

## WENA Annual Meeting, December 14, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 6:40pm by President Chip Martin.

The first order of business was election of officers. Elected to the WENA Executive Board for 2012: President-Rosanne Graef, Vice President-Jodi Lapchick, Treasurer-Maureen Clancy, and Secretary-Penny Stevens. At-Large Board Members elected were Judy Witherell, Vicky Delewski, Jennifer Defilipp, Christine McHale, Deb McCoy, Chip Martin and Tom MacMillan.

Treasurer's Report, Maureen Clancy – Available balance as of 11/31/11 is \$10,258.57.

Update on Pediatric CPR Course – Will be offered at the Reiche Community Center on January 30, 2012 with a snow date of February 6, 2012. This will be a three hour course, limited to 10 enrollees, and geared toward 11-17 year olds. For those who cannot afford the course fee, there will be an option to perform community service hours instead. Motion by Jen Defillip and seconded by Maureen Clancy asking WENA to pay \$125.00 to cover the cost of the instructor, with the funds to be recouped from student's course fees as able. Motion passed.

Neighborhood Watch, Jen Defilipp – Alerted those in attendance to a recent incident on West Street. A man posing as a utility worker from Unitil attempted to gain entrance to a resident's home. The resident refused to allow access to the man, phoned Unitil, and discovered that no Unitil workers were in her area that day. With the exception of emergency situations, utilities will alert their customers in advance if their home will need to be accessed, so report any incident where an unannounced entry is requested to the police immediately.

Jodi Lapchick reminded the membership that the next West End Meeting Place will be held at the Reiche Community Center on Wednesday February 1, 2012, 5:30-8:00 pm. Meeting Place is an Art At Work project to help neighborhoods develop and deepen their networks and connections through partnerships with local artists. Artists lead monthly workshops on topics designed to increase civic engagement, pride, and neighborhood knowledge. For more information, go to [www.ArtAtWork.com/Projects/MeetingPlace](http://www.ArtAtWork.com/Projects/MeetingPlace) , Facebook.com/ArtAtWork or [www.ArtAtWorkProject.us](http://www.ArtAtWorkProject.us).

Penny Stevens notified attendees that copper gutters were recently stolen from the Sacred Heart / St. Dominic Church on the corner of Mellen and Sherman Streets. Please continue to keep an eye out for suspicious behavior in your area and report it immediately to the Portland Police. If you witness a crime in progress call 911, otherwise utilize the non-emergency number 874-8575.

City Councilman Dave Marshall answered questions regarding the vacant building formerly located at the corner of Brackett and Pine Streets. The City of Portland finally granted the property owner permission to demolish the building due to the imminent threat of collapse. The current parking lot will remain the same size, and the footprint of the former building has been filled with the plan the plan being to loam and seed the site. Councilor Marshall believes there may already be an interested buyer for the property. The location is zoned for mixed use, with the hope being for retail at ground level and affordable residences above.

Guest Speaker, Becky DeKeuster, Executive Director, Wellness Connection of Maine. Ms. DeKeuster announced this evening that in an effort to rebrand themselves to more accurately reflect their mission, the company

formerly known as Northeast Patients Group has been renamed Wellness Connection of Maine. Her company is responsible for running four of the eight medical marijuana dispensaries in Maine, located in Brewer, Hallowell, Thomaston, and Portland. Though not yet open, the Portland location is 665 Congress Street, behind Local 188. Ms. DeKeuster anticipates a late January opening with operating hours of 9:00 and – 5:00 pm Tuesday through Saturday. In addition to dispensing medicine, the facility intends to offer other health services such as counseling, acupuncture, and massage. Security measures will include onsite staff, patrols of the parking area, and state of the art surveillance equipment. For additional information: [www.mainewellness.org](http://www.mainewellness.org).

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.