

The October meeting of the Northampton Civic League (NHCL) was called to order at 7:03 pm by Selvin Walker, NHCL President. Seven people were in attendance.

The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

President Walker welcomed everyone. The attendees briefly discussed the importance of the upcoming elections.

League Business:

Matt Asay, NHCL Secretary summarized the minutes from the September meeting. There was some confusion over the section recording the donations received for a plant for Vice President Wendell Midkiff. Since the Treasurer was not present to help clarify the information, the members unanimously approved the following resolution:

We will suspend the approval of the minutes of the 09/02/08 meeting pending clarification of the donations received.

President Walker presented a statement of the league's finances on behalf of absent NHCL Treasurer Samara Walker. Because of the apparent differences between the statement and the Secretary's meeting notes, the members unanimously approved the following resolution:

We will suspend the approval of the 10/07/08 treasurer's report until the minutes of the 09/02/08 meeting are clarified and approved.

President Walker reported that he did not yet have a sample NHCL shirt for league members to examine. He indicated that he hoped to have it available by the next meeting.

New Business:

Cheryl McElraft reported on her discussions with area schools about using their signs to advertise Civic League meetings. She also expressed a willingness to distribute fliers to raise awareness of the league and its meetings. She noted that one of those fliers was how she originally got involved. We talked about making or purchasing a banner to put on Todds Lane by the community center advertising the meetings. A suggested slogan was "You have a voice".

We discussed the revisions needed for the current membership brochure (listing the Secretary as the recipient of membership applications and dues). Another suggestion was to increase the prominence of the instructions to make the checks payable to the NHCL and un-bold the mailing address. Secretary Matt Asay was given this action item.

Information was presented on the "Lights On After School" program to be presented on October 16 from 5:30-7:30 pm at the Northampton Community Center. There will be free T-shirts provided for K-8 students and a \$25 gas card drawing.

District 1 Neighborhood Commissioner Karen Duncan talked about efforts by the commission to amend the grant process. It will be easier to apply for small grant amounts. She will distribute more information when it becomes available.

Continuing our discussion of ways to raise awareness of the NHCL and distribute information in the area, Jon McBride noted that Wythe uses “block captains” to distribute their newsletter in the various neighborhoods. Suggesting that we might want to visit other civic organizations to see how they managed recruitment and information dissemination, Karen offered to get a list of the meeting dates of other groups and distribute them to interested members.

We talked about identifying issues or projects that have attracted members in the past or that might interest new potential members. We considered a survey of “What issues are important to you?”. We talked about how to distribute it and collect and analyze the results. We decided that in most cases it would be most effective to try to talk to neighbors going door-to-door (rather than just dropping something off). For some other people their preferred alternative would probably be sending and responding by email. We will probably need multiple approaches to reach the largest possible audience. It was noted that the most likely candidates for new members would probably be people who had already at some time in the past been members or had expressed interest in the league. We decided to plan a campaign after the first of the year.

We also briefly discussed the league boundaries and the size of the area now encompassed by the league. We agreed that it was too large to reach effectively with our current limited membership. We need to also revisit revising our boundaries in early 2009.

Flora Randall reported on her visit with our ailing Vice President, Wendell Midkiff. He had expressed his regrets that he would be unable to attend tonight’s meeting.

Several members mentioned that they would be attending Farmington’s “Harvest Fest” event. We should receive a report on it at the next meeting.

We briefly discussed the plans for repeating last year’s December Pot Luck dinner meeting again this year. Flora Randall (who was asked to again act as coordinator) indicated that she would be soliciting choices of dinner items by email later on.

Because the next regular meeting would fall on election night, the members unanimously approved plans to reschedule it for the following Tuesday, November 11th. President Walker will ask the NHCC staff about changing our room reservation. *(Note: After the meeting it was determined that the 11th was a Veteran’s Day holiday and the November meeting was canceled instead.)*

Other Officer Matters: None

Matters by the Public: None.

Membership: There were no renewals and no new members.

Adjournment: President Walker adjourned the meeting at 8:32 pm. The next meeting was

scheduled for November 11, 2008.

Action Items:

- Matt Asay to work with Samara Walker to clarify differences between the draft meeting minutes and the Treasurer's report.
- Matt Asay to make revisions to the league's brochure and membership application.
- Karen Duncan to distribute information on the meeting schedules of other civic organizations.
- Karen Duncan to provide information on the new Neighborhood Commission small grant process.
- Selvin Walker to bring a sample shirt and logo to the next meeting for review by the members.
- Flo Randall to continue coordination for a Christmas Pot Luck

Matt Asay

NHCL Secretary

As approved at the December 3, 2008 meeting.

01/05/2009