**East Allentown Rittersville**

**Neighborhood Association**

**MINUTES**

President Dennis Pearson called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on September 16, 2013 at St. Peter’s Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Present: Four officers (Dennis Pearson, Denton Kriebel, Robert Jacoby and Dave Schell) and thirteen other neighbors were present at the meeting. Phyllis Alexander, Allentown Neighborhood Coordinator was also present. Candidate for city mayor Michael Donovan was also present.

Dave Schell handed out copies of the minutes of the meeting of August 19, 2013. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as distributed. The motion carried.

Treasurer Bob Jacoby reported that last month we had a balance of $442.57. We have received a donation of $50, so our balance is now $492.57. It was moved and seconded to approve the report. The motion passed.

Dennis Pearson reported that we received a letter from St. Peter’s Church. They have new policies for organizations that use their facilities. We need to follow their policies. This should be of no problem to us. The only item that touches on us is that we may not organize fund-raising here that is in violation of church policies—particularly gambling. Leaders of the group are responsible for the conduct of the membership and must be present while any members are present.

Pearson read a letter from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. They are planning to rehabilitate the Tilghman Street Bridge over the Lehigh River and we are invited to join the advisory council on historic preservation. This will be done after the American Parkway Bridge is completed, and will involve the Tilghman Street Bridge being closed for a period of time. Pearson has returned the form saying that we would like to be involved.

President Pearson reported that we have received approval for using Irving Park for our light display. Bob Jacoby is in the process of moving our material from storage into the Irving Street facility.

Pearson read several articles that have appeared in the Morning Call concerning the landscaping on Hanover Avenue, traffic accidents, and crime news.

The election of association officers will take place in November. Denton Kriebel is moving out of the neighborhood and so we will need a candidate for Vice President. The other three officers are willing to accept reelection but can be replaced by other candidates, who will be nominated at the November meeting.

Denton Kriebel noted with thanks that we have a good number of neighbors present. Often we have people show up with problems which, when solved, cause them to disappear. He thanked them for showing up.

Several items from North Jerome Street:

* A neighbor who works for an attorney read in the newsletter that we needed the information of the owner of 322 N. Jerome Street (which we had erroneously listed as 324) and brought that information to the meeting.
* It is our understanding that owner of the damaged property at 404 N. Jerome St. has received the insurance payment for the repair. Nothing has been done on the matter.
* With the backups on Hanover Avenue the traffic has increased significantly with drivers using it to reach E. Hamilton Street. Speeding has increased. The neighbor reporting this has spoken both the Mayor Ed Pawlowski and to someone in the streets department whose first name is Nelson about putting traffic bumps on Jerome Street. Nelson told him that the city will monitor the situation for a month. The mayor questioned whether that was a state matter.
* There have also been some accidents including a dog being hit earlier this month, where the motorist did not stop.

Dave Schell suggested that Phyllis Alexander introduce herself since there were a number of neighbors present who had not met her, and she did so.

Another neighbor noted that they have problems on East Gordon Street (from Maxwell to Oswego Streets) with trucks trying to make turns at corners that are too tight to turn. Some streets probably need to be posted as not allowing trucks.

There are frequent accidents at the corner of Hanover Avenue and E. Linden Street. A neighbor wondered if there was a way that he could get a petition to have a traffic signal at that intersection. He will work with Phyllis Alexander to follow the required procedure, although this will probably also involve the state.

Mayoral candidate Michael Donovan addressed the group. He noted his criticisms of the current administration and explained why he felt a need to run for the office.

They’re being no further business, adjournment was moved and seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully,

*David A. Schell, Secretary*