

# Narragansett - URI Coalition

## Steering Committee Minutes

### November 5, 2009 Meeting

#### Coalition Attendees

Town: absent  
NPD: Chief Joe Little; Robert Storme; John Silveira  
URI Admin.: Leslie Williams  
URI Students: David Bedard; Jillian Chase; Nicole Mingoia; Eli Moger  
Real Estate: Joe Robenhymmer; Gerald Annuzzi (Ann O'Brien Intern)  
Neighborhoods: Eileen Desforges; Ann Knowles; Jill Lawler; Gerry McCarthy; Gerry Reynolds;  
Carol Stuart;  
Business & Liquor: absent

#### Meeting called to order by McCarthy, co-Chair at 4:00pm.

Everyone introduced themselves as a few new faces were present.

#### Agenda items:

##### Item 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (March 24, 2009)

September 3<sup>rd</sup> minutes were approved as submitted.

October 8<sup>th</sup> minutes had one change, to eliminate the sentence "The URI Senate first proposed the idea" from the minutes under the Tom Dougan heading. Minutes as amended were approved.

##### Item 3. Public Forum

None.

##### Item 4. a) Co-Chair's Report

Co-chair Amanda Clarke was out today, Nicole Mingoia was present in her place.

Gerry McCarthy presented the group with a draft of a letter to be sent to President Dooley at URI. Chief Little suggested the letter include an invite to one of our meetings. Gerry McCarthy said he felt an invite would need to be for a specific reason. Carol Stuart suggested the letter include more action items about what the University can do help the issues. Carol suggested the ideas brought up at the Town Council meeting would be a good place to start. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the purpose of the letter and ideas for Dooley's visit to a meeting. It was decided that any further ideas would be emailed to Gerry and he would send the letter to the President since the timeliness of the letter is important.

Next discussion item was the Coalition Operating Procedures. Gerry handed out historical information on the coalition. Carol Stuart and Leslie Williams discussed that the Coalition did change procedures a couple years ago, but they were not written down. A review of minutes was recommended to see if the new guidelines could be found. This issue was considered a priority to resolve by many members. There was a motion to create an Ad Hoc Committee to review the structure of the Coalition. The motion was seconded and approved. Eileen Desforges, Dave Bedard, Gerry Reynolds, Bob Shields and a URI representative will serve on the committee. The committee is to report back at the February meeting.

The October 8 Coalition Meeting was summarized. David Bedard said it was a small crowd but it was informative. He suggested there be more than one meeting a year on campus to help people get more involved. Maybe start by having one per semester on campus. Carol Stuart remarked that she was disappointed in the turnout but felt it was a good panel with good discussion.

Nicole Mingoia updated the committee on the recycling efforts. She said that the project has turned out to be much bigger than they expected. They are looking at how other towns go about recycling efforts and hope to find ways to offer incentives to recycle. Amanda Clarke is also looking for grant funds to help. Joe Little said that the state might be looking at a state-wide recycling law that will eventually require recycling.

##### Item 4. b) Town Council Report

Town Council member S. Cicilline was unable to make the meeting.

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#### **Item 4. c) Student Life Report**

Williams indicated that the Coalition website has been updated, but would still like feedback and suggestions. It was noted that the word "respect" was spelled wrong on the title page.

#### **Item 4. d) Town Manager's Report**

Chief Little stated that the Town Council meeting with Dr. Dooley went well. Several questions were submitted by town, many were answered, but not all had time to be answered. They are already going to tap into ideas with a new internship option with the University.

Eileen Desforges commented that the landscaping at the police station still needs work.

#### **Item 4. e) Police Department Report**

Little informed the Committee that enforcement initiatives continue, including transportation of alcohol and nuisance houses. The numbers are up, but he is not sure why. They are continuing the party patrols. Katrina Dorsey and Jason Pina, Dean of Students at URI, recently went on ride alongs with Storme and Briar and were able to see first-hand some of the issues.

Police are still looking for ways to communicate with students. Realtors, URI at a Glance, presidents of organizations, etc. have all been recommended and/or utilized.

#### **Item 4. f) Community Housing Inspector's Report**

No report, Bob Briar was not present.

#### **Item 4. g) Narragansett Neighborhoods Report**

Carol Stuart stated that the Boy Scout food drive bags will be coming out and asked that URI send students a notice to make sure these do not end up all over the streets. Trash and littering continue to be a large problem. Vandalism seems to be on the rise, even students driving over lawns. The Wall Street Journals also continue to be left on driveways as well.

Joe Robenhymmer stated the trash carrels work really well for the trash issues, but they must have lids with ties or they still blow around.

#### **Item 4. h) Other Business**

Joe Little reported that the Police department is working on a reverse 911 system for emergencies that will alert neighbors if critical things are happening, such as weather, water contaminations, etc. The system may be able to alert specific neighborhoods. Once it is up and running he will know better whether or not resident can voluntarily give cell phone numbers.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:20pm.

#### **Next meeting**

Thursday, February 4, 2010, 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Williams (for Robert Shields)