

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

The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

President Walker welcomed everyone and asked that the new attendees introduce themselves and note what some of their interests might be.

### **League Business:**

Matt Asay, NHCL Secretary summarized the minutes from the September meeting and noted the clarification of the issue discussed at our last meeting in October. The minutes were approved unanimously with this one correction.

Matt then summarized the minutes of the October meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously as presented.

Treasurer Samara Walker presented a statement of the league's finances for October. The initial balance was \$428.23. There was income (dues and donations) totaling \$56.06 and an expenditure of \$48.29 for the Peace Lily for Wendell Midkiff, leaving a final balance of \$436.00. The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

Samara then presented the report for December. The opening balance was \$436.00. After dues of \$10.00 were deposited, the final balance was \$446.00. The membership unanimously approved this report as well.

We briefly discussed membership renewals. Currently we have been relying on people noticing that their membership has expired (from the dates on the sign-in sheet). In the future the Treasurer will provide a list to the Secretary of members whose renewal date has arrived and the Secretary will issue reminders.

### **New Business:**

Cheryl McElraft volunteered to contact members who have not attended in a while or whose membership has expired. The Secretary will provide her with a list of names to work from. The President noted he has access to a phone "mass call" function that might be useful for sending meeting reminders. Another member noted that a resumption of the monthly newsletter would be another vehicle for keeping the NHCL in peoples minds and calendars.

### **Matters from Members and League Officers:**

President Walker asked for issues of interest or concern from those present.

Cheryl McElraft noted that the young men who had been hanging around on street corners in her neighborhood seemed to have moved on.

Carolyn Phaup asked for ideas on instilling more neighborhood pride in the residents of our areas. She described cars parked on lawns on some houses and other cars having been broken into on two occasions in the recent past. She noted suspicion at a supposed “ADT” security salesman working door to door in her area and some groups of young men in sweatshirts and hoods traveling the neighborhood at night. We noted a brainstorming session on “how to encourage people to maintain property” as a possible meeting topic for the spring. The League may sponsor some sort of contest to improve awareness and participation. The President noted the “3 people” guideline if the issue needed to be escalated to City Council, if you have 3 or more it tends to get the city’s and the Councils attention. This is where the NHCL can help serve as a focal point or amplifier to help get action.

Another issue discussed was the accumulation of leaves in some of the storm drains. The member was encouraged to contact Pat Ray with Hampton’s Public Works Department and report the issue.

Tonya Easley described how Verizon had just painted utility markings on her lawn (for their FIOS installation). Other members reported that the installations in their areas had gone smoothly for the most part and that the work had been completed fairly quickly.

There was some discussion about the zoning variance sought by Liberty Baptist Church. Someone had determined that the height exception they were seeking was for a tower and cross only, not for a multistory building.

The state transportation committee was holding a public hearing that overlapped with the time for our meeting. It was noted that there was another hearing being held in a couple of days at Granby High School in Norfolk.

President Walker noted the upcoming public forums on school boundary adjustments being held from 7:30-9:30 at the Rupert Sargent building on Monday December 8th and at Bethel High on Tuesday December 9th. The issue of whether the new Pre-K to 8th grade school will be a magnet school or a local area school will probably be discussed. He emphasized the importance of this issue to all area residents whether they have school age children or not since it could affect the property values of the surrounding area and the character of the neighborhoods.

Selvin also reported on the progress in planning for an order of T-shirts for league members. The cost will range from \$10.40 to 20.00 each depending upon the quantity we order. The minimum order would be 24 shirts. As one might expect, more colors in any design would increase the cost. The shirts are 50%/50% cotton/polyester. There is a \$45 digitizing fee for the design. The logo is our NHCL “Compass and Tree” design on the left chest. The shirts would be embroidered, not silkscreened and available in small to large sizes with 2X and 3X being slightly higher in price. Selvin will put the information in an email for Matt to distribute to all members to determine the quantity and sizes they would like to order.

Samara reported the recent theft of air conditioning units from her area. She reminded members to be careful about who knows when you are away from home. She also recommend varying your departure and arrival times to keep your schedule from becoming too predictable.

District 1 Neighborhood Commissioner Karen Duncan summarized pending changes to the schedule and organization of the Neighborhood College. The Summer and Winter sessions will have different focuses. She will provide more information after the formal approval at the next Neighborhood Commission meeting. She also noted that there were pending changes to the commission's grant process. It should become easier to get small matching grants for things like meeting signs. More information on this is forthcoming as well.

Matt noted that the NHCL has a "meeting reminder" sign that is currently not being used. Selvin requested that Matt bring it to the next meeting and we will try to get it deployed again.

### **Elections:**

Elections of new officers are planned for January. Secretary Matt Asay will send out a request for nominations and then distribute the list of nominees to all members. The by-laws call for publishing the nominations at least one week prior to the elections.

### **League Boundaries:**

We will also discuss shrinking the league boundaries at the January meeting. The President suggested that we may want to reduce them to match the boundaries of District 1. (They now include the western half of District 2 as well.)

### **Pot Luck Dinner:**

In preparation for the Pot Luck (rescheduled for January), Flo Randall asked that people inform her by email of their planned dish and number of participants. Matt will send out a mass email reminder and list her as the contact. She will send out updates as people respond.

Membership: There were no renewals and no new members at the meeting. (One new member, Cheryl McElraft, had joined by mail since the last meeting.)

Adjournment: President Walker adjourned the meeting at 8:40 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for January 6th, 2009.

### **Action Items:**

- Karen Duncan to distribute information on the meeting schedules of other civic organizations.
- Samara Walker to provide list of members needing renewal notices to Matt Asay
- Matt Asay to provide member list to Cheryl McElraft for contacting missing and expired members.
- Karen Duncan to provide information on the new Neighborhood College structure and class schedule.
- Karen Duncan to provide information on the new Neighborhood Commission small grant process.
- Selvin Walker to bring distribute T-shirt ordering information to members via Matt Asay.
- Matt Asay to send out a request for 2009 officer nominations and distribute a list of the nominees.
- Matt Asay to bring in the NHCL meeting sign so it can be put into use again.
- Flo Randall to continue coordination for a January Pot Luck

Matt Asay

NHCL Secretary

As approved at the January 6, 2009 meeting.

02/03/2009