

**Meeting Minutes: January 9, 2019**

**Location:** Cecile Center, 174 W. Seneca Turnpike

**Facilitator:** Joe Romano

Meeting began at 7:04\_pm and welcome and introductions commenced.

**Minutes:** December 12<sup>th</sup> draft meeting minutes: George Matthews moved to approve the minutes Marilyn Madison 2<sup>nd</sup>. Minutes were approved by voice vote with no objections.

**Public Officials:** Officer Smith provided a crime report: He passed around a report of activity in the neighborhood for the past month noting that there seemed to be nothing scary this month. Police Academy graduation is Friday Jan. 11, he noted, and that should help with staffing. The new Chief Kenton Buckner is at work making things better, he said

There were no representatives from city or county government present.

**State:** Joe Romano representing Assemblyman William Magnarelli said there were some changes to the STAR property tax exemption process. He distributed some literature on the changes and offered to help anyone with the application process. Chol Majok who had been with Sen. Valesky's office attended and is now working at the Northeast Community Center.

**Heat Smart CNY Presentation:** Lindsay Speer spoke about Heat Smart CNY, which educates homeowners about ground source heat pumps and other ways to make homes energy efficient. Heat Smart offers workshops on energy efficient options and financial support available for updating heating systems. One will be 6 p.m. Jan. 24 at Southwest Community Center, 401 South Ave. Another focused on geothermal systems will be Jan. 31 at the Bishop Harrison Center. There also will be an open house at a geothermal house on Syracuse's East Side 2-4:30 p.m. Jan. 19. Lindsay presented fliers on it and information is available at the web site [heatSMARTcny.org](http://heatSMARTcny.org). The programs are open to all with subsidies available based on income particularly for those eligible for HEAP heating assistance and there are some tax breaks, too.

**Chad Norton and Friends of Wildlife Presentation:** Chad and Jim presented plans for three projects at Webster Pond, one to prevent boulders from sinking into the pond, one for stoning the paths to assure they are accessible, and another to add a Visitors Center. In recent years they have fenced the area to keep geese away from the road, added a shed and accessible paths. They explained the many fishing programs offered for kids, veterans, the Muscular Dystrophy Association and Aurora. They need volunteers and support and asked for neighborhood support. It was explained that TNT bylaws prevent TNT from giving funds to other organizations, but this is the time of year to put in requests for the special projects budget. The deadline for application for TNT projects is Jan. 31. The project options will be presented at the February meeting and voted on then. Packets for project applications were on tables. They can be emailed to Tina in the TNT office. Chad also said he could email information about Friends of Wildlife and Webster Pond to Tina for distribution. Fishing programs start the first Saturday in April.

**Committee Reports**

**Beautification:** Kathy Stribley said there was no news from this committee this month.

**Parks:** George Matthews said that MAPA representatives met with the Parks Committee and presented 4 items for consideration as special projects: a zipline for the Meachem Park playground, beautifying the bulkheads along Coldbrook similar to Meadowbrook, a picnic shelter, and a trail from Webster Pond to Heath Park. Those at the last meeting voted and favored beautification of bulkheads. A project leader is needed. The next committee meeting is Jan. 22 6 p.m. at Broadway Café.

**Planning:** Kathy Stribley had sent out the 2013 update of the 5-year plan for review. She said the group will set a date for the next meeting. There was discussion that some of the 5 year plan goals have been achieved and should be noted and some achieved have been reversed since Tops moved into Valley Plaza, and now has moved out. George noted there was some discussion that there may be a new grocer taking that spot. Joe Romano said he would keep the group informed on that.

**Special Projects Proposals Due January 31<sup>st</sup>:** Guidelines and Proposal forms can be found at the TNT website [www.TomorrowsNeighborhoodsToday.org](http://www.TomorrowsNeighborhoodsToday.org) Joe Romano provided some instruction on the special projects and George noted that there is also a time frame for use of the money.

**TNT Citywide Board Update:** Dee Klees noted that the Community Foundation has awarded TNT grants for projects on lead abatement and Census information and TNT Operations Manager and Ken Garno are the point people on those projects. The City support for TNT also has been received. There is discussion of a board structure change that would give sector alternates voting power as well as sector delegates, increasing the board size to 16.

**Announcements and School Notes:** MAPA meets Jan. 16 at 6:30 here at Cecile Center.

**Next TNT Meeting:** February 13<sup>th</sup> 2019

**Adjournment:** Caroline West moved to adjourn at 8:18 p.m., George Matthews 2<sup>nd</sup>, All in favor.