

Common Ground Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Present: Nancy Devaney, Alyssa Devin, Annie Fairlie, Valerie McGuire, Joseph Meister, Kristen Quinlan, Danielle Tancredi, George Tracy, and Mark Wood

APPROVAL OF 3/21/06 MINUTES

Minutes from 3/21/06 were approved.

UPDATE ON WELCOME WAGON AND TASK FORCE ON MINIMUM MANDATORY FINES

Anne Marie Silveira and Joe Meister volunteered to ride along with the police to visit Café Newport and JP's Bar and give them a copy of our Welcome Wagon Packet. Additionally, the new owners of Catarina's Italian Village will need a copy of the Welcome Wagon packet. Nancy will ask Scott Vellone to call Joe Meister to address the Welcome Wagon packet and to talk about starting the task force on minimum mandatory fines.

LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

Nancy Devaney announced that the Social Host/Procurement Bill passed in the House Judiciary committee, and that it was due to be heard by the full House, although a date for the hearing has not been set.

CG members also discussed Bill 2483, which would exempt license holders who only sell beer and wine from having to meet requirements related to server training. Nancy announced that these types of establishments have a particularly high rate of failure for compliance tests. CG voted unanimously against this legislation. Nancy will check to see if this legislation has been heard yet, and if it has not, she will write a letter indicating the subcommittee's opposition.

DISCUSSION WITH JONATHAN SMITH, FIRE SAFETY INSPECTOR

Jonathan Smith spoke with CG and the Realtors/Neighborhood Association subcommittee to discuss concerns regarding fire safety in off-campus housing and crowded parties. He stated that fire codes require a full inspection anytime ownership of a residence is transferred. He estimated that he does approximately 400 inspections a year.

Jonathan stated that as of January 1, 2002, a carbon monoxide detector must be present within the home when ownership is transferred. The carbon monoxide detector is required to be maintained by the property owner.

Jonathan stated that in order for a dwelling to be considered a rooming house, there must be:

- (a) 4-16 people living in the residence on a temporary or permanent basis
- (b) 1 common eating area
- (c) a manager living on premise.

He stated that most homes in Narragansett are considered single family dwellings (e.g., if there's one lease, covering 5 students, this is considered a single family home).

A violation of State fire code occurs at parties where there is less than 15sq feet per person. This would fall under the purview of the police department, and would count as a charge of disorderly conduct or overcrowded assembly.

Finally, Jonathan stated that fire trucks need at least 20 feet of open space to get through to a home. The fire department and police department can be called to determine if one side of a street should be designated as a “no parking” zone.

Note: At the May Coalition meeting, Joseph Meister expressed uncertainty regarding whether the definition of “single family dwelling” as stated by Jonathon Smith during the April 25th Coalition meeting coincides with that in the Narragansett ordinance.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 16th at 6pm in the small conference room of the Narragansett Town Hall.