

SBNA FALL COMMUNITY MEETING – 10.28.20 MINUTES

SBNA Fall Community Meeting was held on-line via google.meet due to continued Covid 19 safety protocols and rules and convened at 6:30pm. During the meeting, attendance was as high as 30 persons.

Joan, (SBNA president), gave a welcome message explaining that updates on items discussed at last community meeting (7/1) would be first, followed by New Business and various updates on current community issues

OLD BUSINESS: Follow-Up on Specific Issues from July Meeting

- **SWCP: ongoing safety issues/lighting/etc** : Lorraine (SBNA treasurer and SWCPC member) let us know that all lightbulbs on corridor have been replaced, there has been greater police presence, the number of homeless encampments are fewer, and the park is cleaner in general. There are still issues and a walk-through with DCR and city is scheduled for early November. Updates will continue at future meetings.
- **Street-sweeping extension into later in the year**: Lorraine let us know there has not been feedback yet from Counselor Flynn as to our request to extend street cleaning into December (as it currently is in the South End) Currently SBN cleanings only go into November. We will continue to pursue.
- **Trash/recycling – ongoing issues and improvements**: Gisela (vice president and Trash Task Force team leader) listed the actions her committee has been taking to help our neighborhood deal more effectively with trash practices and thus curb the presence of rats. Gisela led a flyer campaign and has been contacting landlords, tenants and city officials where problem areas exist. She has held and has plans for more in-person meetings at the problem areas. Educating residents as to proper trash habits and holding them responsible when they don't is key.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Bylaw changes**: Since the SBNA bylaws were written in the early 1980s, there were a number of articles and sections that needed to be refreshed and brought up to date. This summer, Lee Steele led the bylaws committee in an effort to go through and identify wording that would benefit the running of the SBNA organization today and into the future. The board approved the changes in a unanimous vote which was officially noted via email on 10/21/20. Pursuant to SBNA bylaws, when there are changes they must be approved by the board and then within 60 days there must be a general membership vote to accept the new bylaws and thus make the changes official. The bylaw changes were outlined, discussed, and a vote was called for.
- **VOTE**: Bylaws changes were unanimously approved by the membership, voting via the chat function on google.meet.
- **Updates on recent issues**
 - **Northeastern University students in Westin/Midtown** : Joan reported that so far, the large increase in students living among us has not proven to cause an uptick in Covid cases. Young people are notably wearing masks and we have had no party/gathering issues. NUPD are periodically patrolling and NU will be installing temporary reminder signs about mask-wearing and social distancing throughout the neighborhood, which will be removed when the students move out.

- **Midtown Development:** Lee Steele reported that the processes have begun with the BDPA. The city has named the IAG (Impact Advisory Group) and has accepted the 4 persons that SBNA put forward: Lee Steele, David Reed, Dr. Nicole Dubosh, and Mike Reinders. There are many steps to go through before all is approved including another public meeting which will be happening soon – Lee reminded all to keep up to date on when that meeting will be by following SBNA emails, checking the website and anyone is free to reach out to hi with questions or concerns lee.steele@verizon.net
- **One Cumberland:** Joan brought up the issue of the old brownstone at 1 Cumberland which is slated for demolition as part of the development plan. So far there has not been any concern for taking the building, but since it is an historic building, SBNA wants to make sure we haven't missed any objection to its demolition. Anyone with comments or questions about the building can reach out to Joan at president@stbotolph.org.
- **Safety:** Joan discussed that the safety committee is currently beginning a more in-depth look at the truck, trash and panhandling issues at the corner of St Botolph and W Newton.
- **Tree committee update:** Althea Wagman-Bolster, one of the leaders of the tree committee along with Wendy Hamilton and Dan D'Heilly, gave a talk on the trees that line our streets, desirable and undesirable and talked of the need for residents to "adopt" trees near them. Any residents with tree questions or who want to help out can contact info@stbotolph.net to be connected with the tree team
- **Renovations at 70 Botolph St:** Renovations are coming for the St Botolph Apartments at 70 St. Botolph St. There will be a public meeting on Nov. 9. See SBNA website for info on how to attend the on-line meeting.
- **Q&A TIME:** A few residents asked about specific design issues with the Midtown relating to parking and traffic; residents at the schoolhouse and on W. Newton talked of recent incidents of homeless sleeping in lobbies; in general there were many comments of encouragement to the current board for getting involved and being attentive to residents' concerns
- **ENDING:** Residents were encouraged to confirm their voting place or make a plan to vote early. Residents were invited to keep track of neighborhood updates by visiting the SBNA website, www.stbotolph.org, and watching email for periodic updates.
- **MEETING OFFICALLY FINISHED AT 7:45PM.**
- **TRIVIA/ Shout outs!** Attendants participated in a neighborhood trivia exercise after recognizing residents who are helping neighbors and doing good in the neighborhood, along with healthcare workers who are working so hard to keep us all safe.