PBNA Meeting

May 9, 2012

South End Branch Library

Attendance included approximately 25-30 residents, as well as State Representative Aaron Michlewitz.

1. Treasurer’s report distributed by David Mooney. The report is available at pilotblock.org under [Events and History](http://pilotblock.org/pbnaeventandhistory.html), but in summary:

* General Fund:   $1034.54
* Alley Fund:        $768.61
* Total:                $1803.15

2. Groundwater presentation by Elliott Laffer and Christian Simonelli of the Boston Groundwater Trust ([BGWT](http://bostongroundwater.org/)). Some of the key points and discussion items included:

1. Elliott reviewed the history of how homes built on fill prior to around 1920 were built on wood pilings below the water table. If the water table is lowered and the pilings dry, they can rot and thus weaken a building.
2. A home on W. Brookline had to be repaired in recent years. Its pilings were cut off at 6.5', which is higher than most known cut-off points, which are closer to 5’.
3. Elliott reviewed maps of the city.  Most pilings are cut off at around 5', as far as they know, however many buildings have no record and there is no readily available way to tell the height of a buildings’ pilings without digging expensive test pits.
4. You can visit Bostongroundwater.org to see Building Data. Not all info is available.
5. It is important to ensure that our surfaces (yards, alleys, etc) are permeable so that water absorbs into the ground and does not just run off into storm drains.
6. Major renovations are required to include recharge systems. For this reason the S. End has a relatively large number of recharge systems, with many more in planning stages (i.e., permits issued but building not yet complete)
7. There are two ways to address lowering water tables: repair and recharge
   1. Repair means various organizations repairing leaky basements, tunnels, etc., so that groundwater does not seep into them
   2. Recharge means directing water from various sources into the ground.
8. There is a memorandum of understanding between city, MBTA, other agencies to fix any issue that may be a problem, and these agencies appear to be working seriously to address the issue.
9. The cost to repair pilings under a row-house can be approximately $300k.  Generally not covered by insurance. This is why we need to be aware of and focus on this issue, particularly on recharge systems.

3. Elections. Pat Plunkett led the nominating committee in 2012, which produced a slate of candidates for election.

1. Pat led a discussion that included Q & A about the role of the Council, which is comprised of the officers as well as representatives from the neighborhood. The entire council will be involved in PBNA decisions, with critical and controversial decisions being brought to general meetings.
2. The entire slate of candidates was distributed and is available at pilotblock.org under [Events and History](http://pilotblock.org/pbnaeventandhistory.html).
3. At the suggestion of a member, candidates who were present introduced themselves and spoke a few words regarding their involvement with the PBNA.
4. 11 members of the 12 member Neighborhood Council were elected.  Active outreach will continue to fill the 12th position with a resident from West Canton Street, which is currently not represented on the Council.
5. **One vote was taken on the entire slate with a clear majority voting YES and nobody voting NO. The new PBNA officers are attached as an appendix.**
6. Congratulations to the new PBNA Council and THANK YOU to those who have served for the past several years.

4. New Business.

1. Massachusetts State Representative [Aaron Michlewitz](http://aaronforrep.com/) introduced himself. Pending redistricting taking effect, his district will begin to include the Pilot Block area.
2. We reviewed recent activity by the South End Forum and City of Boston regarding trash enforcement, including:
   1. City ticketing for trash violations, with specific emphasis on improper bags (no grocery bags).
   2. Movement from SE neighbors and the city to end use of blue bins, moving to having all recycling in clear garbage bags.
   3. Concern regarding trash scavengers.
3. A resident of Tremont St noted concern with recent ‘shots fired’ near the corner of West Brookline and Tremont. There were no reports of injuries in these incident(s), however memories of the murder near this corner last year were noted. The Association did not take any action at this meeting, but it was noted that concerned residents might want to attend monthly D4 Boston Police meetings. Contact D4 [Community Service](http://www.cityofboston.gov/police/districts/d4.asp) for more information.

Submitted by:

Scott Mabel

Secretary

May 12, 2012

Appendix 1

*Pilot Block Neighborhood Association*

*Candidates for PBNA Officers and Neighborhood Council*

*Revised May 9, 2012*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Office | Candidate | Address | Has candidate agreed to serve? |
| President | Patrick Plunkett | West Brookline | Yes |
| Vice President | Robert Canzano | Pembroke | Yes |
| Treasurer | Charles Huhta | Pembroke | Yes |
| Secretary | Scott Mabel | Pembroke | Yes |
| Neighborhood Council | Peter Lavelle | W. Brookline | Yes |
| Neighborhood Council | Cicely Stetson | W. Brookline | Yes |
| Neighborhood Council | Julie Stuecker | W. Brookline | Yes |
| Neighborhood Council | Anita Polli | W. Brookline | Yes |
| Neighborhood Council | Nancy Stutzman | Pembroke | Yes |
| Neighborhood Council | Nancy Downer | Tremont | Yes |
| Neighborhood Council | Edward LeMay | W. Brookline | Yes |
| Neighborhood Council | Julianna Mackie | West Newton | Yes |
| Neighborhood Council | Tim Mackie | West Newton | Yes |
| Neighborhood Council | Mary Carroll | Pembroke | Yes |
| Neighborhood Council | Charlie Zarkadas | Warren | Yes |