

Oakdale Civic Association

General Monthly Meeting

April 14, 2008

2008 Officers

President:	Stan Feldman	523-8835
Vice President:	Ray Carta	218-0041
Treasurer:	Pat Kassten	589-8222
Recording Secretary	Carol Schwasnick	589-7455
Corresponding Secretary	Marilyn Triolo	589-5981

Board Members

Cathy Cohen
John Eder

Minutes Recorded by: Carol Schwasnick

Vice President Ray Carta called the meeting to order at 7:45 pm, opening with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reading of the minutes were waived by the membership.

Treasurer's report

Income from dues and total income for the month is \$300.

Total disbursements this month: \$250. Paid members to date: 155.

The membership noted that the meeting notice reached some of them just today, or they did not receive one at all. Others received them on time – last week. Secretary Schwasnick will take the action of speaking to Denise at PrintPro to inquire about the timing/delay of this month's mailing.

Town report

Director John Eder reported the following based on his recent conversation with Gene Murphy from the Town of Islip Planning Dept.:

Mr. Murphy noted that the slower economy is also affecting Oakdale, people do not have money to invest in property development or other work, and he expects activity to slowdown in upcoming months.

RollstoneEstates: Appraisals are still being done. There is a house in the way of the proposed access to the property which is now rented; the property cannot be otherwise accessed except from the railroad.

Oakdale Shopping Center East: A bank is still working on a proposal for building on the former site of the KFC, nothing new on this at the moment, but hopefully will proceed.

Sidewalks on Locust: no movement of note.

Coan's Landscaping: A public hearing was held on March 27, the owners have done some cleaning up and the Town has not yet revoked the granted zoning for housing. This parcel is located next door to Tai Show restaurant.

On April 9, a public hearing was held which approved a study for the right hand turn onto Montauk Hwy from Oakdale-Bohemia Rd, and possibly widening/reconfiguring this intersection. We need to keep track of what will happen to the bricks and the clock; hopefully they are far enough out of the way.

Bronco Charlie's: The Town does not favor the developer's plan. At this point the Town is adamant. Linda Hart noted she had heard the Trapanis have pulled out. The Town made the point that it cannot be the case that the property is used as a bargaining chip to let folks do what they want. Mr. Eder noted that a question to ask Mr. Murphy next time is the possibility of having Dowling pay taxes on this property; they might then be more inclined to sell.

In a post-script to the meeting, Jamie Flynn contributed that it is true that the Trapanis have pulled out of the project due to resistance from the Town. One important item to pursue will be to insist that Dowling have the parcel reassessed to reflect its zoning (part residential, part commercial), not its past commercial use – when there has not been a business functioning there for years. This should bring the price down, and put the parcel in reach of other contenders for development. This issue may require further action by the OCA and the community, where we may need to more publicly voice our opinions to the Town and to Dowling to demonstrate that residents have had enough of this eyesore, and that they need to make some allowances for someone to make an improvement.

Inquiry to the Town - there is a proposal to set up a burrito restaurant where the Giving Tree daycare used to be. More to come.

The Town noted that the vision plan was emailed to the Civic Association. We will ask for an update from Jamie Flynn next meeting.

Ginny Fields new office is now across from Bayport post office, on Montauk Hwy. Her office is the first one in the strip mall.

Savino's restaurant is closing on June 1.

The Blue boat is finally gone from the yard at the intersection of Shore Drive and Idle Hour. All of a sudden it's gone, this only took 22 years, since the 1985 hurricane.

The fence along Montauk Hwy is fixed and the daffodils are blooming.

John Eder called Manino's, looks like nothing is happening. Their main restaurant is in Commack. They are putting their efforts into their Smithtown restaurant right now, then will be back to finish up the Oakdale location.

The former Alessi's restaurant: public notice there a couple of weeks ago, which said there was an application from "Applebutter" restaurant and bar for a liquor license.

St. John's Property: no update given, will ask for one for next month.

Bricks for around the clock: Liz Sullivan noted that she is helping Vicky Kuhn, they are looking to get the bricks produced within the next month or two. It takes two weeks for bricks to be ordered and engraved. \$100 per brick. 56 bricks so far. Liz has the order form and we will post on the web site.

It was noted that Appian Way, which connects Locust and Ocean Avenues, behind the shopping center, is very littered, and the question was asked: who is responsible. Is it a Town Road? Question of whether they took over when the parking lot/shopping center improvements were done. The street was maintained when Sunrise Hwy was built to the residents would retain a way to access the shopping centers. Vice President Carta suggested we contact Keep Islip Clean to help, or another organization looking for a spot to improve.

The Town owns part of the Windmill Gate property. Residents have to call every year to have the Town perform proper maintenance. Leaves from last year still are still there, the Town does not clean up. This occurs outside the gates on Locust Ave. The community gave the sump to Town, Town is supposed to maintain it. The Town was also called recently for tree trimming on Locust.

Ginny Fields dropped off her budget report and PC Cop Software that tracks where people have been on any PC. Vice President Carta pointed out that there are a lot of dangers on the computer such as social networking, or cyber bullying, and we should be aware.

Vice President's Report:

Vice President Carta stated that we will present the website tonight, and ask questions to the membership about what we would like to see the site do and used for.

The new site address is www.oakdalecivicassocation.org – this is the domain name, which is reserved for 10 years. We have a hosting service – GoDaddy - these are the folks that keep the site up and running 24-7. There are many tabs on the left of the home page, we can add more tabs if necessary.

Home page: this has a direct link to Stan's email.

John Eder asks a question: Dowling's Photo is at the top of the page. Would like a photo of Train Station with the Clock. This is a great suggestion. Mr. Carta notes that we want this to be driven by the members. The history of the community, and/or historical photographs were also suggested as something to include.

Postings: what should we post? Things that pertain to our community? Other groups? Currently posted are notes on some events hosted by the CFAC and the Bosti PTA fundraiser. Question of whether to post just OCA items or other items of community interest? We discuss that the brick project for the clock tower should be posted.

There is a link for suggestions at the bottom of the home page. The email to the web-master will go to Ray and we can decide to post your item. Lead time is needed for all requests.

Links: Suggestion given to list local doctors and hospitals.

Suggestion to change name of current "Town of Islip" tab to "Local Government" and include links for the Town, Suffolk County and NY State, rather than just calling it "Town of Islip."

Bylaws tab: has posted the final version of the revisions we made recently.

Civics 101: Need to give the community an idea of civic structure and responsibility. There are some links provided that given an idea of how government works and about civic responsibilities of citizens.

Suggestion: Put a Contact tab on the left, to make it easier to find.

There is a tab dedicated to the posting of the monthly minutes.

Calendar: what do we post? This can become very labor intensive. Gray area, need some guidance. John Eder suggests keeping this as lean as possible. Keep it to our meetings, and meeting with the Town that is important to us. Agreement, because local papers cover local activities. Can have links on here to other people's calendars, and can include a link to the Chamber of Commerce website.

Tab called: "Who do I go to if..." VP Carta asked the membership to submit suggestions. Community Links: suggestion made to add the public library. VP Carta demonstrates that we are a featured link on some other sites, such as the local PTAs. We have a reciprocal link at OakdaleNY.com

Suggestion: St. John's University should be added as a link.

Useful links is another place where we can use suggestions for inclusion. Also, a tab for search engines is included.

Marketing and chartering:

The executive board has been discussing this issue for several weeks. We are interested in aligning ourselves with another organization to provide support to them, and to drive additional membership and commitment for the OCA. An example is a local Cub Scout pack, which lost their charter recently with the disbanding of the Sayville-Oakdale Lion's club. The Bohemia Fire Dept stepped up to this, but there may be other organizations that could use guidance that we can help.

One other way of marketing ourselves is the OCA Scholarship: this is a \$500 scholarship. Currently member volunteers are reading essays and will pick a winner. Another suggestion is advertising in a publication. We do currently advertise in the Suffolk County news. Oakdale Chamber puts out a paper. There were lots of placards on the fence at Little League Opening Day. Oakdale Chamber of Commerce is up there – that is another avenue for us to explore. There were 500 people in the parade. There are positions opening up on the board of Education, VP Carta suggestions a meet the candidate night, where we might Team up with the Bohemia Civic Association and put something like that together. Members suggest to send a speaker to over 55 housing developments. Should partner with Keep Islip Clean. There are a lot of people out there who know what we do, but we want to increase awareness and get more of our paying members to attend the meetings. Ideas welcome.

Civics 101 Program:

The executive board has also been discussing the potential of ramping up a "Civics 101" program aimed to educate people on civic duty. The Anti Bullying program took a few individuals 4 months to get up and running and the district has now embraced it. This can also be expected to take some time to build. This would help folks answer questions like "Who is our local

government? What do they do? What is a Town a village? A Hamlet? What is civic responsibility? How do I get involved? Ideas are welcome from the membership

At our next meeting on May 13, Connetquot Superintendent Groveman will be speaking, guests from Creative Ministries will come in to speak about their programs.

Website calendar: Have May up, now, suggestion made for more months to be shown, the webmaster will consider this request.

Membership mentioned an event run by the Oakdale-Bohemia Anti bias task force. On May 8, the program will be at St. John's Nepomucene. It will be moving around to different houses of worship. Each church will be telling the outreachers what they are doing for the community. Question if this is something that goes on our site. It is agreed that it would be posted on the first page, not on the calendar.

South Shore Alliance was mentioned. VP Carta notes that this association has dissolved. It came time to incorporate the group, and people started backing out. It is mentioned that the idea for doing an event with another Civic association is a good one, to get to know the neighbors. Maybe in the near future it may be possible to try again to have an organization like this and pull in the Civic Associations in Islip Town for a new alliance.

Motion to adjourn at 8:58pm by VP Carta. Motion seconded.