

Subject: [DPNeBlast] News of Deer Park, ZBA Public Hearing, Canadian National URGENT
Date: Friday, August 8, 2008 8:23 PM
From: Deborah Barry, Secretary <deborah.barry@deerparkneighbors.com>
Reply-To: deborah.barry@deerparkneighbors.com
To: "dpneblast@deerparkneighbors.com" <dpneblast@deerparkneighbors.com>
Conversation: News of Deer Park, ZBA Public Hearing, Canadian National URGENT

host_name

Greetings, Neighbors Remember, you don't have to read a word!

IN THE NEWS

In Wednesday's home delivery of the Tribune, you might have seen a full-color insert describing the many amenities of Vehe Barn. If you didn't see it, we'll be happy to email you a copy. This was distributed to all the Tribune subscribers in zip codes 60047 and 60010. It parallels a full-color brochure created to reach out to potential renters. Getting the Barn fully rented is a priority, regardless of how we ended up with this \$4,000,000 special interest project. The Village treasury continues to subsidize a substantial part of the day-to-day operations. Let's all pull together to turn this unusual property into what it should be, a year-around commercial venue.

PLEASE take the time to create a log in at news sites, and leave your comments. This is one of the most powerful tools of free speech. If you don't use it, you are unheard. The Internet is where the crucial common weal conversations take place. There, and at our Vehe Barn.

Thursday, August 6, Lake Zurich Courier "Deer Park President Scott Gifford said it has been the village's standard procedure for years to let project architects, in this case Hasbrouck [Vehe], keep construction records, and he has confirmed this as a legal procedure with village attorney Paul Keller....**He added it is important for the village to eventually get all the documents for village records, but not on an ongoing basis.** Gifford added he expects Peterson's final accounting of the project, including its documents, at the Aug. 18 board meeting." Read it all:

<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/barrington/news/1095356,ba-dprerecords-080408-s1.article>

COMMENTARY: Putting aside for the moment the wisdom of having the project architect prepare the financial review of his own project, how could trustees vote to transfer funds on an "ongoing basis," but get the documentation only "eventually." Common sense indicates you don't pay a bill without full paperwork. For example, would you pay American

Express just on the basis of their request for an amount, or would you expect/insist on line items and details? Spend first, review the bills later? That sounds like an out-of-control teenager with his first debit card.

And finally, a note to President Gifford. We wouldn't call a 4-2 vote a "vast majority." Unanimous would be "vast." 5-1 might be a mandate. 4-2 is just squeaking by.

You'll like this story, LZ Courier, August 7, as a contrast. Some villages do hire outside auditors for financial matters.

<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/lakezurich/news/1095184,lz-auditor-080708-s1.articleprint>

Also a number of stories in Barrington Courier about the Canadian National issue, SEE THE Rita on Rails FARTHER FARTHER DOWN THIS LETTER and on our web site..

World renowned artist exhibits work in Deer Park:

<http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=226310&src=25>

UPCOMING MEETINGS

>>Wednesday, August 13, Zoning Board of Appeals PUBLIC HEARING, 7pm at the Barn.

Another subdivision issue. And by the way, even if you don't live near this property, how subdivisions are handled is a matter of importance—and the discussion is very interesting. Since this is a PUBLIC HEARING, the public will be heard! You'll need to sign in, of course. Here's the thing, you can drive by the area, look at what's on file at Village Hall and then ask your questions at the hearing:

The request for variance is at the existing residence at 17 Ferndale Road, Lot 17 in Jon-Emair Woods Subdivision, in Lake County, Illinois PIN: 14-32-405-013 The property lies in the R-1 Single-Family Residence District. The applicant is seeking a one (1) foot side yard variance and a thirty-five (35) foot front yard variance to construct a garage. Said application is on file at the Village Office located at 23680 W. Cuba Road.

>>Monday, August 18, 7pm, Board of Trustees, at the barn

Agenda won't be posted until Friday—and here's the thing. Why doesn't the village BLAST agendas and meeting notices? We thought that's what the CTY system was for, keeping the public informed.

What can we expect: Attendance may be impacted by Olympics and getting kids off to college. So with revised expectations, we'll be counting noggins and expecting public comments. See some recent postings on our Editorial Page.

The Rainbow Road subdivision is sure to be on the agenda. And the affected residents are sure to be speaking out, to add information and points of view to the trustees' deliberations. As three of the trustees live up in that end of town...well, if you win the office, you have three choices: cast your vote, abstain, or miss the meeting altogether. This is not just about one property being subdivided to make two properties—perfectly permissible. This is really about how this Village balances the rights and desires on one side against the best interests of the Village on the other. If a thing can be done, must it be done? And another question that has been asked—but not clearly answered—does the Village Attorney work for the residents or only for the Board. We know he serves at the pleasure of the president, and we know he is permitted by Board of Directors and the Vehe Foundation Board to do legal work for both entities. But when a resident asked him directly, more or less in these words “You’ll look out for us residents, won’t you? You protect the residents, don’t you?” Attorney Keller said “No,” but in the nicest way. We hope Attorney Keller has driven the affected subdivision and studied the map, so that the abstract concepts of law, specific lines of code and the real world come together in his “legal opinion.”

We are sure to hear a report on the final reckoning at Vehe. Because it says right in the paper, that President Gifford needed until April 18 to fulfill the FOIA request made by Pioneer Press. And our meeting is the 18th. So all the info has to be there the evening of the 18th. (Interesting note: in a recent village squabble over “how much is there?”, the Hawthorn Woods board decided to bring in an **outside auditor**. See, that’s how it’s done.

We also hope, expect, and implore President Gifford to assemble, compose and publish an official impact statement from the Village of Deer Park, bullet pointing the impact on his 1100 or so homes and 3,000+ constituents if the Canadian National acquires the EJ&E line. Every nearby village has done this simple, impactful thing. Lead the way, President Gifford. That’s why you were elected, to be a leader. And for any of you who doubt this has anything to do with you, please read below, then visit the DPN site to catch up on the issue.

We do not expect to hear anything about a sales tax increase, as it’s just about, almost too late to plunge into action to get a referendum on the November ballot. Too bad, as this November election is sure to have a very large turnout. President Gifford says HE never said anything about taking a second bite at the referendum. Trustee Pat Plautz HAS said publicly that she wants it on the ballot, and wants everyone to “talk it up,” or words to that effect.

We add these recent news story's to Rita Finley's excellent sumamry below.

CN seeks "legal relief"

<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/barrington/news/1094158,g5-cnlitigate-080608-s1.article>

Shifting rail congestion is not the answer:

<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/barrington/news/1092876,g5-cnhearing-080708-s1.article>

Rail buy would benefit some communities:

<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/barrington/news/1092880,g5-cnhearing-080708-s4.article>

----- Forwarded Message

From: <fn5@comcast.net>

Date: Sun, 03 Aug 2008 14:11:27 +0000

To: <fn5@comcast.net>

Subject: EJ&E- Speak Now of Forever Hold Your Grief

PLEASE READ IN ENTIRETY

If this was a hospital, the fate of the safety and quality of life in our towns is in "Intensive Care" right now. Between now and September 30 we have some important things to do in this critical stage in the process.

Put another way, imagine this being the World Series, "CN vs. The People". It's the bottom of the 9th, and we're losing by 2. We have our Federal elected officials on 2nd, the TRAC Coalition on 3rd. The STB is the umpire, but seems to be making a lot of calls in favor of the other team. We, the one million impacted people are at bat with 2 outs and 3 balls. CN has a mean pitcher. We must hit this out of the ballmark to win this game.

WHAT TO DO NOW:

1) Go to www.fightrailcongestion.com <<http://www.fightrailcongestion.com>> and see the "Congressional Action" tab and please contact your federal elected officials TODAY regarding "HR 6707". More details are on the website. This bill would change the rules of the game that the STB follows and help even the playing field.

2) Mark your calendars, hire your babysitters if needed-- we must ALL go to the public hearings and have the STB see the FACES of the people. Schedule is at www.fightrailcongestion.com <<http://www.fightrailcongestion.com>> on the left hand side (scroll down).

3) Pray

4) Divide and conquer with your friends and neighbors the STB study. (link is a the [fightrailcongestion](http://www.fightrailcongestion.com) website; many of you have a hard copy) and prepare

letter to write the STB your concerns and send by September 30. Also, consider making a statement at your local public hearing. Note CN is not letting up - see this article which indicates they are already balking at the "15" intersections that the STB is requiring mitigation:

<http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=224276&src=5> <<http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=224276&src=5>>

Regarding the draft, I noticed the following when I scanned the executive summary:

- a) In the Northwest part of the EJ&E, the STB is asking for mitigation at Hough Street (Barrington), Ela Road (Lake Zurich) and Old McHenry Road (Hawthorne Woods). Note mitigation is not necessarily grade separation; it could be as extreme as "closing the road" to traffic (huh?). Also, for any mitigation, STB is suggesting that our local and federal governments fund 90-95% of it. (double huh?) And what about Cuba Road or Northwest Highway in Barrington? I guess they think it's ok if that traffic backs up and spills into alternative routes
- b) The STB admits that a number of Fire Departments would be compromised, including one in Barrington and one in Lake Zurich
- c) The STB admits that water supply could be negatively impacted in the event of a derailment but I didn't see any real mitigation to address this.

Thank you for reading and please forward to others. I have limited access to the internet right now but will write when I am able. Again we are at a critical point right now and must all act now in full force!

Rita

----- End of Forwarded Message

WHAT'S NOT IN THE NEWS: Pioneer Press (SunTimes News Group) is doing a super job of covering local issues. And the reporters try hard to get to the source. But in two recent stories about village presidents coming together, our own President Gifford is never quoted. In our opinion, it's not the size of the village, it's the volume of our voice. Our voice is too small in this region, way too small for over a thousand households.

But you need to do your job, too. We are constantly surprised when we discuss the CN acquisition, how many of you say no, you've never sent in your own comments. "It doesn't matter." "No one listens to the little guy."

Well, your voice CAN matter, but only if you use it. Please follow the simple steps Rita outlined and formulate your own opinion on the CN/EJ&E issue, and take the time to log

your comment with the Surface Transportation Board.

Also, on our site (click Hot Button) is the list of local forums. These are, as Rita say, LAST CHANCE.

We hope that by the time the Barrington Forum takes place, the Village of Deer Park will compose, submit and PUBLICIZE an impact statement that reflects the concerns of this village in particular. A Village statement, combined with hundreds and hundreds of residents' comments, will have impact.

Together, we are stronger. Many of you drop by to chat; Al and Deborah enjoy that. We're at home all weekend, or if you miss us, call and leave a message.

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Deborah Barry, Secretary | Al Barry, President
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