

**Forest Hills Neighborhood Association
Executive Committee Meeting**

Thursday, March 27, 2008

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Forest Hills Neighborhood Association was called to order at Tom Quinn's house at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 27, 2008.

Present were Tom Quinn (President), Linda & Ed Dunn (Treasurer) and Alex Neubert (Secretary). Also in attendance were the following street representatives: Ken Dodson.

Anne Quinn, Tom Hamilton, Francis Winslow and Christine Monaco were also present.

Tom Quinn called the meeting to order. The first item of business was a review of the January 24, 2008 Executive Committee meeting minutes. After a review of the minutes, upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes were approved as submitted.

The next item of business was a review of the Treasurer's Report through February, 2008. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Treasurers Report was approved as submitted. During the review of the Treasurers Report, it was noted that the Easter Egg Hunt held on March 22nd was very successful with more than 30 kids under the age of 10 participating. The Executive Committee extended their thanks to Margaret Henry for coordinating this event.

The next item of business was a discussion and review of the request for proposal that was put out and the bids that were received for lawn mowing. After a discussion of the four bids received, the services expected to be performed, and the fact that Evergreen did a good job last year, the Executive Committee voted to accept the bid of Evergreen Landscape. The group also discussed the Town's role in providing certain lawn mowing services. Linda and Ed Dunn indicated that they would contact all three bidders.

The next item of business was a discussion regarding the renewal of our existing contract with Waste Management. Linda and Ed Dunn indicated that they had met with Waste Management and that an agreement was reached to only increase each households annual trash collection fee by only \$5.00 to \$225. The group was overwhelmingly pleased and felt that this was significant in light of the potential increases that could have been incurred as a result of fuel surcharges. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was agreed to increase this years trash pick up fees from \$220 per household to \$225 per household.

The group then discussed the need to increase the budget for certain social events in the coming year. The group also discussed whether to increase the price per kit for Luminaria's and the need to remind the neighborhood that the purchase of Luminaria kits was a fundraising event and that the monies collected help to offset the costs of social events like the Halloween Festival, the Easter Egg Hunt and the neighborhood block party.

The next item of discussion was a discussion of open officer and street rep positions. Certain individuals have expressed an interest. Tom and Ken will follow-up.

The next item of business was to review a proposed letter that Tom Quinn is planning to send to the Town regarding our candidacy as a preservation district. Tom advised the group that he has informally spoken with many neighbors, without going door to door, and that the majority of neighbors are still reluctant to move in this direction for fear of regulation and the imposition of rules and/or guidelines. The group discussed the importance of reminding neighbors of our shared policy regarding additions and/or alterations within the neighborhood and felt that it would noteworthy to reiterate this statement within these minutes.

1. *The residents of Forest Hills recognize the right of property owners to exercise full freedom to maintain their homes and property within existing building codes and zoning ordinances without additional regulatory or review process either within the or external to the Forest Hills neighborhood.*

2. *While promulgating and protecting this freedom, residents recognize the architectural heritage of Forest Hills to be a shared community asset. While there are no regulatory mechanisms dealing with renovations or reconditioning of homes or landscaping, each resident shares a common appreciation and mutual trust to preserve the architectural integrity and unique ambiance of our homes within Forest Hills.*

3. *Responsible neighborliness has had a long history in Forest Hills. It is our shared belief that this Position Statement represents a non-regulatory approach to the historic preservation and a most constructive approach to building a true sense of community*

In conjunction with this issue, the group discussed whether to have someone speak at the upcoming annual meeting to discuss either our unique architecture or preservation, or to discuss whether to have the neighborhood recognized on the National Register of Historic Places (which is overseen by the National Parks Service). It was agreed that if someone should speak (time allowing) and Tom agreed to consider this and explore it further. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was agreed that Tom should proceed and send the letter to the Town Historian.

The next item of discussion was a review and discussion of a proposal that Tom had put together regarding the Lake Crescent reforestation project. He advised the group that nothing has really changed since we last met other than the cost to purchase new trees. Tom advised the group that he wanted the neighborhood to review the plan of action and to then vote on it at the annual meeting.

The next item of discussion was the on-going Westwood Park reforestation project. Tom advised the group that certain member of the Westwood Park Committee met in early March to discuss the following items: (i) areas that they would like to have mowed or weed wacked; (ii) whether they wanted a path created in the park area around the pond (this would be done in conjunction with an Eagle Scout project); (iii) whether any new trees or shrubs need to be planted or whether any trees need to be removed; (iv) whether to purchase a pump for easier watering; and (v) how to control the duck weed and cat tails. There was a brief discussion amongst the Executive Committee on these matters. Terry Rogelstad will further explore whether two Boy Scouts who are working on their Eagle badge would still be interested in creating a mulch path and how and where they propose to create it. Dave Dowden has indicated a willingness to either work with other neighbors or label certain Norway maples that he believes the association may want to consider taking down and removing them from the park area. The Westwood Park Committee agreed that at this time there wasn't the need to purchase and install a pump in the area of the Westwood Park. They also suggested the purchase of a pond mat that could be used to help curtail and the cat tails. The Executive Committee agreed to allow Dan Bogdan to further explore this option and that the outlay of \$200-300 would not be unreasonable. Tom advised the group that Chuck Sorce and Dan Bogdan have also agreed to work to cut down the cat tails again this year. Additionally, the group discussed the need for someone to be able to water within the park area. Lastly, Tom advised the group that Terry Rogelstad has agreed to pull the mosquito magnet out of the park area and to take a look at it and to see if it might be fixable for future use.

Lastly, Tom announced that a neighbor of ours, Mr. Anthony Zubrycki of 40 Fair Oaks Drive, had died on March 12th of complications associated with a fall in his home.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for May 8, 2008.