

LONGFELLOW AREA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING
November 10, 2014

Minutes

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Longfellow Area Neighborhood Association was held at the Longfellow House on Monday November 10, 2014 at 7:30PM. Those in attendance were: Linda Burnett, John Covert, Mike Fitzgerald, Christopher Kollett, Walter Michalik, Julia O'Brien and Rob Orthman. Also in attendance were Lee Blasi of Tim McCarthy's office, Christine Galatis, the new Roslindale rep from Neighborhood Services, Eugenia Gibbons of Renew Boston and Hezekiah Pratt representing the owner of 26 Bradfield Ave.

The meeting began with a call for additional items for the agenda. The agenda was approved with the addition of a discussion of a zoning issue at 17 Brookfield Street.

The meeting continued with the introduction of Christine Galatis, the new Roslindale representative from the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services. Dave McNulty is now focused on Hyde Park. Christine said she was still learning the ropes from Dave and her full contact information could be found on the City's web site. The group welcomed Christine.

The meeting continued with a presentation by Eugenia Gibbons of Renew Boston. Renew Boston is the City's version of the Mass Save program. They perform home energy audits, make recommendations and help homeowners with incentives like rebates and 0% financing. She indicated that anyone can qualify, regardless of whether they own or rent, as well as income level. The program is funded by a charge included on utility bills. Eugenia indicated that there would be a full workshop at 7pm on November 20th at the Roslindale Community Center. The focus of the workshop will be upgrades to heating systems. Visit their web site www.renewboston.org or call 617-635-SAVE (mass save) for more info.

The meeting continued with a presentation regarding 26 Bradfield Ave. The architect, Hezekiah Pratt indicated that he was just getting his full presentation together but wanted to reach out now because they had already replaced the rear porches because the existing porches were in disrepair and felt to be a hazard. He said they had applied via the short form but were then told by the city to go back and file a long form permit request. Filing the long form triggered a number of zoning violations including insufficient set-back, 3-family in a 2-family zone and open space issues. The porches were rebuilt to restore the 2nd means of egress under the short form permit. They will go before the ZBA on 1/20/15. The direct abutter at 22 Bradfield stated he thought the new porches and stairs were hideous. They are far larger and bulkier than those they replaced. Since the porches and stairs are already built, it was suggested that a request for betterments to offset the impact was appropriate. The group thanked Mr. Pratt for his presentation.

The meeting continued with a presentation regarding 17 Brookfield Street. The owner had a ZBA meeting date but postponed it to come before the community first. The owner of

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the property, Jack Griffin is looking to move in next door to son's house but the property is uninhabitable. He's looking for a 2-story rear addition along with a one story garage. These changes would result in 5 violations, most related to insufficient lot size. He noted that all of the changes are in keeping with the surrounding properties. 15 abutters are in support of the project. The neighbor at 53 South Fairview complained that they had not been informed. It was noted that this person is a member of the family building the new apartment complex at the old gas station site and has had issues with neighbors over that project so there could just be some sour grapes there. Their ZBA appearance is scheduled for 11/25/14 at 11:30AM. The board indicated no opposition to the project, given the strong abutter support.

The meeting continued with committee reports. John Covert reporting for the Green committee that the Roslindale Clean & Green group would be doing a planting at Alexander the Great Park at 9AM Tuesday. Volunteers are welcome.

Kathy continued with a report from the Transportation Committee. She reported that the Walter/Bussey intersection changes are moving forward, most likely to be built out in the spring. She indicated there was a possibility for a bike lane on Walter Street. She also indicated that the infrastructure for signal lights is already in place but the city will hold off on installing lights until they see how well the re-worked intersection works out. Christine indicated that she will send the current plan drawings to Rob via email. Rob indicated that he had spoken to the Transportation department to continue pushing the project. Lee indicated that she had put in a request for this project as well as projects on Florence Street and one other street.

For the Zoning committee, most issues were already covered above. The one item added was to visit the issue of formal votes on issue, which will be discussed in the new year.

Rob reported for the Membership & Outreach committee. He indicated that he was gathering things to propose to do in the new year. He would like hold another pot luck supper as well as publish a newsletter. Chris indicated that the neighborhood yard sale is still asked about frequently. More to follow in the new year.

Chris reported for the Friends of Fallon Field committee. He reported that the tot lot renovations had been moved up to be completed in 2015. The posting for designers is already on the city web site. There will be a tot lot design meeting at the Beethoven School on Wednesday 11/12 at 6:30pm. Chris also noted that Roslindale accounted for 9% of the open space survey respondents.

For the Wetlands report, it was reported that Paul Sutton had a clean-up performed at the main entrance. With winter coming, activities will resume in the spring.

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The clerk reported no activity since the September meeting. The minutes of the September meeting were approved as distributed.

The treasurer indicated the bank balance of \$1416.26 less a \$75 check written this evening to Chris Kollett for the renewal of the domain name registrations for the web site.

The meeting was drawn to a close with a reminder of our next meeting:

Board Meeting - Monday, January 12, 2015 at 7:30PM at Longfellow House