

## Minutes of the APCA Meeting of April 11<sup>th</sup> 2012

The meeting was held at the Baystate facility at 3300 Main St. and came to order at 6P.M. There were 8 residents present.

We began with the following **Old Business**:

- **Financial Report:** The association has chosen to add an on-line banking feature to our account at TD Bank. We appear to have no debts remaining from the Holiday Party in December and our balance as of March 31<sup>st</sup> is \$9,216.68
- **Street Paving:** Peter Shumway and Kerry Hotaling of the DPW have both indicated that Springfield St. is still scheduled for repaving in 2012. However, a final determination will be made after the start of the new fiscal year in July when they will have a clearer sense of available funds. It is possible that the project will have to be delayed until 2013 but its position on the list of planned improvements will not be jeopardized in any way.

Currently the DPW is completing all preparatory work on streets scheduled for repaving. Once this has been completed throughout the city, they will return to finish the job on Atwater Terrace, Green Lane, and Shefford Street. This should occur by mid-summer at the latest. Sidewalks are currently being repaved only where they've been subjected to catastrophic storm damage.

- **Russ Seelig at May Meeting:** Mr. Seelig is looking for a number of homeowners to join with him in mounting a lawsuit against the city based on an accusation of unfairly lenient assessments on properties containing billboards and cell phone towers. He will explain the particulars of this charge at our May meeting.
- **Trolley Tracks:** In a phone call prior to the meeting, Peter Shumway of the DPW explained that the city can never purposely degrade the quality of a roadbed which is what the uncovering of tracks would constitute. He suggested we explore the possibility of obtaining funding through a grant or partnership with various historical or museum groups in order to finance the moving of rails to a site further along the tree belt. We agreed to investigate this possibility, and will start by consulting members of the Preservation Trust who live in our neighborhood. .

### **New Business:**

- **Tag Sale:** The Tag Sale will be held on Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:00A.M to 4:00P.M. This year however, each participant will be responsible for obtaining his or her own license as well as signage. A message to this effect will be posted on the website.
- **Saturday Clean Up:** Ed Casey will join us and bring along his truck and some leaf blowers. He's also willing to transport materials to Bondi's Island.

- **Speakers for June & July:** City Councilor Mike Fenton will address the APCA in June at 3300 Main Street. Mindy Phelps has offered to host the July meeting at her home where we will have the opportunity to listen to and converse with our newly appointed State Senator, Jim Welch.
- **Possible Fundraising:** We discussed building a fundraising drive around improvements at the Caseland/Cunningham green space since this parcel lies close to the center of Atwater as it is now defined. We discussed how improvements in this area might generate a sense of inclusion for residents living on the Eastern side of Springfield St. and the other streets across that roadway. We decided that the most obvious improvement here would be repair of the fountain and agreed to set up a consultation with a local expert who could give us a definitive idea of the cost involved.
- **Watering Contract:** We agreed that it would be important to protect our investment in plantings at the pillars by negotiating a watering contract that would stipulate a base rate for weekly waterings as well as a price per- watering for any additional applications that might be needed. Brian Sheehy agreed to approach Stan Zamachaj about this.
- **Speakers:** Cortez DuBois spoke about the benefits of becoming a Crime Watch neighborhood and we agreed to discuss this among ourselves at our next meeting

Deputy Forester, Alex Sherman discussed the importance of trees in an urban environment and related general ideas to the specifics of Springfield's situation as the city struggles to repair arboreal damage caused by last years storms.

Lyssa Peters discussed several plants that were easy to grow in our area and which provided maximum aesthetic benefits to homeowners. She also provided us with many useful gardening tips.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.