

## From the Executive Director David MacDonald

### **AHNA's Proposed By-Laws are on the Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> agenda for vote by our members**

AHNA's By-Laws were last updated in 2009 and the Board of Directors identified several areas in need of improvement. At the November 17<sup>th</sup> BOD meeting of AHNA, the proposed By-Laws were adopted unanimously and approved for AHNA members to vote on. The reason for updating our By-Laws are summarized here:

- 1) to clarify and clean up any inconsistent or unclear provisions, and
- 2) to assure that AHNA, going forward, continues to serve as the NRZ for the Asylum Hill community, as set out in the Connecticut statutes. The second focus meant clarifying the role of membership, of voting rights, of participation in all ways in the activities of AHNA. These changes adhere to the spirit of the NRZ laws, and we hope they will invigorate the broad membership and community to continue to participate in the important work of AHNA.

In Article II we recommend revising our Mission and Objectives. The 2020 version includes explicit reference to the Neighborhood Revitalization Zone ("NRZ") CT General Statutes. We also recommend some changes to our objectives by removing language about "lowering residential density," and adding "a list of stakeholders ..."

In Article III Sections 1 and 2, we recommend some changes to Membership requirements. We are trying to balance the need for inclusion of community voices as well as ensuring that the majority of members are residents of Asylum Hill (a requirement of the NRZ statutes). We clarified that any individual having a significant involvement with the Asylum Hill neighborhood is eligible for membership. We added the capability for an organization to become a member of AHNA by assigning a representative to act on behalf of their organization.

Other Major changes include:

- 1 General Meeting or Committee meeting with a completed application to become member of AHNA.
- 3 general or committee meetings per 12-month period to earn voting rights.
- Voting process at General Meetings is clarified and includes the possibility of Straw Votes to gauge community sentiment.
- Automatic director removal after 3 unexcused absences.
- Election of AHNA Officers by the members.
- Committees select their own Chairs.

To review the proposed By-Laws, visit our website ([www.asylumhill.org](http://www.asylumhill.org)) for links to our current 2009 By-Laws, the 2020 recommended changes, a summary of the changes, and a matrix comparing different versions of AHNA's By-Laws. I encourage you to attend our Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> General Meeting (via Zoom) and vote up or down on the proposed By-Laws.