

## Spring 2024 Newsletter



### In person GFA Annual Meeting Notice

Please join the Board of Directors at our **Annual Meeting**, which will take place Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00PM, at Greens Farms Congregational Church (71 Hillandale Road). **Our guest speaker is First Selectwoman, Jennifer Tooker.**

**CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!** We have room on the Board for interested neighbors who want to help preserve this great neighborhood. Please contact me at [art@greensfarms.org](mailto:art@greensfarms.org).

### Recapping 2023 and a look into 2024

**Affordable housing continued to be a state and local level topic.** Bills to bolster affordable housing in the state legislature have advanced, but unfortunately, they include state mandates (number of units, proximity to train stations) that supersede local control. Your board has donated \$200 to **CT169 Strong**, an advocacy organization lobbying for better affordable housing legislation which would include retention of local control. The Association strategy is threefold: 1) Stay informed and educate neighbors in Greens Farms about affordable housing developments. 2) Support our local and state representatives as they engage in shaping Connecticut legislation. 3) Engage neighbors and developers to help shape local affordable housing projects that are more acceptable to all parties.

**Traffic.** First Selectwoman Jen Tooker sponsored a series of public hearings by RTM district on the topic of traffic. The Association participated and contributed to the session about traffic in RTM district 5. Some notable improvements have been changing the intersection of West Parish and Hillandale to a four-way stop, and the intersection of New Creek and Greens Farms Road to a 3-way stop. Both improvements have been well received. The GFA also advocated for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Safety Action Plan project which is currently conducting a deeper study of car, cyclist, and pedestrian concerns with traffic. Residents of Greens Farms are encouraged to take the survey located at <https://www.fhistudio-apps.com/westport-map/#/>.

**1076 Post Road East (Post Plaza).** Big Y has now announced they will occupy the site in lieu of Amazon Fresh. We will continue to monitor their plans, but it appears they are more transparent and motivated to be a good neighbor. We continue to monitor and respond to plans for a drive through at the corner of Church Street and Post Road. An initial plan that the Association opposed was withdrawn, but there may be another.

**Flooding.** The Association lobbied for additional funding to extend analysis of Muddy Brook from the Hillandale bridge down to Greens Farms Road. The initial findings are that all three bridges (Hillandale, Center Street, and Greens Farms) need repair or most likely full replacement. As has been noted in the past the Hillandale bridge is already slotted to be replaced. We continue to advocate for dredging if needed to alleviate flooding. A public meeting was held led by consulting firm Tighe and Bond to update the public on the status of this work.

**Nyala Farms Office Park Open Space:** Jennifer Zimmerman and Chrissey Hunt have led an effort we support to ensure the privately owned open space is not compromised. Last year Bridgewater Associates ran an employee appreciation event that flooded a portion of the property that was not approved by the Conservation Commission. We are supporting neighbors' efforts to ensure this open space which the Association fought for back in 1970 is not encroached upon.

**Combined fire, police, EMS HQ:** The Association successfully lobbied that the funding to study a new headquarters did not explicitly identify the intersection of Greens Farms Road and the Sherwood Island Connector. We are advocating to ensure multiple sites are considered.

**1622 Post Road Golf facility:** The Association lobbied to ensure a planned Golf facility does not create environmental, traffic, and noise issues for the abutting neighborhood. Construction has now begun at the site.

### Annual Membership

Please consider sending your annual membership fee of \$40 to Green's Farms Association, PO Box 10, Green's Farms, CT 06838. A strong membership allows the Association to better lobby on your behalf. You can also pay with PayPal at our web site, [www.greensfarms.org](http://www.greensfarms.org).

Art Schoeller  
President – Green's Farms Association

P.S. Please check out our Facebook and Instagram pages!