

BSVA Minutes - 5-30-2017

ATTENDANCE: Josh Bedell, Jeff Dawson, Alex Ghiselin, Sandy Mandell, Sue Norton, Regine Spector, Norm Spencer, Diane Welter

TAG SALE: Coming up this weekend! Saturday, June 4, or if raining, Sunday, June 5. Only a few tag salers have committed so far. To apply, contact Gary Hartwell — ghartwell@smith.edu. Look for ads in the Gazette.

TRAFFIC CALMING: After the bicycle death of Alan Porter this month at the Nonotuck/Hinckley intersection, BSVA feels we need a comprehensive plan for traffic calming in this neighborhood, not just another couple speed bumps. To this end, we will invite to our next meeting, June 27, two city counselors, David Murphy (Ward 5) and Ryan O'Donnell (At Large, and chair of the Transportation Commission). At the Commission's 5-16 meeting, they voted to put permanent speed bumps on Nonotuck between New Street and Landy Ave where the temporary ones were last year. There will also be a raised crosswalk at the Nonotuck/Hinckley intersection when the Hinckley reconstruction is completed (starts this summer). Our application for speed bumps on Riverside, turned in 8 years ago, will require a new traffic study to be validated. Go to the Northampton city website for the Transportation Commission's meeting schedule.

GARDEN SIGN: Jeff is still looking for a graphic artist to recreate the garden sign digitally. Both the wooden sign and the picture, painted by Karen Feigenbaum 17 years ago, are deteriorating. Peter announced last meeting that he got a \$350 estimate from Porcupine Sign Co. to replace the picture and the wood slab it's painted on. In 2009, the Bisailon family, who'd lived for many years on Riverside Drive, donated to BSVA \$700 for the "entrance garden below the high school." Sue and Ann, who maintain the garden, have used little of this money. The group OKed this use of the money, but Porcupine needs someone with graphic skills to photograph the sign. Incidentally, Rick's new owner, Jeff Tenczar, who has changed the name of the garage to Greg's Auto Repair, will still supply the garden with water.

NEWSLETTER & PICNIC: Picnic is Saturday, August 19, 3-7 PM, Mains Field. Sandy will check to see if the UU Jazz Band is available. Newsletter deadline for articles is July 25. Diane will put the newsletter together as she has so competently for many years. A stuffing party will be at Regine's house, 89 Riverside Drive, Sat., Aug. 5, 10-12. Distribution will be by hand and foot as usual.

NORTHAMPTON NEIGHBORS: A nonprofit organized here this year, but part of a national movement. Purpose: "empowering seniors to live independent, engaged lives at home," by helping with rides, grocery shopping, computer assistance; referrals for house-cleaning, repair, home health care; organizing social activities and trips. Linda Desmond, an NN board member and head of the Senior Center, held a meeting at Lilly Library this month for interested people in Ward 5, and announced a big change — membership will be free (instead of several hundred dollars per year). If interested, go to www.northamptonneighbors.org.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, June 27

Submitted: Sue Norton, Secretary