

# Northampton Civic League Minutes 09/05/2006

The September meeting of the Northampton Civic league was called to order at 7:00 by NHCL Vice President Wendell Midkiff. There were 6 people present including one new visitor, Ms. Flora Randall.

The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

The Vice President welcomed Ms. Randall who had come at the invitation of District 1 Commissioner Karen Duncan. He also noted that President Bernice Jackson had indicated she would be unable to attend.

Secretary Matt Asay summarized the August minutes which were approved with no corrections.

Karen Duncan volunteered to take the registration, dues received, and the bank statements to the Treasurer who was not present at the meeting.

## Unfinished Business

Ms. Duncan reported on her efforts to contact other civic organizations in the area to see if they were interested in meeting with the NHCL to discuss joint interests. The Lakehaven representative, Manny Puma, indicated a reluctance to have anything to do with the City of Hampton or other groups. The President of Farmington indicated that his term was ending and he needed to pass the request on to his successor for consideration. The Lake One representative, Angela Flucker, did not see any need for a meeting at this time. Other groups have not yet been successfully contacted.

Selvin Walker reported on a meeting he and 3 of his neighbors had had with Public Works director Ted Henefin and two members of his staff. They met to discuss the flooding problems in Mr. Walker's neighborhood. The meeting and tour lasted about 2 hours. Mr. Walker sent thank you emails to Mr. Henefin and to Councilwomen Leary for their work in setting up the meeting.

We spent a good deal of time discussing the flooding issue and it's potential to attract attention and new members for the civic league. Wendell noted that during the recent rainstorm (Tropical Storm Ernesto) water covered the street and went 6 feet into his yard for most of the day and night. He declared that "Whatever the city is doing is not enough. It's not acceptable." Selvin noted that he was unable to get out of his neighborhood at all that day. He had taped his area after the storm and offered to show it to anyone who was interested after the meeting. His street is now clean, but partly because his neighbors flushed their debris down the storm drains, adding to the problem. He wants to tell them not to do that, but needs ammunition from the city to use to convince them. Ms. McQuillan noted that Newmarket Creek is in her backyard and noted the amount of trash she has seen in it.

The group worked to formulate questions to put to the City to clarify the issue and the action needed:

- What has the city done to clear Newmarket Creek?
- What actions are planned?
- What are the limitations on City access to clean drainage ditches and storm drains?
- Do ordinances or laws need to be changed to permit needed access?

We speculated that there would be considerable discussion of the flooding issue at the next council meeting. There was a motion (unanimously approved) to adopt the flooding issue as a vehicle to get residents involved in the league. Selvin offered to put together a new set of half-page recruiting fliers. We will formulate a plan to address the flooding issue in the Northampton area.

On the issue of reapplying for Registered Neighborhood status, Mr. Midkiff suggested that we submit an application for the Northampton Civic League "as is" using our goals and objectives from the bylaws without trying to reformulate or redistrict the league first. The members expressed agreement with this approach, but no formal vote was taken.

## New Business

Ms Randall described a problem she and her neighbors were experiencing that led her to seek advice and support from the civic league. She lives on Lynhaven, just off Todds Lane behind Todd's Center. Since January she and her neighbors have had a problem with an employee of Matlock's towing parking his

vehicles on the residential street. She considers the vehicles to be an eyesore and a detriment to the neighborhood. She presented pictures to show what she was talking about. At times the trucks have blocked the entrances to people's driveways. The trucks are often parked in the wrong direction to facilitate being able to pull out quickly when a call comes in. She has been told that parking commercial vehicles in a residential area (other than for pickup or delivery) is a violation and is supposed to be subject to a \$100/hr fine. She has contacted the police, Codes and Compliance, and the city attorney with very little effect. Codes told her that one of the vehicles (the smaller one) is legal to park in the area, but that the other is not. However nothing much has been done. She has tried calling Matlock's but has gotten no satisfaction from them as well. Many of her neighbors don't like the situation but are reluctant to take any action. She asked for our advice and support.

The group counseled her to put together a chronology of the problem and what she has done to try to solve it. The goal would be to present the problem during the public comment period at an upcoming City Council meeting. It would be good to have as many of her neighbors there as possible and written support from those that couldn't be there. We advised her to plan ahead of time what each person would be saying so they presented a coherent message. We asked her to call us for feedback and support before the meeting and several people indicated that they would try to attend both the planning meeting and the presentation to the Council.

At the end of the meeting Selvin showed a DVD he had made of the flooding in his area. It was extensive and very impressive. He indicated that he planned to make copies of the video and distribute them to the City Council members.

The meeting was adjourned at about 8:50 pm. The next meeting will be October 3rd at 7:00 pm.

Memberships: There was 1 new member and no renewals.

**Matt Asay, NHCL Secretary**

Revised 09/20/06