

Present: **16 Zoom Participants:**

The meeting began at 6:30 pm

Terry Adams opened the meeting with rules of order since there have been a lot of outbursts and disruptions:

- No personal attack against any member or guest at the NRZ meeting
- Disrupted comments/ conversations will not be permitted
- No outbursts, raise your hand

Luke Daniel-Environmental Justice Action in Stamford gave an overview on what is environmental justice in conjunction to the South End issues.

What is Environmental Justice Action in Stamford (EJAS)? A grassroots organization focused on environmental and climate justice in Stamford. The mission is to empower residents, promote health and advocate for clean air and sustainable development.

South End Issues:

1. Idling Cars and trucks

- a. Reached a consensus to act on idling cars and trucks as a priority
- b. Seek creation of signage emphasizing enforcement

Result: Signage has been created by DEEP Air Enforcement Division and has been posted on streets recommended by the South End residents:

- Canal Street
- Rugby Street
- Harbor Street

2. DEEP Air Enforcement meeting

- a) Representatives from The DEEP Air Enforcement Bureau addressed concerns about asthma and air pollution and what regulations are in place.

Result: Environmental Justice Action in Stamford (EJAS) and the South End NRZ have hosted meetings with DEEP Air Enforcement Division leading to more communication between the organizations.

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3. Letter to the Zoning Board requesting an increase in green spaces.

a). EJAS drafted and sent a letter to the zoning board requesting consideration for and increase in green spaces in Stamford.

Result:

- The Board previously implemented street tree planting requirements.
- Developments of 1 acre or more in certain districts will require 5% of the lot area to be publicly accessible amenity space
- Regardless of the lot size there must be waterfront public access in all multifamily, commercial and industrial districts.

Luke announced The Air Quality Community Meeting that would be held by the City of Stamford Health Department on July 22, 2025, 5:30-6:30 pm.

Sue Halpern mentioned she has been going around looking for the idling signs.

Questions:

- 1). How are they going to enforce the 3-minute idling?**
- 2). Why are we not qualified to use the GMAP Vehicle in this area?**

Luke Daniel:

Answers:

1). I don't really know about enforcement since that is within the reigns of the Air Enforcement Division. Luke advised he would bring the concern to Jake in the Air Enforcement Division.

2). We are qualified to use the GMAP vehicle however the purpose of the GMAP vehicle is mainly to look for sources of air pollution that are unknown. According to the Air Enforcement Division they know almost all the sources of pollution in the area.

Sue Halpern brought up the issue with artificial turf fields, stating they are made with petroleum products that are bad for climate change and they heat up to tremendous temperatures which affects air quality.

Luke Daniel mentioned he would follow up to see what resources he could get on the issue.

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Terry Adams District 3 Board of Representative mentioned the turf fields will be a local fight mostly due to the tremendous amount of bird poop on the fields. Regular Park cleanings would be required to remove the bird poop prior to games. The Board of Representatives is looking into other options.

Monika Twal stated a lot of trees are being cut down maybe because they are rotted or hazardous. **Monika** emphasized if a tree is taken down it should be replaced cause Stamford is becoming barren.

Luke Daniel stated he would investigate the tree policies and see what agencies the city is working with.

Terry Adams suggested that Luke reach out to the state since there have been tragic tree accidents resulting from fallen trees on the Merritt Parkway.

Sandra Gottlin – The South End Ambassador for the 2035 Master Plan Commented they had old cherry trees in Mill River Park and people were very upset when they were cut down for renovations. However they planted all new cherry trees, and the park is beautiful. Sandra raised another point that she lives in Harbor Point and it's basically a dog friendly community. Although there are some public spaces, she feels it is not enough outdoor space to accommodate all the animals that are coming into the community. Sandra mentioned the Smyth has no outdoor green space. Sandra raised the question *Has the city considered or concerned at all about all the dogs in these residential and commercial areas?*

Luke Daniel stated he did consider the green space, but he did not realize there was a dog issue in relation to the green space. Luke advised he will investigate the issue and get back with an update.

Sue Halpern mentioned Woodland Cemetery is currently being used as a dog park and there is definitely a need for more space to accommodate dogs.

Elise Coleman stated the land swap that belonged to Pitney Bowes is being used as a dog park. Elise emphasized that although K-Park is pretty when it gets hot the park stinks due to the enormous number of dogs that are using the park.

Monika Twal emphasized that K-Park was definitely a child park. Environmental Justice should be for humans and keeping the environment friendly.

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Terry Adams asked Eilish Main the State District Representative how was her first term at the state?

Eilish answered no one can prepare you for the back-and-forth drive to Hartford and the gauntlet that is at the end of session. Eilish stated this could be a rocky year due to Trump's administration cutbacks.

Sandra Gottlin-The South End Ambassador for the 2035 Master Plan announced there have been a couple of community events with the 2035 committee, as they are still soliciting commentary regarding different areas of the city. Although her concern is making accommodations for the pets outside in public spaces.

Sheila Barney inquired if Sandra would take back the concerns mentioned at the NRZ meeting about the dog parks, turf and other concerns to the 2035 committee. Sandra advised she will definitely bring the concerns to the committee and report back to the NRZ.

Elizabeth McCauley announced the Holy Name Athletic Club turned **100** years old in June and they have new signage on the building.

Monika Twal asked about the opening of the Lathan Wider Community Center.

Terry Adams responded he will reach out to Scott and see if there are more updates, but they are scheduled to come back to the September 9th NRZ meeting.

Francis Gerety mentioned that trucks are driving through the neighborhood causing an awful lot of carbon monoxide spewing into the air and possibly into buildings.

Irene Toigo mentioned that Gropro has a lot of big dump trucks that go in and out of their yard on Harbor Street. A dump truck that parks in the Bender parking lot, a couple of mornings between 5:00 and 6:00 am start idling for 20 minutes.

Doris Johnson of DEEP requested that Irene send an e-mail outlining her concern so that she could refer the problem to the correct department for resolution.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm