

# Northampton Civic League Minutes 10/03/2006

The October meeting of the Northampton Civic League was called to order at 7:05 by NHCL President Bernice Jackson. There were 7 people present.

The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

The President welcomed returning member Fred Smith who had been unable to attend for several years due to other commitments, but was now rejoining. She also noted that Vice President Wendell Midkiff and District Commissioner Karen Duncan had both indicated they would be unable to attend.

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

The president noted that the city's Crime & Grime committee would have its next meeting on October 9 from 10:00 - 11:30 am.

Selvin Walker distributed for comments the drafts of fliers he plans to distribute around the neighborhoods.

Mr. Walker then reported on a city meeting on flooding which he attended. The meeting was held from 7:00 until 9:30 at Mallory Elementary. Congressman Bobby Scott was in attendance, as was representative Mayme Locke and Mayor Ross Kearney. Much of the focus was on the Palmaria Apartment flooding. Many of the residents spoke and things got "kind of heated" at times.

The City of Hampton is planning to address problems with Newmarket Creek in conjunction with the City of Newport News. As an aside, to see the kind of discussion he witnessed he suggested we check out the last couple of city council meetings (which can now be watched online). The city is forming an advisory committee of residents including those affected by the flooding to assist in the effort to reduce flooding.

Other notes with respect to the committee and the meeting:

- The city's 311 numbers were overloaded during the recent flooding
- Yet another (!) Army Corps of Engineers study is planned to determine what can be done and how to go about it.
- The city willing to buy property which is subject to flooding
- City Engineer Fred Whitley will head it.
- Brian ?? from the Neighborhood Office will participate.
- Selvin will be a member of the committee

Mr. Walker also noted that he spoke with Roosevelt Wilson, president of the Aberdeen Civic Association during the meeting. Aberdeen has a flooding subcommittee. They are willing to partner with the Northampton Civic League on this issue.

The members at the meeting continued discussion of flooding. Jean McQuillan distributed several pictures of some of the problems with Newmarket Creek where it runs directly next to her home. The creek had trees growing in it and contained considerable trash, plants, and debris. Mr. Walker noted that he had toured part of Newmarket Creek with Fred Whitley. Newmarket Creek can't be further paved (although parts of it already were in the past) because of environmental concerns. Fred Smith noted that many of the pipes feeding the creek are no longer large enough for the current development in the area. We also looked at the route of Newmarket Creek and the overflow spillway through Newport News on a couple of maps. Ms. McQuillan noted that the 8-10 homes approved off Bellwood were backing right up to the creek. She wondered what happened to the 100' buffer she had heard was required by the Chesapeake Bay Watershed regulations. No one knew if the regulations had been changed.

A motion was made and seconded to appoint Selvin Walker as our representative and liaison with the Flooding committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

## New Business

On another issue, Mr. Walker also reported on the Friends of Sandy Bottom meeting that both he and Karen Duncan had attended. The subject of the meeting was a preliminary proposal by a developer who

wanted to develop on the corner of the Sandy Bottom property by Big Bethel Road and the Hampton Roads Center parkway (across from TGI Fridays). The current owner wants to sell to another developer (although the City has tried to buy the properties). The new developer would acquire two properties and give the small one (away from the corner) to Sandy Bottom and develop the larger one. A park ranger described how the park would like to close the current big bethel entrance (across from Farm Fresh and move it down to across from the traffic light into Town Center. There is a problem with this proposed plan that they have not resolved: the new entrance would go through a salamander pond and there seem to be environmental issues. No vote was taken (at the Friends of Sandy Bottom meeting) on the proposal. It was being presented by Jim Wilson (of the Parks and Recreation Department. Selvin reported that for the most part it seemed to be well received by that group. The property is currently zoned R11 so a rezoning would be required.

In other news our President reported that “Boot Camp Training for Non-Profit Grant Writing” would be offered at the Hampton Library on October 13 from 9:30 to 12:00. Anyone interested should RSVP at 727-1314.

Our Treasurer, Butch Heath arrived from another meeting near the conclusion of our meeting. He did not have a full treasurer’s report but reported that we had 192.83 in the bank and a total of 255.83 in funds altogether.

Finally there was some discussion that our next meeting would fall on Election Day. We decided to postpone the meeting one week until November 14.

The meeting was adjourned at about 8:40 pm. The next meeting was scheduled for November 14th at 7:00 pm.

*[Editor’s note: When the President attempted later on to change the meeting date, the Community Center had no rooms available for the 14th, so the meeting date was changed back to the 7th.]*

Memberships: There was 1 rejoining member and no renewals.

**Matt Asay, NHCL Secretary**