

## **Roslindale West Village Neighborhood Association Meeting minutes from Wednesday, December 11, 2019**

### **Brown Ave Development**

- There was an e-mail from Amy King about the development plans for Brown Ave. The developer plans to create 4 units in the existing structure and also build a separate single-family townhouse
- There is a ZBA meeting for this in the works, but there is no set date yet
- An abutters' meeting for a two-family on Ada Street who wants to turn their garage into a studio took place the same evening as the WVNA meeting.

### **Sycamore/Poplar Development**

- The owner of the two-family at the corner of Sycamore and Poplar wants to tear down the existing structure and build a three-family in its place. Abutters are concerned about the impact construction would have on the root system of the giant sycamore tree at the edge of the property.
- Residents gathered for a rally in October to express concern about the sycamore's historic significance and its important contribution to the neighborhood character and quality of life.
- The developer's lawyer also contacted Frances Donovan, who sent a response from a group of residents. No further contact from the lawyer or the developer.
- Read the letter to the attorney and news coverage of the Sycamore Tree on the WVNA website: <https://roslindalewvna.weebly.com/news>
- Shirley Ransom will reach out to the developer and/or his lawyer try to get more information.
- Discussion of the importance of a single point of contact between abutters and developer.

### **New Board for WVNA**

- We need a board to assist with running the neighborhood association.
- Alan Wright and Eileen Brennan have volunteered to serve on the board. Welcome Alan and Eileen!

### **City Representatives**

- It's important to have representatives from the city at future meetings. Ricardo Arroyo is the new District 5 City Councillor. Alan Wright will invite Arroyo's office to the next meeting.

- Alan will also invite the liaison to Roslindale Joe Coppinger
- There has been a leadership change in the Boston Police Department District E5. Sgt. O'Mara was supposed to attend the last meeting but didn't show. Alan will reach out to the BPD as well.

### **Traffic Safety**

- Ongoing concerns with people blowing through the stop sign at Sycamore and Hawthorne Street, as well as speeding down Poplar corridor between the Square and the intersection where Poplar turns 90 degrees to the right.
- Slow Streets initiative has not been fruitful so far.
- WalkUp Roslindale has pursued SlowStreets in the past, and has recently performed a walk audit of Cummins with problem points found at Cummins and Florence and Cummins and Rowe.
- We can individually write in to the city about the issues on Poplar, in addition to the neighborhood association's efforts.
- Alan will contact Charlotte Fleetwood, who is local and works in transportation about the speeding issues. He will invite her to come speak with us at future meetings to discuss our options short of the Slow Streets project.
- Inquire about posting the speed limit, perhaps with a radar sign that shows the actual speed someone is going.
- It was noted that Mayor Walsh is getting pressure from residents all over Boston to speed up the Slow Streets program. Ricardo Arroyo also ran on a platform of street safety so we should make sure to express our concerns to him.
- We could take matters into our own hands and post homemade "Slow" signs. (Or "Drive Like Your Kids Live Here" signs) on the Poplar Street sidewalks. We can't install speed bumps ourselves.
- Eileen Brennan noted that she has been keeping a record of damage to vehicles on Poplar. We should compile these and present them to city representatives.
- Discussion of the possibility of data collection devices to measure traffic flow and speed on the Poplar corridor.

### **Other Topics**

- Discussion of the new development on Washington Street between the Square and Albano Street. Neighbors complained to Alan that the building is too boxy.

Alan noted that WalkUP Boston was able to influence the plan of the new building on Cummins Highway to include a gabled roof and front porch. We got no notice of the Washington Street development.

- Joe Coppinger can alert the group to new planned developments. Alan will ask him about that when he contacts him.
- Resident Rob Guptill, the Director of Service Planning for the MBTA, attended. As of December 22, bus service for the 34, 35, 36, and 37 will change. Also a change to the routes of the 34 and 34E. Details here: <https://www.mbtta.com/projects/better-bus-project/update/second-round-better-bus-changes-starts-december-22>
- Resident Clayton Cheever volunteered to be the WVNA library liaison. A library materials drop-box was suggested for the closed Roslindale branch, but the BPL may not have enough staff resources to maintain it. Clayton will notify us of future developments.

### **Next Meeting**

- The WVNA meets quarterly.
- Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 12<sup>th</sup> – we need to check with the Poplar Street Park subcommittee regarding timing, as an application deadline is coming up in the spring and it would be good to get feedback from the entire WVNA.

To join the Roslindale WVNA mailing list, please fill out the form here:

<https://roslindalewvna.weebly.com/>

Announcements and updates are also post to the Keep Roslindale Quirky Facebook group ([https://www.facebook.com/groups/KeepRoslindaleQuirky/?source\\_id=252987658539558](https://www.facebook.com/groups/KeepRoslindaleQuirky/?source_id=252987658539558)) and on NextDoor.com