

BNA Meeting Minutes October 29, 2007

Next Meeting January – Election meeting

Reports

BNA Chairman Mike Bocchino reported on walk with Joe Siciliano through Byram Park. Called for pool renovation, lighting throughout park, repaving of walkways and roadways, decision on tennis court lights, ball field drainage.

Jo Conboy on the Lyon House, at Byram Rd. & Putnam Rd. – oldest unaltered house in Greenwich.

-BNA asks community to offer suggestions regarding renovation or moving. Jo Conboy, Susan Richardson and Mike Bocchino seek funding from town to restore and preserve the Lyon House. Have contacted the DAR which includes some direct family descendants.

Planning Committee – Working diligently on implementing Byram Master Plan.

-Design firm is in process of supplying design plans, Planning Committee will share design plans with the community.

Mike Bocchino met with Police Department regarding recent vandalism in Byram. MB is impressed with the Police Department's response. Slideshow

Byram River Committee – MB requests BNA to contact him regarding flooding and drainage to send to Army Corps of Engineers.

Housing Authority – BNA is against any development in West end of Town that contributes to the density issues Byram currently faces.

-BNA Committee formed to address Housing Authority proposal. Western Greenwich coalition of Associations has retained the legal services of Jim Fulton. Issues – Byram School a historic building, density issues. Public Hearing – Board of Selectman's meeting – November 8th. BNA will be there to represent Byram's interest along with attorney.

Officer Keith Hirsch, Neighborhood Resource Officer, and Officer Reynolds address BNA regarding Police efforts in Byram. Report on successful cooperative efforts between community and police. Police Department strongly encourages Byram Residents to be vigilant and to not hesitate to contact the Police Department regarding and concern or suspicion. 203-618-8305.

7:30 - The Greenwich Baseball Foundation Baseball– Presentation to BNA

Renovation of ball field near Dorothy Hamill skating rink, as the baseball field location. A Copy of the presentation will be posted on the Byram Neighborhood Association website (<http://www.byramct.org>) – Cost of Project estimated at \$500,000 to be raised from donations

-Concerns from BNA audience – Parking, destruction of woods (maybe 20 feet of surrounding woods), lighting

-MB motioned for a vote for or against project “Does BNA support Greenwich Baseball Foundation's proposal? Bea Walko seconded the motion. Proposal of support for Greenwich Baseball Foundation's baseball field passed.

8:00 Byram Shubert Library Update by Roberta Denning, Mario Gonzalez, Barbara Glynn, Miguel Garcia-Colon, Jane Marsh, Ann Farrell, Michael Tribe, Ron Coleman, Jason Cea, Pete Corrieli.

Roberta Denning reviewed progress of construction to date. Currently the new library is scheduled to re-open in September 2008, 8 weeks behind schedule because of underground stream. RD claimed responsibility for constructing fence prematurely and regrets delays and fencing issue. Believes first contractor would have begun construction on time but would not have finished it because the funding would not be sufficient. Originally a project budgeted at under, \$3 million, RD said the project is now “comfortably under budget” at \$4.8 million.

\$35,000 left to raise. \$900,000 donated from Byram community including a gift from the Friends of Byram Shubert Library of \$100,000. State Funds \$500,000, Federal Government \$650,000, Town support of \$1,200,000 and generous private contributions.

March 2007 - Marco Martelli Associates (MMA) began construction.

Committee chose to not disclose or “be as forthcoming” regarding situation, because of bidding process.

Questions and answers -

“What is the daily time schedule for the construction workers?” - 7:00 am to 2:30 pm

Are there direct and regular communications with the surrounding school and the PTA?

-Emergency contact information has been exchanged. Noise and traffic considerations coordinated with the principal of New Lebanon. Miguel distributes updates to all administration and faculty of western end schools.

Construction costs on square foot basis?

-Rough estimate \$380 for new construction, and less for renovation (MT)

“Concern regarding state’s grants and whether or not the grants are in jeopardy due to delays and missteps in project.”

State grant is not in jeopardy

“What per cent of construction is complete?” -approximately 10-18% complete. JC

“Have subcontracts been executed for all trades”

-Not entirely, no. Shell process was mostly bid out, core phase is awaiting return on bids.” JC

“Why is there no mention of the Byram Shubert Library on the Gisolfi Associates website? Can you guarantee that your design will not be compromised by mismanagement and costcutting?”

-A project is not posted on website until it is closer to completion. Does not believe design has suffered any compromise. MT

“Since the owner’s rep does not have any professional experience in construction, why has there not been a construction professional assigned as Owners Rep?”

-MMA is acting as construction manager. This is a complicated project not because of the size but because of the complexity of working with the State and HUD. MT.

“Does the GC or subcontractors have liquidated damages or penalties regarding delays in schedule and completion?”

-No. But it is in MMA’s interest to complete as GC has been assigned 14 months for completion, every day afterwards comes out of the GC’s pocket. RC

“Is there a week-by-week project schedule with benchmarks?”

-There has not been a detailed schedule until now. We have a bi-monthly progress report. Aiming for July completion, move in September. JC. Need input from subcontractors. MT

“Since not all bids have returned, what has the committee done to ensure that the project will not be over budget?”

-Project is not over budget. Board reviews budget of project every month. RD.

“What project reconciliations have you submitted for public review?”

-Don’t have any. Library representatives have been as forthcoming as possible to RTMs. RD said she didn’t know why the public would need to know whether or not we are meeting our budget when we’re fulfilling all the requirements to the state, the federal government, the town and the Board has the oversight for this area.

“How many people a day are working on the project?”

-About 6-7 people working on the foundation.

Meeting Adjourned 9:00pm