



BRODART NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Meeting Notes

All Saints Memorial Church - Thursday, July 18th

Speakers:

Overview: Kim Wheeler – *Lycoming County Planning*

Homes-in-Need Program: Connie Baker / Rachelle Abbott – *STEP*

A Brush With Kindness Program: Tina McDowell – *Habitat for Humanity*

City Update: John Grado – *City of Williamsport*

Others present: Bill Kelly (County), Mary Rucinski (City), Tom Salisbury (STEP), Nancy Wentzler & Christine Combs (Habitat)

Called to order at 6 PM. Kim Wheeler introduced the speakers. Attendees were asked to sign in and pin their home location on a map board. Photos, large table maps, applications, general information and agendas were available. Kim Wheeler gave an overview of the April 2013 meeting; explaining at that meeting we discussed the history of site, plan for the site and clean-up plans. She summarized that meeting and then reviewed the project in general. She said the news media is aware of this meeting but is apparently not able to attend. The current agenda was reviewed. The availability of a new Brodart Neighborhood Improvement page on the Lycoming County Planning web page was announced. Scroll to the bottom and click on the logo. People can use it for information and to make comments. Kim noted that another meeting is planned for September 25th.

The speakers presented their information. STEP, Connie Baker and Rachelle Abbott, reviewed the Homes in Need Program and gave a status update. 14 applications received to date.

Tina McDowell, Habitat, reviewed Brush With Kindness and the plan for 2 single-family homes on the project site. Applications for Brush With Kindness were available.

John Grado reviewed the site demolition activity and remediation plan. He explained that the contract is not let as of yet. We are waiting for a Release of Funds from one source. There are multiple funding sources for this project. Demolition will take about 120 days after the contract is awarded. The Land Development plan will go to the Planning Commission on July 29 at 12 noon, in City Hall and public comment is welcome. The plan will proceed to City Council for review on August 8 at 7:30 PM. Mr. Grado explained the pest control is not under contract but the demolition contractor expects to sub it out to Erlich. There will be a meeting with the selected demolition contractor as soon as possible. The plan is to hold a meeting at the site and notify the area residents. Residents can attend and ask questions. We will address demolition, dust, noise, bugs...

Michael Ochs asked if the exterminator would be present at this meeting? Grado said you must understand the demo is not under contract yet, so the extermination is not, but he will try to have the exterminator attend this meeting. Mr. Ochs reviewed the dates listed above. Mr. Ochs asked for Lycoming County Planning Commission information. He said he understands the County Planning Commission reviews this. Mr. Kelly, from the County, explained the planning process and that the County may offer comment but does not approve or disapprove planning actions in the City. Mr. Ochs asked to see those comments.

One attendee asked if the Memorial Homes rental front façade is to be on Scott or Memorial. Memorial has been proposed, said Mr. Grado, and advised any one interested to attend the Planning Commission meeting. He said it is your opportunity to ask questions or make comments. The infestation issue was again mentioned. Mr. Grado said he would try to have the exterminator attend a meeting and will ask if exterminator has any suggestions for neighbors. An attendee asked what happens if the building is down but we still have a roach problem? Can Homes in Need help with that? County representative explained that is not the intent of the program. Mr. Grado said the City would target trash cleanup in the area. Removal of trash, combined with extermination, should address the problem. Attendee(s) commented on need for codes enforcement in the area...weeds, trash...Bill K urged those present to remember that this is a start. Cannot solve all problems but we are doing something, not doing nothing.

Kim Wheeler reviewed the area walk taken by the partners and introduced the group exercises. Residents are to mark areas of high concern, areas to be greened up, and areas in need of infrastructure improvements. She emphasized the need for resident's comments.

Some comments made: Beeber Street, Oliver St, Memorial traffic issues. Speed limit adjustments suggested. Sidewalks, crosswalks, curbs needed. Additional street lights suggested. Condition of trees and the old Webster School was a concern. Lack of an entry to the park on its east side was mentioned more than once. Mini confusion corner discussed. Drug houses and crime noted. Attendee asked if Textron stored hazardous materials and is there an emergency procedure should something go wrong. See maps for additional comments.

After the exercise was completed, the ideas of the three groups were reviewed. Mr. Ochs added a suggestion everyone have a name tag and consider grouping according to where you live. Also, the tables are too close, cannot hear because of the background noise.

Other attendee said she feels like someone is listening and is glad to participate. She asked about time frame for all the projects in the neighborhood. It was explained that this is a multi year activity, 4 or 5 years. Some applications take a year to submit.

Kim Wheeler thanked people for their participation and suggested using the web site to submit additional comments.