

Minutes of the General Membership Meeting  
Civic Association of West Springfield Village  
Thursday, October 20, 2005

Call to Order & Opening Remarks – 7:30 PM, Past President John Cooley

Shawn Klimek, President, and Mike Atlas, Vice President were unable to attend. In their absence, Past President John Cooley called the meeting to order.

Chris Hillenbrand, a senior at West Springfield High School, was at the meeting to report on his experience at Boys State. The Civic Association made a contribution this past year to send a boy to Boys State. Chris was one of 4 boys from West Springfield who attended. He described the selection process, and then gave a summary of his time at Boys State. Chris felt that it was a great experience, and an excellent use of association funds.

Minutes of Previous Meeting - Emailed to attendees who approved; posted to website.

Treasurer's Report

- Audit Report – FY2005 Treasurer, Kristy Walker reported that the audit had been completed, and that everything was in order. Thanks John Hoffman and Larry Vogt for conducting the audit.
- FY2006 Budget – Kristy distributed the 2006 budget. She pointed out the new revenue line item for advertising income. This is due to the fact that the printer for our directory is no longer selling ads. There is an offsetting expense line for printing the directory. We will be trying to sell the ads ourselves to offset those costs. A motion was made and seconded to approve the budget. Motion passed.

Executive Committee Reports:

- Membership Drive – Julia Hale reported that the Membership Drive is officially over. We have 291 members to date, with materials from 2 block captains still outstanding. She thanked the block captains for doing a great job.
- Village Crier – Larry Mark requested that anyone with information on new neighbors, any births, etc. please contact him with that information. He thanked all of those who have helped with the delivery of the Crier.
- Directory – Christy Grimste reported that our Printing Press estimates the cost of this year's directory will be about \$1,300 because they are no longer selling the ad space to cover expenses. Because of that, we've had to solicit ads ourselves. So far, we have verbal commitment about \$700 of ads, but have received only about \$250 thus far. All WS Village residents are welcome to advertise their business or their employer's business at reduced rates. A full-page ad will cost \$100, a half page ad will be \$65 and a quarter page ad (business card) will be \$30. The ads and money are due to her by the end of this month. She expects to deliver the print ready directory to the Printing Press by mid November. It should be ready for distribution early January 2006. All the advertisements will go in the back of

the book this year, but other than that the format will stay pretty close to last year's format. We are aware that the map used last year is not correct, but any other constructive comments are welcome. This year will be Christy's last year as editor of the Directory since she and her husband will be reassigned next year. Mary Jo Mazzonna has provisionally agreed to take over as Editor, but she'll need a few people to help. We're also looking for a few volunteers to help put together the directory this year as well. Total investment in volunteer time will be only a few hours sometime during the first few weeks of November. All you need is a computer. If you can help out or if you'd like to advertise in the directory, please let Christy know. She can be reached by email at [directory@westspringfieldvillage.org](mailto:directory@westspringfieldvillage.org).

- Website – Steve Stark is continually working on the website, trying to keep it updated and easy to navigate. He is looking for old photos of the neighborhood to post on the website.
- Neighborhood Watch – Jeff Carter reported that crimes in West Springfield Village are relatively typical of other similar neighborhoods: the random act of vandalism, the occasional theft or break-in, the disgruntled teen out to vent some anger or have some 'fun'. The presence of Neighborhood Watch patrols and the blue NW signs can make a difference in the frequency of crime, causing would-be criminals to seek an easier target. The police department confirms this. But it takes an active citizenry to make the program work. The existence of the Friday and Saturday night patrols over the years demonstrate that a number of residents in West Springfield Village care about discouraging crime in the neighborhood. Currently, over 25% state that they are willing to participate in the program, as evidenced in the annual membership drive. But the number of volunteers that actually step up is quite small—perhaps a quarter to a third of those who say yes. And it takes three or five calls to get one shift covered. It then takes a couple more calls to confirm the coverage on a given weekend. Should the program be cancelled due to the lack of active volunteers? Should shifts be limited to summer nights and specific evenings like Halloween and graduation, when outdoor activities are more frequent? Jeff said that he is willing to field calls, maintain a calendar, and make confirming calls. But volunteers will need to step up and select dates to cover, whether through a calendar on the web site or via a phone call. This approach will need to be continually publicized via the enews, website, and Village Crier.

#### Old Business:

- AAA Fixed Price Agreement
  - Each resident must continue to correct their own bill.
  - New residents and/or new AAA customers have to ask for the CAWSV reduced rate.
  - No more 1x week service, but those now with 1x rate at \$21.50/month will continue at that rate until May 2006 but will have 2x service.
  - Senior rates are not part of our agreement.

- Donation to VA Boys State—This past year we were too late to contribute to Girls State, but next year we hope to sponsor a boy and a girl.
- Pohick Creek Park Projects—The Association has been trying to put in some erosion control and to clean up the park land. We have not had much of a turnout at the cleanups. John encouraged those who know of children who need community service hours to urge them to participate in the future.
- West Springfield Boundary Review—There was a town hall meeting held on October 19<sup>th</sup>, and another one to be held on November 10<sup>th</sup> at West Springfield High School. John reported that as things stand right now, our residents would not be affected by this boundary review, but stay tuned.

#### New Business:

- Upcoming Events
  - Halloween Parade and Party – October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2005—Parade starts near the intersection of Harland and Barnack at 12:00. It will end at the pool with lots of fun games for the kids.
  - Holiday Decorating Contest – December 18<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005. Ann Walker has agreed to be the Chair of the committee, but we still need others to be on the committee.
- Neighborhood Watch—Due to the enormous amount of time involved in trying to get coverage for neighborhood watch, it was decided that association members will need to contact Jeff to set up watch dates. John also mentioned the need for neighbors looking out for neighbors—he stressed the importance of getting to know those that live around you.
- Election of the Board of Directors
  - Secretary-Liz Greene is stepping down as secretary. Ed Wyse was elected as the new Secretary.
  - Treasurer-Kristy Walker agreed to continue as Treasurer
  - Vice-President-Mike Atlas is stepping down. Bridget Simpkins has agreed to serve as Vice-President.
  - President-Shawn Klimek is stepping down as President. John Cooley agreed to serve as President.

All of the above positions were voted on and approved by those members in attendance.

- Appointment of the Executive Committee – Only NW Coordinator Jeff Carter sought to be replaced, but agreed to continue in a changed role when no one volunteered to replace him. The rest of the EC agreed to continue.
- Jeanne Jones reported that Village West Pool will once again be offering parking for RV's, boats, etc. during the winter at the pool parking lot for a nominal fee of \$25.00/month. She also reminded everyone that the facility is not secure.

Adjourn – 9:00 PM

Members in Attendance

Ed Wyse  
Jeanne Jones  
Steve Stark  
Dick Denny  
Bridget Simpkins  
Charles Young  
Thulia and Bill Stevenson  
Paul and Joyce Kemp  
Sue Trinko  
Julia Hale  
Bob Havey  
Brigitte Strong  
Wanda Pore  
Mike Bentley  
Jeff Carter  
John Cooley  
Liz Greene  
Kristy Walker  
Christy Grimste  
Larry Mark