Village Day
 - Review budget draft
 - Complete website updates