

## **BSVA MINUTES — 9-26-17**

**ATTENDANCE:** Josh Bedell, Jeff Dawson, Vern Fath, Tisha Ferguson, Alex Ghiselin, Sue Norton, Regine Spector, Norm Spencer, Stephen Taranto

**HEATSMART** ([HeatSmartNorthampton.org](http://HeatSmartNorthampton.org)): Vern reported on the latest city effort since Solarize Northampton in 2013 to help residents save energy costs while reducing greenhouse gas emissions, at large-group discounted prices. It involves installing two air-source heat pumps on an outside wall of your house, one inside and one outside. They work by moving the heat to the inside or to the outside of the building, helping to both heat and cool your house. The units measure about a foot in diameter and function quietly. You can have a pair installed in only one room, or use several pairs to cover the whole house. Before installation, you must have MassSave check your house for heat efficiency (leaks). The city's HeatSmart company will also check to see if the installation would be appropriate for your house. Prices range from \$3000 to \$12000, depending on how many pumps you use. The city program's financial incentives include rebates and 0% loans. The offer runs only from Sept., 2017 to Jan.31, 2018.

**TRAFFIC CALMING:** There was another intersection accident in the neighborhood on 9-16. Someone ran the stop-sign at Federal and Riverside just as someone else was cresting the hill. Both cars crashed through the fence and into the garage of the house on the corner; both drivers were hospitalized. The city did a new traffic count on Riverside this summer, but there's still no news on BSVA's long-ago request for speed bumps on that road. Regine said 4-way stop signs require equal flow of traffic from both intersecting streets. The new BSVA traffic committee (Mark Jewell, MJ Adams, Regine, and Alice Rich Lewis) has met once this summer so far. A Nonotuck Street group and one on Federal St. are also working on the issue. A white ghost bike still marks the Nonotuck corner where Al Porter was killed last March. Vern used to attend city traffic committee meetings regularly without effect, but Alex said the city now has some money for calming. Stephen suggested we investigate innovative traffic-calming methods used in France.

**GARDEN SIGN:** The sign has been taken down by Alex and Norm for repair. They've left the posts standing. The exterior-plywood material of the sign is waterlogged, and they recommend replacing it with PYC plastic. Jeff has reproduced a picture identical to the one painted on the sign by Karen Feigenbaum many years ago using computer graphic design. He will print it on a piece of plastic to be glued onto the signboard. The picture and wording will be the same, but the sign will be raised a few inches on the post to be more visible behind the tall flowers. Vern said they'd have to buy a piece of PYC plastic twice the size they need, so maybe should consider putting up a second sign. ??

**NEXT MEETING:** Tues., Oct.24, 6PM. Carolyn Misch from the city planning department will come to talk about zoning changes. Yankee Hill has moved to Easthampton. Will that part of the neighborhood be zoned industrial or residential? What about the Wire Works?

**Submitted:** Sue Norton, Secretary