

The FEDERALIST

The Federal Street Neighborhood Association is a registered, non-profit group which serves the residents of the Federal Street Neighborhood

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March 2003

Neighborhood roundup

Thanks all around

Thank go out to everyone involved in Judith Imm's art show at the Salem Athenaeum on Essex Street, along with a reminder that you can still see the exhibit until the end of March. It is a great idea for something to do while we wait for Spring.

Thanks, also, to everyone for keeping their sidewalks clear and walkable during this atrocious winter weather/season. Let's continue to take pride in and ownership of our sidewalks to make them really safe. As Spring approaches (and we hope it is soon) please pick up litter and sweep your gutters — the European approach!

Traffic Flow

Thanks, neighbors, for the numerous ideas to improve the safety of the Federal Street Neighborhood with respect to slowing traffic and diverting cut-through speeders (and trucks) who continue to utilize Federal Street as a means to bypass the traffic light on North/Essex as well as the use of Bridge Street.

The two proposals under review are reversing the direction of Beckford Street and reversing the

direction of Federal Street from Boston Street to Flint Street. We realize that there will be some minor inconveniences for some people in both of these proposals, but we ask that you continue to look at them with an open-mind and keeping our Public Health and Safety as your main focus.

A NEW proposal that would enhance the current proposal regarding the change of direction of Beckford Street, is to shut off entry onto Lynn Street from Bridge. The same shutoff would be in effect for River Street (down the hill) onto Bridge. The result would be a neighborhood-designed "green space" that would not allow traffic either in or out of Bridge Street, but traffic could continue to come down River and make a left onto Lynn, continuing up to Federal Street.

How this impacts the Beckford Street proposal is that it will prevent rush-hour traffic that is stuck on Essex Street, heading toward the light at Jerry's Army-Navy, from cutting down Beckford, onto River, then taking a right onto Bridge Street.

As always, feel free to respond to this note, or begin to draw up your own ideas for improving our traffic flow for discussion at our next meeting.

Looking for advertisers

The Federalist is always looking for stories, ideas, advertisers, comic strips, etc. So feel free to submit your thoughts.

Crimewatch Program

Rita Markunas is continuing to collect the surveys and data for instituting a Crimewatch program for us. She's been working with the Salem Police Department since last year and needs our input to help build a solid Crimewatch framework and model for our neighborhood. If you haven't filled your survey out, please do it now. Rita will update her records and a follow-up discussion will be scheduled at an upcoming FSNA meeting.

Neighborhood Improvements

Will Wrightson and Stanley Schwartz met with our new City Engineer Bruce Thibodeau. Regina Flynn, Tom Philbin, and Rick Renard (Manager of Open Spaces) were in attendance as well. We reviewed the brick sidewalk map that was created by Ziggy Hartfelder and Martha

SPECIAL EVENTS

FSNA Annual Meeting

Slated for SUNDAY afternoon, March 30, at the First Church on Essex Street, from 3:30 to 5, our Annual Meeting is always a great opportunity to meet new neighbors and celebrate the accomplishments of the previous year. The theme of the meeting and the year will be Getting to Know your Neighbors. Kids are welcome! The annual meeting provides us with the chance to review current issues and bring new ones to the table. We are currently looking for additional volunteers to join the Board of the Federal Street Neighborhood Association. If you are interested, please contact a member of the board as soon as possible.

Wednesday, **March 26** — Review of plans for Salem Willows, at the Bentley School, 6:30 p.m.

Monday and Tuesday, **April 14, 15** — Presentation/charette of alternative plans for the North River Canal Corridor Master Plan, 120 Washington Street, 6 to 9 p.m.

Sunday, **May 4** — Peabody Essex Museum Houses, Federal Street Neighborhood Tours. Take a free tour of our neighboring Museum homes. RSVP/Sign-up by responding to this email or call Stan Schwartz at (781) 895-2056. The program would be: 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. — Open house at Ropes Mansion and Peirce Nichols houses; 3 to 3:15 p.m. — Open House at Cotting Smith; 3:15 to 4 p.m. — Introduction to the new PEM (slide show presentation) at Cotting Smith.

Tuesday, **May 6** — Historic Salem, Inc., Annual Meeting at Old Town Hall, 6:30 pm. Speaker: Tony Souza, of WHALE in New Bedford, a dynamic speaker on the story of New Bedford's renaissance and the economic value of preservation in towns like New Bedford and Salem.

Notes from last meeting

We met with neighbors from Gallows Hill to discuss our joint ventures such as Walgreen's, Flynntan, and the North River Corridor (specifically the Osram site). We are in the process for obtaining a guest speaker who is versed in environmental law to help us to understand some of the complex legal issues involved and advise us of our rights.

Future Meeting Notes

- The Peabody Essex Museum is currently coordinating a neighborhood house tour for us, so that we may visit and learn more about the Assembly House, Pierce Nichols House and the Ropes Mansion. The Museum will let us know what Sunday afternoon works for them, so look for the date in the next newsletter.

- Refurbishing City Hall. We will "pass the hat" at our next meeting to collect donations from FSNA to help with the work that is currently under way at City Hall.

North River Canal Vision Statement, February 2003

The following is a draft of the Vision Statement prepared by the Master Plan Working Group.

Salem was settled by English colonists 375 years ago along the banks of the North River. Today, the North River Canal Corridor area is a diverse district with a mix of commercial, residential and industrial uses adjacent to vibrant residential neighborhoods. This important area is also the main entrance corridor into the city and commuter gateway to the downtown. However, the river, the railroad and industrial development have created a barrier to the downtown. Future development should reconnect this area, creating a mixture of compatible uses that expand upon the urban character of the city. Its strategic location offers the opportunity to reconnect the diverse neighborhoods that surround it and take advantage of the available building stock, vacant parcels, unique open space system and waterfront access. This important area deserves thoughtful development worthy of the rich neighborhood tradition of Salem.

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Jarnis. Our action item from the meeting was to prioritize and schedule the numerous sidewalk sites with respect to urgency and most "bang for the buck." Bruce was also very enthusiastic about fixing up our streetscape and other miscellaneous projects with our help. Some of the items on our project list are the two brick and cobblestone crosswalks - one at the top of Federal Street in front of Murphy's Funeral Home and a second just before Federal Court. If you have a neighborhood project in mind, please do not hesitate to contact us.

The North River Canal planning process was initiated in June 2002 and planners, residents, businesses and political leaders developed this vision statement for the future.

•Create appropriate development while preserving our historic neighborhood character

Create new housing opportunities that encourage a range of housing types and affordability. Take advantage of the unique architectural character of the existing underutilized industrial buildings by embracing uses such as artist-exhibit, -work and -live/work spaces.

Encourage development projects that preserve the unique historic character and scale of the adjacent neighborhoods and which take advantage of its waterfront location. Use zoning to encourage desired quality development that respects the quality of life provided by the existing neighborhoods. Support development that contributes to the quality of life for all Salem residents by providing housing options, livable-wage employment prospects and cultural and recreational opportunities.

•Address transportation issues for existing and new developments

Encourage public and private developments in the area that provide connections and links to the adjacent train station to promote transit use, reduce and manage existing traffic congestion, address parking demand and provide a more pedestrian-friendly area.

Improve and enhance traffic patterns to facilitate access to and through the area by channeling traffic to appropriate roadways while providing better connections to open

space through integration of pedestrian and bike paths.

•Enhance the public realm in keeping with our unique neighborhood character

Upgrade the public realm by creating an accessible network of safe, clean and well-landscaped areas and open spaces where people can sit, walk, run or bike.

Coordinate the development and implementation of guidelines for landscape and streetscape improvements that are historically sensitive and encourage the use of appropriate materials.

Development of the NRCC area in accordance with this vision offers an opportunity to link neighborhoods to create an area in which people can live, work, shop and play in a diverse urban area.

North River Canal Corridor meetings continue

The following dates remain for meetings of the North River Canal Corridor (see Vision Statement, page 2) Master Plan Working Group:

April 2 — Identification of plan alternatives;

May 7 — transportation plan review;

June 4 — Draft plan review, and (tentatively)

July 2 — Final plan review.

The public are invited to attend these meetings and voice their ideas. For more information and history of the issue, log on to www.salemcitizens.org.

Become a member of Federal Street Neighborhood Association

Throughout 2002, FSNA has provided our monthly newsletter, *The Federalist*, to over 240 residences in the greater Federal Street area. As you've read, there are a few neighbors at the core of the operations who try to keep you informed and in touch with what is going on in our neighborhood. We know that many people have families

and are busy trying to make ends meet, so if you cannot help by volunteering your time, please join us by filling out the membership form below. Keep in mind that the annual dues help to cover the administrative costs (including the newsletter) that keep our group going. Eventually, we'd like to provide the newsletter via e-mail as well, so, if you

like that concept and have the capabilities, provide your e-mail address below. The Federal Street Neighborhood Association is also connected to a Web site where you can find up-to-date meeting schedules and citywide issues being addressed. Simply go to www.salemcitizens.org.

Name _____

Address _____ e-mail _____

Cost of a membership:

\$7 for an individual

\$10 per family

Please make your check payable to the Federal Street Neighborhood Association, and mail it to David Hart, FSNA Treasurer, 104 Federal Street, Salem, Mass. 01970.

