

**CITY OF NORWALK
ZONING COMMITTEE
April 14, 2011**

PRESENT: Robert Keyes, Chair; Emily Wilson; Mike Mushak; Joseph Santo; Adam Blank;
David McCarthy; James White

STAFF: Mike Greene; Adam Carsen

Robert Keyes called the meeting to order at 8:55 p.m.

I. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BUILDING ZONE REGULATIONS

a) #1-11R – Zoning Commission – Proposed amendments to limit number of unregistered vehicles in residence zones – Preliminary review

Mr. Greene presented the proposal. The state has a statute that regulates the number of unregistered vehicles on someone's property. These vehicles were also not allowed to sit on someone's property if they are not intended or in a condition to be on public highways. The staff recommended for Norwalk that the number of unregistered vehicles on someone's property should be one.

b) Staff status report on code work

Mr. Greene handed out a list of violations that the staff is currently working on. Staff has been to court about 20 times since September. He discussed the process of going to court. Mr. Mushak asked how other cities handled these violations. Mr. Greene said many other cities don't do anything. Mr. Mushak said that daily fines might get people to comply.

c) Comments of Commissioners

Mr. McCarthy told the other commissioners that on September 21, 2011 there would be a SWRPA "conversation" on work-force housing. They would like to get zoning commissioners to attend. Mr. McCarthy also mentioned that he attended a Coalition of Norwalk Neighborhood Associations meeting. They discussed how at some meetings like the Zoning Committee some people were allowed to talk and others weren't. The commissioners agreed that if someone was part of the project they should be allowed to speak. However, if people have comments they should speak at the public hearings only. If they would like to speak at a committee meeting, then they should channel it through staff in the form of letters, etc. Mr. Greene said that people have been told the process but sometimes they do not follow it. Mr. Mushak also mentioned that some people have noted that the room that the Plan Review and Zoning Committee meetings are held in is too small. Mr. Greene noted that a larger room will be available in 2012.

Mr. Mushak showed the commissioners pictures of various dumpsters that were overflowing in his neighborhood. He discovered that the city's regulations do not state that the dumpsters must be screened. He wanted to discuss a regulation that dumpsters would not be allowed in the front yard setback. Mr. Greene wanted to know about other towns and/or cities that have regulations about the trash cans and dumpsters. He told Mr. Greene that he thought

Stamford had a regulation which stated that they are not allowed to have trash cans and dumpsters by the sidewalk. Mr. Greene would look at these regulations and bring his research back to the committee. Mr. Mushak has asked other Norwalk officials for help with these problem dumpsters but to no avail.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Diana Palmentiero