

BNIP NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING
Wednesday, March 26, 2014
6:00 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

A neighborhood, meeting was held on Wednesday, March 26, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at the All Saints Church, Parish Hall, on the corner of Scott and Beeber Streets.

Kim Wheeler, Planner for Lycoming County, explained that Lycoming County and the City of Williamsport are continually trying to find resources to invest in the neighborhood and to address critical issues and concerns regarding redevelopment.

This meeting is the fifth neighborhood meeting. Ms. Wheeler asked for a show of hands if it was the attendees' first meeting.

Ms. Wheeler mentioned that PA Department of Community and Economic Development is visiting the Brodart site and the surrounding neighborhood on April 9, 2014 at 1:30 and will also make an announcement regarding grant funding for infrastructure improvements. The rental property facade grant application that was submitted will be considered during DCED's next funding cycle. Approximately 53% of the properties in the neighborhood are rental properties so it is important to address those needs. Ms. Wheeler reviewed the resources that are available to the Brodart neighborhood.

Connie Baker, STEP, Inc. provided a status report on the Homes-In-Need program. Applications for the program are available this evening.

Nancy Wentzler and Arion Moser, Greater Lycoming Habitat for Humanity, provided updates on the Brush with Kindness program that focuses on exterior clean up and landscaping and small repairs for properties. Applications are available this evening.

John Grado, Community Development Director, stated that storm sewer work at the Brodart site is currently taking place. The NRP contractors are doing foundation work. If there are issues, the onsite superintendent, Kevin, checks in with Mr. Grado daily. PPL power as well as waterlines will be installed at the front end of the project, before the building goes up.

Scott Witmer and Katie Bell from Lycoming Engines spoke about improvements to the area around their facility. Privacy fencing will be installed along Demarest St., Day St., and Memorial Ave to cover the company's infrastructure. Lycoming Engines has submitted an application to PPL for additional lighting on Oliver St. and Demarest St. along Memorial Ave. Lycoming Engines is interested in making a capital investment in the plant to improve the appearance of the facilities. They are working on new equipment product lines that will include additional employment and jobs.

Mr. Ochs mentioned that the sidewalk on Memorial Ave. has debris and should be cleaned on a daily basis. He mentioned that the remediation building, next to the skateboard park, needs to be painted.

Ms. Bell mentioned that the Lycoming Engines Museum is open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 2:00. Advance notice is needed for admission since Lycoming Engines is a secure facility. The museum is one room that showcases the history of airplanes/engines.

The space on Oliver St. is green space and private property. There is no access due to liability reasons.

Ms. Bell explained that Lycoming Engines is part of Textron and an operating division of Avco.

Mr. Witmer explained that Lycoming Engines has multiple permits for water and air emissions through PA DEP.

Brian Regan recently received zoning approval for 12 apartments and a small office at the former Webster school. The apartments will be two bedroom apartments. There will be no additional parking. The Islamic Center is still occupying the building, but is looking for another location. The Islamic Center has a one year lease and is no longer responsible for the maintenance of the property. PPL removed the trees on the property. Mr. Regan's partner in the project is Steve Sechrist, a construction contractor.

Ms. Wheeler called attention to the BNIP Mission Statement that was stated on the agenda. The BNIP Mission Statement addresses the means and ways that the partners can assist, but a neighborhood group could also meet amongst themselves. A period of time will be reserved at the end of meeting to address concerns. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 2014.

The area on Scott St. and Memorial Ave. on Stevens St. will not be part of the access for Memorial Homes housing. The Habitat properties will have access.

Mr. Ochs mentioned that a City Codes representative should attend one of the meetings and that Terry McBride from PPL could address the security lighting. Tom Salisbury from STEP stated that secure lighting for homes could be part of the scope of work of the Homes-In-Need program and could include motion sensors and lighting. Mr. Ochs suggested that the Mission Statement include language about the neighbors shoveling snow off their walks and cleaning up their properties.

Mr. Kelly from Lycoming County stated that the City and Lycoming County have the resources to tackle the larger issues that are facing the neighborhood and work in partnership with each other. He suggested that a Brodart neighborhood group could also be beneficial.

It was mentioned that the Codes department should do more enforcement in the neighborhood, especially for the rental properties on Scott St., Oliver St. and Stevens St. that are owned by out-of-town landlords.

Ms. Wheeler called attention to the map of rental properties in the neighborhood and asked to be notified if there are inaccuracies.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. and was followed by the walk through the neighborhood to evaluate the lighting.