

**Oakdale Civic Association
General Monthly Meeting
December 8, 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

President Feldman called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm with the pledge of allegiance.

President Feldman asked for a motion to suspend the order of the meeting to accommodate guest speakers.

John Eder motioned to accept. Mr. Cohen seconded.

President Feldman reported that the Nominating Committee has come back with the following individuals for OCA office, each is running unopposed:

President: Ray Carta
Vice President: Stan Feldman
Treasurer: Pat Kassten
Recording Secretary: Carol Schwasnick
Corresponding Secretary: Marilyn Triolo

Since the slate is running unopposed, President Feldman asked if there was anyone present who opposed these nominations. Since no oppositions were declared, President Feldman stated that the slate shall be considered nominated and elected.

Since tonight is officially Stan Feldman's last meeting presiding as President, some special guests were in attendance and made some remarks in appreciation of Stan.

Town of Islip Councilmen Chris Bodkin and Gene Parrington presented a special Town Citation to President Feldman to pay tribute to his unwavering dedication to the community over the years. He has been a voice of the community, and the Councilmen commended Stan Feldman for his countless contributions to the community.

In his tenure, President Feldman has given countless hours to community service, and serves as a wonderful example for everyone as far as grass roots efforts and local politics and has been a real benefit to the community. Oakdale is a beautiful unique community. When visitors come to the Town, officials often take them down to see Tower Mews etc. It is not easy to keep a great community going, but Mr. Feldman has been a tireless presence in making sure that Oakdale's best interests are represented. Stan will stay on as Vice President next year, handing over the reigns as President to the very capable Ray Carta. Certainly, the Town gave a fitting tribute to Stan Feldman's dedicated service.

President Feldman requested a motion to waive reading of minutes, Motion by Mario Politi. Motion accepted.

Treasurer's report: Pat Kassten

There were no expenditures in November. November income from dues was \$340, and there are currently 76 paid member families for 2009.

President's report: Stan Feldman

The Postal Authority has another regulation. Now addresses have to go through a verification process for mass mailings, which costs \$95 every 90 days. If we address OCA mailings to "Resident" going forward we can avoid this cost. Although it's not as personal, it does not have any other ramifications. The membership votes and approves this change.

President Feldman noted that group tickets are now on sale for the Ducks, and asked if there was interest in scheduling an OCA outing to a game. The response was positive.

On Wednesday Dec 10, from 4-7pm, Ginny Fields is having her annual open house at her new office. She will have the DVD drop for the troops, as she has advertised. For information the number is 589-8685.

Ginny Fields was here in October talking about the DEC wanting to close the trout hatchery in Connetquot State Park. There is a letter from Bob Finnegan that was sent to the Town, and there is a list of people we can write to. Please consider writing a letter to your local politicians including Owen Johnson. The virus that the fish have contracted does not affect human beings, and there is no proof the virus is coming from the park. Write letters, the more you write the more impact it will have.

Tuesday Dec 9 is a special election for the fire district. Gary Schwam is running for re-election. He has been the fire commissioner since 1989. Go vote tomorrow.

Town Report, John Eder

This month John had an email exchange with Gene Murphy instead of speaking to him directly. Initially he did not receive a response from Gene because of the computer virus that hit the Town's computer system. As a result, Gene did not get back to him until just now.

- No new applications have been filed in Oakdale in the last month.
- Sidewalks on Oakdale Bohemia Rd: Gene Murphy kept talking about the east side, but the problem is on the west side with new the curbs being very low and the sidewalk flooding during and after heavy rains. He said he will take a look at the west side. We told him two months ago it was too low, he stated he will look into it now.
- Chase bank: Site plan has been approved for the former KFC pad in front of Best Supermarket. The project should replicate Wendy's in terms of look; whether they choose to build it will be the question.
- Rollstone Estates: The County has not purchased the property yet. It is still in progress, the wheels are just turning slowly.
- John Eder asked if there are any new proposals on the Oakdale driving range. Gargano, the developer, is no longer involved but Wilnor is. If anything happens it will include the driving range property only, not the acreage on the corner of OB Road and the Sunrise service road.
- Green Cactus: the paperwork was mailed out of the health dept to the attorney, then this will be delivered to the planning dept. this Wednesday and the restaurant will get their building permits.
- Mannino's: They are now open.
- PODS opened today. Women's clothing only at this point.

- Dowling: Mr. Murphy stated that there was a recent article in The Suffolk County News regarding (4) special permits for houses that Dowling owns. The article said and he reiterated there will be a public hearing on Dec 17. Dowling wants to make offices out of these houses. Admissions, "Dowling Institute" type office space. These applications are at least 5 years old, but Dowling never acted on them until just now. On the 17th there is also a hearing on the South Shore Mall – which is a big deal. Macy's is an old store – falling apart. Macy's wants to gut that store and build a new store. Their hearing is after ours, which is good from a timing perspective. Town Hall is the location, at 655 Main Street. This issue is 3rd on the list for that night. Editorial comment to Gene: cannot see anyone in Idle Hour approving of the use. Dowling could use the Bronco Charlie's property for their office space rather than further disturbing the residential neighborhood. Marilyn Triolo asked if they were paying taxes on the houses currently because if they become offices that means more homes off the tax roles.

Councilman Bodkin stated that he recently spoke to Regional Manager for Chase. She said she was fairly certain they would close the West Islip Branch and operate out of Sayville. He stated that he can't imagine Chase building the branch bank in Oakdale. Councilman Bodkin stated that the new development on Oakdale Bohemia Road has a special road name. The builder was asked to name the street after someone from Oakdale. There is a man named Donald O'Keefe who had lived on Berard. The new street will be called O'Keefe Ct., after him. On the next 9-11 anniversary, we would like to have a ceremony to commemorate him with his family. President Feldman recalled that when the plans for that development were presented there was supposed to be a retention pond on the property, which is not yet evident. John Eder will check this out with the Town.

Councilman Steve Flotteron stated that has been on Town Board for 3 years, and that Stan will be missed. Even little things – Stan has ideas for everything. Stan initiated the cell phone parking lot at MacArthur Airport. Now he is working on a display board – in that lot so you can see when the flights come in, which is going up this spring.

President Feldman mentioned that four officials from the Long Island Maritime Museum are meeting tomorrow with Teresa Rizzuto, the airport supervisor on opportunities to add local flavor to the airport. Currently there is nothing there, and it should be the Gateway of LI. The Museum is working on getting history into the airport. Mike Eagan, who runs the Lauren Khristy paddleboat out of Bay Shore is now on the Maritime Board and is also on the Board of the Long Island Convention and Visitors Bureau and Sports Commission. Theresa Rizzuto is a great find of Phil Nolan's. There are a lot of things happening there as a result of her being in that role and bringing some energy. Lots of great things that are a cab ride away from the airport, and there is no tourism office. 2.5 million people come in through that airport every year, and we are not properly introducing them to our area. This is the beginning of that conversation.

Councilman Bodkin stated that the Fire Museum people are putting some apparatus in there. Bay Shore has a nice piece from the turn of the century that is going in. Plywood and construction still there at the airport, there is still some work to do. The ship model that is there – may go somewhere that it is appreciated, and where it is appropriate. As a famous British warship from the 1600s it is not germane to anything here, on Long Island. Stan Feldman mentioned he will take a picture of it, and possibly it could be sold so the Maritime Museum will get some money for it. Right now you fly into Long Island and you get advertisements not touch tanks, exhibits, and artwork. Most airports have chapels, and this is something that Chris Bodkin is working on. It will be totally non-denominational and built by private donation and encouraged by Southwest Airlines.

John Eder brought up that he read the Town of Islip is allowing wind turbines, in a recent Article in Newsday. If your property is 75' wide you can only be 35' high in case it falls down, it will be intruding on other property. A lot of homes are 35', 32' high. 45' is the

height to get the wind. They are pretty expensive and will probably not be used all over, like solar panels – there are still only 1000 solar panel sites in the Town. Councilman Bodkin stated that they are no louder than general conversation, but if it was next to someone's bedroom it would make them nuts. They do make noise. Requests for wind turbines will be evaluated by the Town on an individual basis.

Councilman Floteron mentioned another resolution: The Office of the Town Attorney has been strengthening regulations on abandoned boats. The idea is to have them registered to be on your property, if they are not registered, after a while the Town can order them to be removed. Boats will be treated more like cars: The Town can't do anything for a period of time, they don't want to over-police it. If you have a boat, you want to secure the boat in the winter on your property. The purpose of this regulation is to address multiple abandoned boats or boats not being stored properly and left in a Town Right of Way. Some people have 7 boats because they store everybody else's. The maximum number is to be four watercraft on a property.

Councilman Floteron stated that the Town of Islip Winter Festival starts day after Christmas at the Bay Shore Marina, and will run for one week. A new portable ice skating rink ordered by the Town will make its debut. The rink can be scheduled by other groups, towns or organizations going forward. The Festival is part of the rejuvenation of the marina, and to have an activity for the off -season. The membership suggested that next year possibly the rink could be located at Byron Lake Park or by the train station right in Oakdale. The Town got grants from Cablevision and will have fireworks on New Years' Day. Grants were received from Cablevision, Westfield Malls, and Southside Hospital for the Bay Shore event.

Guest Speaker: Brian X. Foley, 3rd Senatorial District Elect.

President Feldman states that we have not previously had the honor of a speaker in this office, and the OCA is happy to welcome Mr. Foley. Mr. Foley stated that he has been involved locally for the past 15 years – 12 years in the county legislature, and 3 years as Brookhaven Supervisor. Next week on December 16th governor will be unveiling budget for next year, which will include a \$12-15 billion deficit to grapple with. He is reminded at these times of when his father was in office. We do not do this because it's easy. We do it because it's hard. We need to address the global economic crisis we are in. He realizes his first and foremost responsibility to represent this district, and to make sure our interests are represented in Albany. There will be many challenges, but he hopes to come back from time to time to let us know what's happening. He left a dinner early to get here because mostly on Mondays he will be in Albany, and felt it to be a priority to come and address this group. He will have a staff people to make sure they can be here with updates if he cannot attend personally. If he can be here he will be here himself. A lot of issues we can work on together. One issue we have is being so close to the Great South Bay – our body of water has not received the same attention the Sound has received. We need to get money allocated to restore the ecological health of the bay. There are monies out there even in this climate, and we need to work to restore it. A lot of the bay area is in this district. Mr. Foley noted he is working closely with Ginny Fields on taxation and issues of infrastructure. He is also interfacing with Town Government. He believes in earmarks where it makes sense, and there will be monies from the state that are available. This organization – the OCA – can help on these issues. Mr. Foley would like to work closely with us over the next two years. Mr. Foley's office will be on the OCA email list. The District office will be moving into the State Office Building into Senator Trunzo's former space. Now we have nobody here in Oakdale representing us. This is probably one of the only areas with a split school district – the south part is in one senatorial district, the middle is in a different district. Mr. Foley stated that we do want to look at re-districting to resolve this. Generally Albany tries as much as possible to have school districts all together in one senatorial district, which would make more sense as it would be more cohesive.

Closing Remarks

President Feldman fielded a question from the membership on the lamp posts still not being lit at the train station. This was supposed to be corrected by the DPW prior to the tree lighting, but was not. Stan placed a call to Bob Irwin at the DPW and requested that the situation be corrected. Bob Irwin did respond that he was on top of this issue.

Motion to adjourn 8:43pm by the membership. Motion is seconded.

The next meeting will be Monday, January 12. Steven Badala from the Connetquot Board of Education is the scheduled guest speaker.