

**MINUTES: *Facilitator* Ken Garno**

**Attendees:** Sharon Sherman, Jim Commentucci, Jan Markarian, Mike Behnke, Matt Partlov, Ben Walsh, Coy Ludwig, Mary Carney, Rex Giardino, Anna Giarobbe, Eric Neuson, Peter Sarver, Juanita Williams, Tim Rudd, Richard Vincent, Sandy Porter, Melissa Fierke, Natalie Stetson, Dara Kok, Michael Green, Chol Majok

**Issues for City Department Officials :**

- 1) 13210 zip code area has increased vacancies. What will be done to attract families back into the area?
- 2) Will there be a replacement traffic light on the corner of Lancaster and Colvin soon?
- 3) Scottholm terrace is experiencing cars racing up and down the hill

**Presentations: Deer Management****Sandy Porter:**

Assemblyperson Pam Hunter and Council Member Nader Maroun helped to get \$200,000 in funding for deer reduction/management. Most of this funding went to Dr. Brian Underwood and his students for a study on the deer population. There will be a need for some culling of the deer to reduce their numbers over the next few years. If you kill a large amount of deer, other deer will move into the area. There needs to be both culling and sterilization.

**Jan Markarian: Cary Institute of Ecosystems**

As an advocate, Jan became involved in 2012 at a TNT meeting where the overriding issue was addressing the deer as a nuisance. There is a real issue; however, Jan has been looking for a humane/non-lethal approach to this problem. Through humane education, it is an effort to build compassion for wild animals and the environment as we are all interconnected. The deer have become a public health issue as they carry ticks that transmit Lyme disease. Through Jan's research she found Dr. Felisha Keesing at the Cary Institute. Dr. Keesing has stated that "culling the deer will not solve the Lyme problem". The scientific study through the Cary Institute has found that the white footed mouse carry the most ticks. If the deer are killed, the ticks will find other small mammal hosts such as chipmunks and squirrels. Dr. Keesing is willing to meet with government officials to discuss the Ecology of Lyme Disease and to help problem solve the issue. Jan provided information on a non-toxic protective spray, Cedarcide, to prevent tick infestation. For more information please visit <http://www.caryinstitute.org/>

**Eric Neuson & Dara Kok: Barry Park Survey**

SU is working to collect community input to improve Barry Park. Surveys are available online [www.BarryParkSurvey.com](http://www.BarryParkSurvey.com) or paper copies upon request. If you would like to set up a personal interview, please email [barrypark2017@gmail.com](mailto:barrypark2017@gmail.com)

The results of the survey will be available May 15<sup>th</sup> on the UNPA.net website.

Q. What will be done with the survey input?

A. Not sure yet, once the information is collect they will look at the input and decide from there.

**TNT City-Wide Update: Strategic Planning**

TNT Board Delegate, Mary Carney, announced to the group that there is a timeline in which everyone is encouraged to add memories to it. Ms. Carney explained that TNT-City wide is undergoing a Strategic Planning Effort. The first meeting took place on March 30<sup>th</sup>, where there were about 60 participants and it was an overall positive experience in thinking about where TNT wants to go as an organization. The next two meetings will be April 27<sup>th</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup>. If you did not attend the first meeting, you are more than welcome to attend the next two. Please RSVP so that we will know how much food to order. [TNTStrategicPlanning@gmail.com](mailto:TNTStrategicPlanning@gmail.com)

Q. If you were at the 1<sup>st</sup> event, will it be the same at the 2<sup>nd</sup>?

A. No, the meetings will build off each other.

**Announcements**

- 1) Mike Behnke presented the group with the Syracuse Parks Conservancy greening grant in the amount of \$1,000. The grant can be used for benches, community gardens, murals, garbage cans