



P.O. Box 1292
Amherst, NY 14226

Neighbors
Helping Neighbors!

Minutes - January 13, 2004
General Membership Meeting of the Eggertsville Community Organization

Opening:

- President Janice Dunne opened the meeting by thanking the members for attending the meeting despite the bad weather.

President's Report:

- Janice provided the following TOA Department reports in the progress of the Eggert Road Beautification Project:

Engineering - Chris Schregel: The project is currently in the design phase and plans are approximately 85% complete. The majority of the design was completed "in-house," though a portion of the design (electric) is currently being designed by an outside consultant. Anticipated design completion at the end of January 2004, bid/award in February/March 2004, and construction during spring of 2004.

Planning - Robert Walter: The Engineering Dept. has completed layout and grading plans and preliminary cost estimates for the new landscaped areas that will be constructed within the Northtown Plaza parking area adjacent to Eggert Road. Engineering is also working on developing the technical specifications needed to bid the project. The Town Board recently authorized the hiring of an engineering consultant (Wendel Duscherer) to prepare electrical plans and cost estimates for proposed landscaping lighting. The Dept. is in the process of preparing a landscape plan for the project. Marcia Chase, the interim Right-of-Way agent for the Town is working on renewing or extending the temporary construction easements needed from Northtown Plaza. The easements expired on 12/31/03.

- Janice reported on the response from the TOA Planning Dept., as provided by TOA Supervisor Susan Grelick, to a question raised regarding the monies from the Allenhurst and Princeton Court Apartment refinancing:

"The Allenhurst and Princeton Apartments were jointly refinanced through bonds issued by the Kenmore PHA. Rental Rehabilitation funds had been loaned to the Princeton Apartments previously to assist in the renovation of 42 apartments there and to prevent the displacement of senior residents in those units. When the refinancing took place, the Rental Rehabilitation loan was repaid to the Town. Those funds were not made available to the Allenhurst Apartments. There is no legal or regulatory connection between the refinancing and the statements that were made to ECO about planned improvements to the Allenhurst Apartments. At any rate, those statements had nothing to do with any funds the Town was to make available. When we budget for 2003 CDBG and HOME funds, the repaid Rental Rehab funds were reprogrammed for housing rehabilitation loans (\$200,000) and the acquisition/rehab/new construction (\$103,480) activity. Those funds have not yet been utilized but we are working with all interested parties to use the funds to make improvements to Allenhurst Apts. We have not been ignoring the matter and we are making progress."

A discussion was held after Janice read this report. Roxanne Calabrese, ECO member and Resident Manager of the Princeton Court Apts. said that she would like to see more seniors in both the Princeton and Allenhurst Apts. She also said that she would like the fencing between the Apartments and the back yards of the residents on Springville Ave. improved.

- Janice discussed a new program to be offered in the Eggertsville Area by the TOA Senior Outreach Services. The Service has received funding for \$5,000.00 from the Erie County Dept. of Senior Services to conduct outreach in the Eggertsville area during the first quarter of 2004. Eggertsville has the largest concentration of "old-old" seniors (85+) who tend to be more frail and need of assistance. Using the media, flyers, etc. the Senior Services Outreach will identify and reach out to seniors who need assistance. Janice said she would get more information for our members.

Vice-President's Report:

- Vice-President Pat Lucey said that he is working on an information package for our members covering some of the local laws in Amherst. Some of the subjects covered will be refuse rules, winter parking, and leaf pick-up. A discussion was held regarding the lack of a program in our Town to welcome our new neighbors and provide them with information about Amherst.

- Pat announced that the Accountant that handles financial affairs for ECO has offered to be a guest speaker at one of our general membership meetings.

Treasurer's Report:

- Treasurer Patricia McLean provided the following financial report:

Previous balance	\$261.57
Debits	459.05
Credits	<u>327.73</u>
Ending balance	\$130.25

We also have \$2,200.27 in the Evans Bank. This gives us a total of \$2,220.52

Secretary's Report:

- Secretary Sheila Jones provided the following correspondence report:

- Flyer received from Erie County Legislator Elise Cusack reporting that her office had moved to a new location in the Northtown Business Center.
- Copy of a memo from TOA Councilmember Dan Ward regarding the petition from Springville Avenue residents to install additional lighting on Springville Ave. Councilmember Ward presented this petition at the TOA Board Meeting on 12/15/03. The Town Board passed a resolution and the Highway Dept. will investigate the situation.

Committee Reports:

Business: No representative present at the meeting

Code:

- Chairman Steve Matisz provided the following report:

- 3220 Bailey Avenue - this building is scheduled for demolition and will be discussed at the TOA Board meeting on 1/20/04.
- 499 Grover Cleveland - the trailer that is parked on the lawn is legal and, at this time, nothing can be done about moving it.
- Rodent problem on Springville Ave.- TOA Supervisor Susan Grelick will take this problem to the Town Committee in charge of rodent control.
- Sheila Jones received a call from ECO member Greg Smith regarding the high volume of shopping carts on Callodine Ave. between Main and Freemont Sts. Greg also sent photos of these carts to Sheila. This problem, and the photos, was given to Steve to investigate.
- A discussion was held regarding tree limbs being cut that is hanging into a yard of a resident if the tree belongs to the next-door neighbor. Pat Lucey said that the limbs could be cut by the resident whose yard the limbs are hanging into. The tree itself cannot be removed, but the limbs can be removed.

Community Center:

- Chairman Janice Dunne reported that, at this time, there has not been any meeting scheduled. She also said that she heard that the funding for the Boys & Girls Clubs had been reduced and this could have an adverse effect on the building of the Community Center/Boys & Girls Club in Eggertsville.

Parks:

- Chairman Chuck Gilbert discussed a letter to be sent to TOA Supervisor Grelick stating the ECO support for the proposed Annual Plan for year 2004 for Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership Grant for Amherst. The Plan provides funding of \$50,000.00 for playground equipment at the Eggertsville Community Park. Sheila Jones will type up the letter to Supervisor Grelick on ECO stationary and it will be approved and signed by ECO President Janice Dunne. Chuck also discussed the possibility of ECO hosting a fundraiser to purchase a shelter for the Park.
- Chuck said that the full details of the CDBG/HOME grant could be found at the Amherst Libraries. Chuck urged our members to attend the TOA Board meeting on 1/20/04 to show support for the proposed grant for our Park.

Spirit:

- Chairman Ruth Munson was unable to attend this meeting. Ruth provided Sheila Jones with sheets for our members to sign up to bring food for the February Pot Luck dinner. There will be information provided in the monthly flyer for members not in attendance to sign up also.

Sr. Housing:

- Chairman Roxanne Calabrese reported that she is attempting to find out information from People Inc. if there are any new-builds planned for seniors in the Eggertsville Area. At this time she was unable to get any information but will keep trying and report and results.

Suspension of Rules:

- Sheila Jones read an email received from TOA Trailways Committee member Robert Collins outlining the reconstruction of Sweet Home Road from Maple Rd. to Ellicott Creek. Mr. Collins was unable to attend this meeting, but asked if his email could be reported.
- ECO member Mike Maholsic thanked Pat Lucey for his interface with the Highway Dept. getting the snow fence put up on Eggert Rd. ECO member Barbara Abel said that a snow fence would be a great help on Oxford Ave. at the rear of Windermere Elementary School. The sports field at the school was rearranged and the area is now wide open and prone to snow drifts. ECO member and Amherst School Board President David Dengler offered to check on this item.

New Business:

- Janice outlined the new "Welcome Neighbor" program that is kicking-off at this meeting. Sheila Jones put together 20 packages containing 5-each of the following: a "welcome neighbor" letter, TOA road map, ECO brochure, TOA bike path map, TOA parks map, refuse rule brochure, and TOA Youth Works pamphlet. Ruth Munson provided bundles of 5 American Flags to go along with the packages. Janice asked that our members take a package and pass one out to their neighbors to acquaint them with ECO. Janice said the direct mailing we tried in August of 2003 only brought in 3 new members and hoped this new program would be a more personal approach.
- A discussion was held regarding formation of new committees. A committee to "Beautify Eggertsville" by planting bulbs in open areas was discussed. David Dengler offered to chair this committee. Janice said that Erie County is willing to provide as many bulbs as we need for this project. An award for residents who beautify their property was also discussed.
- Janice opened a discussion on suggestions for future ECO meetings. In October 2003, TOA Police Chief John Moslow was our guest speaker and his presentation was enjoyed by the members. Sheila Jones will write to Chief Moslow and invite him to be our speaker for March 2004. The principal of Windermere School was also a suggestion for a future guest speaker. Janice recommended that we invite 2 members of the TOA Town Board each month starting in April 2004. The liaison assignments were announced by TOA Supervisor Grelick for the 2004 calendar year and each Councilmember could speak on the plans for their particular assignment.

Guest Speaker:

There was no guest speaker invited to speak at this meeting.

Meeting Adjourned:

Sheila A. Jones
Secretary
Eggertsville Community Organization