



Westcott Neighborhood Association
Board Meeting Minutes, May 11, 2026

Board Members Present: Chrissy Burd, Co-President, Carol Johnson, Co-President, Adam Felleman, Vice President, Virginia Felleman, Sam Gruber, Heila Martin-Person, Kim McCoy, Kevin Montgomery, Treasurer, Marilyn Zaleon

Others Present: Caroline Chatterton, Dan Deschamps, Jessica Fennell (on line), Judy Jerome, Andrea Latchem, Andy Leahy, Maple Reagan, Charlie Sam, Michael Stanton, Cjala Surratt

Welcome/Introductions: All present introduced themselves. Caroline Chatterton, newly appointed Petit Branch Manager, introduced herself and shared her library background and appreciation for the staff and public who have warmly greeted her.

Approval of April 13 Meeting Minutes: Kevin motioned, Chrissy seconded, unanimously approved.

Financial Report: Kevin reported there were some annual meeting expenses; renewed the Zoom meeting subscription; paid second and final payment on the insurance policy; end of April balance was \$2,848.00 noting that the T-shirt sales added to our balance.

New Business:

a) **Westcott Remembers, June 6th**

Sam is working on the brochure for this event. He shared his rough draft of biographies to gather any family information that people may have so we can reach out early to inform family members of the event.

To date, we will be honoring the following people: Ellen Barnes, Terry Cherny, Harry Freeman-Jones, Peter Knoblock, Cleota Reed, Jane Feld, Harry Lewis, Wiley Rice, and Gloria Sage.

b) **Event at Westcott Community Center to Meet and Greet Mayor Owens and Police Chief Rusin**

This meeting has been **rescheduled** to June 23rd, from 5:30 - 7 PM.

c) **Historic District Tax Credit Publicity**

WNA members continue to formulate ways the organization can play a meaningful role in getting tax credit information out to community members, including a postcard with a QR code for the website, New York State information about the credit, the Syracuse Landmark Preservation Board, etc.

Andy Leahy has created a list of eligible community households if we decide to hand deliver postcards. This project can have the added benefit of better informing the Westcott community of WNA's mission.

Committee members will continue to work on promotion efforts and Mike Stanton of SEUNA will participate with the group as well.

d) Petit Branch Community Room Construction Delay

Sam explained that the County let the State grant sunset, resulting in no construction this year. The County Executive said the County would supplement funds but these funds are not sufficient for compensating for the lost funding. The Deputy County Executive, Cydney Johnson, said there will not be any information regarding the delay until June.

Sam noted the importance of every resident writing to the County Executive to move this project forward after unacceptable long delays. Also Nodesia Hernandez, who serves on the County Facilities Committee, will try and get this issue on the Legislative agenda.

This item will continue to remain on the WNA agenda for future meetings to better formulate our role.

e) Pedestrian/Crosswalk Safety in the Westcott Area

Dan said his main concern is with highly used pedestrian crossings on three sections of Westcott Street. He suggested that the DPW may be able to assist in marking these areas to slow down traffic.

Adam also expressed concern about the lack of safety on the corner of Harvard and Westcott where people ignore the no parking signs and suggested some kind of traffic slowing mural to discourage cars parking there. Again, maybe DPW has some suggestions for us.

Sam pointed out that TNT still has \$4,000 that has been unclaimed. Maybe some grant funding could help with resolving these safety issues. One thought was perhaps that newly appointed Meghan Vitale as Vision Zero Coordination within the Department of Public Works has some ideas that align with the goal of Vision Zero to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries. Adam agreed to reach out to Meghan to see if this idea is compatible.

Old Business:

Funding for the Dog Parade is still pending.

Neighborhood Clean-up. Andy reported that the rainy day hampered the number of people willing to be out picking up garbage on Earth Day but some good work was done at Thornden Park. This Saturday there will be a clean-up in the Westcott Area that will be from 9-10 a.m., starting at Beech and Westcott.

Pomeroy Foundation Historic Signage will be discussed next month.

Announcements:

Charlie Sam reminded us about the Westcott Art Trail on June 20th, from 10 - 5 PM sponsored by the Westcott Community Center. Ginny made a motion to contribute \$100 if WNA gets acknowledged as a donor; Chrissy seconded the motion. Motion Approved.

Mike Stanton said UNSAAC funding is still undetermined; Westminster Steps very much in limbo; Islamic Society on Comstock asking for permission to triple the size of their building, create 76 parking spaces and asphalt a large area. To help resolve the parking issue, the mosque purchased a former church on Nob Hill with 14 acres of land that will allow for parking and increased attendance.

Meeting Adjourned - Kevin motioned, Chrissy seconded, unanimously approved.

Submitted by: Virginia Felleman.