

Neighborhood Watch Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 3, 2007

7:00 p.m.

1. The formation committee met with Reserve Lt. Steve Starner, who presented an overview of upcoming trainings for all interested Brownstone (Antwerp Township) residents. The following trainings have been set up:

Monday, November 26th – Observation Skills

Tuesday, January 22nd – Reporting Suspicious Activities

Wednesday, February 13th – Target Hardening Your Home

The training meetings will be presented by Lt. Starner at the Antwerp Township Hall. They will last from 7:00 – 8:30. The November 26th meeting will begin with a brief progress report from the Brownstone formation committee.

After the “core” trainings have taken place, there will be many opportunities for other topics to be covered. Lt. Starner suggested residents be surveyed regarding topics of interest. He promises the evenings will be a good mix of work and fun!

2. Lt. Starner congratulated Brownstone on the work that has been done thus far. He then asked us to identify Brownstone’s main concerns. The following issues were mentioned:

- Speeders
- Foot traffic safety
- Communication – Use the web site more; promote phone tree/email
- Zooming ATV’s and snowmobiles
- B & E’s (Breaking & Entering)
- Importance of building community

Lt. Starner then commented that the local Neighborhood Watch is often viewed as a service group in their community.

3. It will be necessary to have a vision statement with goals. Lt. Starner asked us to think about this question: How do we see ourselves in 10 years? After thinking it over, we met again on October 17th to compose the **mission statement** below.

To establish an effective crime prevention program by building awareness and offering specific training and educational programs to local residents. In doing so, we wish to establish a strong sense of community where we not only build relationships with fellow neighbors, but empower residents to protect themselves and their surrounding community.

4. We will need to find ways to fund the Neighborhood Watch program. Possible solutions are through fundraisers, business grants, and individual/family memberships. Lt. Starner also gave us information on how to become a nonprofit organization.

Submitted by Sheryl Stapert