

# Narragansett - URI Coalition

## Steering Committee Minutes

September 4, 2008 Meeting

### Coalition Attendees

Town: Jeff Ceasrine; Robert Briar

NPD: Joseph Little; Desiree Dugan

Neighborhoods: Gerry McCarthy; Bob Shields; Carol Stuart; Eileen Desforges

URI: Leslie Williams; Katrina Dorsey

Students: Josh Feinberg; Phil Bowers; Kerri Koppenaal

Real Estate: Joe Robenhymer

Businesses & Liquor vendors: absent

### Meeting called to order by Gerry McCarthy, co-chair, at 4 pm.

#### 1) Opening remarks

McCarthy welcomed the new student representatives.

#### 2) Approval of minutes of May 6, 2008 meeting

Corrections to minutes: meeting chaired by Leslie Williams. Relative to election of officers, Feinberg recalled that Jaclyn Pascocello declined to serve as a student co-chair. With these 2 changes, Briar moved we accept the minutes as amended, Little seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Feinberg agreed to serve in her place as student co-chair.

#### 3) Open forum

No comments from the public.

#### 4a) Co-Chair's report

McCarthy's requested a discussion of the correct name of our organization. The consensus was that we are the: *Narragansett - URI Coalition*. Within this umbrella organization, the *Steering Committee* consists of 3-4 representatives from each of the groups, listed above, holding a vested interest in this town-university relationship.

Secretary's note: The Coalition is the sole permanent organization consisting of both Town of Narragansett and the University of Rhode Island representatives jointly addressing matters relating to student life in town. The Steering Committee is responsible for the actual planning and conducting the Coalition's business. Please refer to the separate list of our Steering Committee representatives for 2008-09.

#### 4b) Narragansett police

Chief Little remarked that Police enforcement of the town's ordinances and state laws relating to noise and liquor possession will be exactly the same as last year. Dugan provided a statistical summary, shown in a table at the end of these minutes, on noise complaints & violations during the period from September 2007 - May 2008 and for 4 days of the current year beginning Sept. 1. During the last academic year, they noted that, after an initially large number of citations & arrests in September-October among students, there had been a gradual decrease as the year progressed.

Little reported that the NPD has an active, ongoing liaison with liquor vendors; they send officers into bars & pubs; advised that BonVue is no longer providing a nonalcoholic venue for under 21 socializing.

Little offered an update on the ACLU lawsuit: no quick settlement expected. Judge Torres could issue any one of 3 possible rulings: dismiss the case, the posting of citation stickers on the main entrance is illegal or the entire noise ordinance is illegal.

Ceasrine mentioned that the hearing on change of venue will be heard next week.

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Desforges & Stuart mentioned that they have provided the town with considerable history regarding laws relating to the regulation & enforcement of off campus student living in other jurisdictions.

Dugan mentioned that Bonnett Shores & Eastward Look will be having welcoming meetings for student renters at which Police officers & Bob Briar, Community Housing Inspector, will brief students on the town's ordinances & penalties for violation. Briar stated there had been 290 violations for garbage & litter during the 2007-08 year.

### 4c) Narragansett neighborhoods

Stuart mentioned Eastward Look is also planning a "welcome students" neighborhood social. She also distributed copies of a memo dated Aug. 14, 2008 to Committee members outlining specifically the role of the Committee and the Coalition's goals we might well consider.

Shields said the Pier Neighborhood Assoc. has had a plan dealing with student renters that seems to work well. We meet with all real estate agents before Labor Day, providing the agents with a "welcome" letter addressed to students outlining our requests. We then meet with the students after they move in and give them more copies of our letter and the URI Living in Narragansett booklet. We exchange phone numbers and offer our assistance if they have questions. We also try to meet with the property owners when we see them during the summer.

### 4d) Other members' business

Williams has extra copies of the "Living in Narragansett" booklet for those who want some. Dorsey mentioned the University has scheduled a housing fair for students who live or plan to live off-campus on October 29.

### 5) Next meetings

**Steering Committee: Oct 23, 2008 at 4 pm, Narragansett Town Hall.**

**Coalition public meeting: Nov. 19, 2008 at 7 pm, North Beach Pavillion**

Agendas to be announced.

**Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Bob Shields, Secretary

### **Statistics on loud party complaints handled by NPD:**

Reported by officer Dugan

	Sept. 1, 2007 - May 30, 2008	Sept. 1 - 4, 2008
Total number of complaints	317	19
Number of determined offenses	69	3
Citations issued, stickers posted	78	
Arrests, underage students w/ liquor	195	5
Tickets, illegal parking	231	
Vandalism	50	3

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