

Green's Farms Association Board Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2024

Members attending: Lois Sussman, Birthe Shwisha, Liz-Ann Koos, Art Schoeller, Kat Palmer, Karen Kramer, Norman Kramer, Judy Swann, Claudia Shaum (RTM-5) and MaryAnn Meyer

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 13th.

1) Proposed Restaurant (Drive Through)

The application was recently pulled by the developer as there is a new design being considered. The Fire Chief had some concerns regarding the initial application. The proposed restaurant will be built at the site formerly a gas station that is across from the Little Barn. Traffic and safety issues along Church Street South have many of the neighbors concerned as the entrance to the "Drive Through" will be accessed via Church Street South.

2) New Creek/Beachside Ave and School Buses

Kat reported that the school buses (Greens' Farms Academy) continue to turn on to New Creek from Beachside Ave. Art spoke to Chief Foti and the Chief was to look into it. The turn is very sharp and the road is narrow which can be dangerous. This causes the drivers to drive on to the shoulder of the road which makes the area very muddy.

3) Einsel Property Construction

Mary Ann alerted the Board regarding the start of construction on the subdivision of the Einsel Property. Lillie Fortino, who is the owner of the Einsel House, spoke to MaryAnn regarding the construction site and also voiced some of her concerns. Karen Kramer along with Dick Lowenstein reached out to Lillie with contact info for Steve Smith (Building) and Colin Kelly (Conservation). Art also referred Grayson Braun (Historical Commission). Lillie heard back from Steve, Colin and Grayson within 24 hours which and provided her with helpful information. Bitsy also provided additional information to let Lillie know that the property is deed restricted.

The Board will continue to monitor this and MaryAnn will keep in touch with Lillie for any updates and new concerns she may have.

4) West Parish Historical Preserve

Art spoke about the recent proposal regarding the West Parish Preserve. The Board of Finance (BOF) will be reviewing funding for a new public safety facility which would house the Police, Fire and EMS departments. The Town has identified and proposed that the West Parish Historical Preserve (open space and wetlands) be used for the construction of this facility. Art reached out to Grayson Braun (Historical Commission) to voice our opposition to this plan. Grayson was not aware of this proposal. The Annual Town Meeting which was held a few days ago, failed to mention this proposal.

The Preserve (5.9 acres) is the former site of the of Green's Farms Meetinghouse which was built in 1736 opposite the Lower Colonial Burial Ground. It replaced the first Meetinghouse built in 1711 which was at the foot of Morningside Drive and Green's Farms Road. In 1777, a British raiding party burned down the Meetinghouse, the parsonage and many other homes.

Several years ago, the Preserve was surveyed by archaeologists on staff with the State of CT. They found and located the foundation of the Meetinghouse built in 1736. Four granite pillars now mark their location. This is an historical site and a significant part of the history of Green's Farms.

Judy has contacted Peter Jennings to let him know of what the Town has proposed. Since our Board Meeting, the BOF has rescheduled their meeting to March 6th however; the agenda for the meeting has not yet been confirmed.

The Board has agreed that we need to support the preservation of this historical site in Green's Farms and oppose the construction. The GF Association has a history of supporting and maintaining open space and designated Historical sites throughout Green's Farms. We will offer support to the HDC and the Green's Farms Church in keeping the Preserve as a Preserve.

In addition, Art will prepare a letter to present to the Board of Finance.

5) CT169STRONG

The Board agreed to make a \$200 donation to CT169STRONG in supporting their efforts regarding affordable housing in the State.

6) The Board welcomed Claudia Shaum (RTM-5) to join our Board. Welcome Claudia!

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