

Spring 2025 Newsletter



Recapping 2024 and a look into 2025

Affordable housing continued to be a state and local level topic. Bills to bolster affordable housing in the state legislature continue to be introduced, but unfortunately, they still include state mandates (number of units, proximity to train stations) and regulations that supersede local control. **CT169 Strong**, an advocacy organization lobbying for better affordable housing legislation continues to oppose these bills. The Association strategy is threefold: 1) Stay informed and educate neighbors in Greens Farms about affordable housing developments. 2) Support our local and state representatives as they engage in shaping Connecticut legislation. 3) Engage neighbors and developers to help shape local affordable housing projects that are more acceptable to all parties.

Traffic safety. The GFA contributed to the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Safety Action Plan survey, with one result being to ensure Greens Farms road was identified as a "transportation corridor", which it was not initially. This places extra emphasis on its priority for traffic safety improvements. Safety improvements continue with an addition of a four-way stop at the corner of Morningside South and Hillandale roads. We will continue to press for implementation of identified safety improvements, along with any other car, cyclist, and pedestrian concerns in Greens Farms.

980 Post Road East Montessori School. We are supporting neighbors on Colonial road opposing this application due to traffic congestion. While a Montessori School would be a wonderful addition to Westport, the application generates enough traffic during morning drop off period that would spill over onto the Post Road (right next to Starbucks!) and Colonial Road. We submitted a letter to Planning and Zoning providing a detailed analysis of the applicants traffic study pointing out these concerns.

Cribari bridge potential repair or replacement. The Association was named as a stakeholder for the Project Advisory Committee to assist the CT Department of Transportation gather input on their plans for the bridge. We oppose replacement with a wider structure that would allow tractor trailer truck traffic, encouraging use of Greens Farms Road as an I-95 bypass. Dick Lowenstein RTM District 5 is taking the lead on our representation on the PAC.

Combined fire, police, EMS HQ: The Association successfully lobbied that the funding to study a new headquarters did not explicitly identify the intersection of Greens Farms Road and the Sherwood Island Connector. We are advocating to ensure multiple sites are considered. At the public charrette to review these plans we stated our opposition to this site. We have also attended two walk throughs, but still are not in favor of it due to impact on abutting neighbors.

RTM District 5 members join the board. More by tradition than formally in the by-laws RTM members were restricted from being on the Association board. Thanks to Karen Kramer one of our District 5 RTM members, we opened membership to these devoted elected officials. The Association has benefited greatly by welcoming Claudia Shaum, Karen Kramer, Peter Gold, and Dick Lowenstein to the board of directors

Celebrating the Greens Farms Garden Club. Now in it's 95th year the club last summer donated 818 pounds of harvest to the Mercy Learning Center and was awarded an Award of Excellence for Civic Development from the Federated Garden Clubs of CT. Plus they won a national "Best of the Best" award from the Espoma Company for their ongoing work. Greens Farms Association member Jacque O'Brien serves as president.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS! We have room on the Board for interested neighbors who want to help preserve this great neighborhood. We currently have a need to fill the positions of Treasurer and Secretary. Board membership and these officer positions do not take up much time, but would be a great help to the Association. Please contact me at art@optonline.net.

Annual Membership

Please consider sending your annual membership fee of \$40 to Green's Farms Association, PO Box 10, Green's Farms, CT 06838. A strong membership allows the Association to better lobby on your behalf. You can also pay with PayPal at our web site, www.greensfarms.org.

Art Schoeller
President – Green's Farms Association

P.S. Please check out our Facebook and Instagram pages!