

# Northampton Civic League

## Minutes 03/07/2006

The March meeting of the Northampton Civic league was called to order at 7:10 by NHCL President Bernice Jackson. There were ten people present.

The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

Secretary Matt Asay presented the November minutes (deferred from earlier meetings). The minutes were approved with a possible correction to the treasurer's report. The Secretary then presented the February minutes which were approved as read.

Treasurer Butch Heath indicated there had been no changes in the leagues finances since the last meeting. The current balance is 165.83.

The membership discussed ways to improve attendance. It was noted that attendance was up for the March meeting as compared to the last few months. One suggestion to improve awareness and jog peoples memories about the meeting date was to post signs in the area right before the meeting. Vice President Wendell Midkiff asked Karen Duncan, our District 1 Commissioner on the Neighborhood Commission to check on the possibility of getting some signs from the Neighborhood Office.

The group discussed Neighborhood Month which is coming up in May. The "Intent to Register" forms for those seeking grants are due on April 7th with the full application due on April 17th. After some discussion, members expressed the opinion that it was now to late to plan an event for this year. A motion was made and seconded to defer our participation until next year. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Duncan indicated that she would be visiting and reviewing various Neighborhood Month events as part of her duties. She stated that she would be on the lookout for ideas we might want to use next year.

Wendell Midkiff indicated that he had spoken to Councilwomen Leary about the flooding issue we discussed at an earlier meeting. She indicated that she was still pursuing information and trying to get various questions answered and that she would keep us posted as the information became available.

Ms. Duncan also mentioned that she now had a list of contacts for other civic groups in our area. She indicated the list might be useful if we were planning any district wide events or trying to communicate on some issue.

A motion was made and seconded to participate in the 2007 Neighborhood Month event and to begin our planning at the April meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Darryl Krauch and Matt Asay volunteered to serve on a committee to provide some ideas to the rest of the membership.

Mr. Midkiff noted that a Parliamentary Workshop was again being offered on Saturday March 11th. He offered an informational brochure to anyone who might be interested. He also distributed some of the literature left by the Transitions group representative at our last meeting.

A question came up about the status of the School for the Deaf and Blind in Hampton. Mr. Heath indicated that the matter was still under consideration by the general assembly and that no final decision to keep or close the school had yet been made.

Ms. Duncan provided some further information from her commission meetings about two upcoming programs. First there will be a Neighborhood Month Kickoff breakfast April 10th at the convention center. The mayor and the city manager are to speak. The main topic will be Economic Development in Hampton.

Second she provided a summary of upcoming Neighborhood Team meetings. There will be one meeting on March 13th with training on Codes, Safety, and Animal Control. It will be from 12:30-4:30 at the Rupert Sargent building. The contact number for more information is the Neighborhood Office at 727-6460. There will be a second meeting on March 20th (same time and location). The topics covered will be Litter, Beautification, and Housing.

A van with space for up to 6 people will be used for the various monthly neighborhood inspections by the teams. The tours will be videotaped and other city personnel will review the tapes if needed to address issues uncovered. Each tour will include at least 1 City participant.

Mr. Heath noted a recent reported increase in gang related activities in various neighborhoods. The group felt it would be useful to have a speaker from the Police Department come to one our meetings. The members felt that a high profile speaker like that could be a good draw for potential new NHCL members. It was felt we should develop and distribute fliers in the neighborhoods to highlight the event and invite people to come.

A motion was made and seconded to try to set up the speaker for the June meeting,, giving us adequate time to prepare and get the word out. The motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Heath offered to get copies of a brochure once one was developed. Mr. Asay noted that it would also be a good idea to get our membership brochure up to date so we could distribute copies to the participants.

The following people agreed to serve on the committee: Matt Asay, Selvin Walker

There was some further discussion of other threats to our youth. One point mentioned was the need for parents to monitor the web sites (such as MySpace) and email of their children. This was discussed as a possible future meeting topic but no action was taken at this time.

Several members discussed the City Council elections coming up in May. It was noted that we had two council candidates present at the meetings: Mr. Donnie Tuck and Mr. Butch Heath.

Each was offered a chance to speak on their candidacy and the issues they felt were important for the upcoming election. Mr. Heath deferred until a future date.

Mr. Tuck spoke about his background (a Masters at ODU and 8 years as an Administrator in Norfolk) and about some of the issues he saw: \* Too many city plans that were not well coordinated with each other, \* Unequal property tax assessments, and \* Maintaining viable businesses in Hampton.

After the conclusion of Mr. Tuck's presentation questions arose about membership expiration dates. Matt Asay indicated that he would send out by email to each person their membership expiration status.

The meeting was adjourned at about 8:45 pm. The next meeting will be April 4th at 7:00 pm.

Memberships: no renewals or new members.

**Matt Asay, NHCL Secretary**