

**Oakdale Civic Association
General Monthly Meeting
November 10, 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 7:30 pm. Chuck Triolo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Denise Conte made a motion to accept the October minutes. John Eder seconded.

Treasurer's report: Pat Kassten

This month we had income of \$960 from dues, and \$885 total disbursements which included \$600 to the Oakdale Improvement Society for holiday decorations as approved last month. Currently there are 55 families with paid memberships for 2009.

President Feldman announced Dawn Berntsen, President of the Bosti Elementary School PTA. Ms. Berntsen attended to request the membership's support of a petition that she is circulating to request sidewalks on Bourne Ave., between Locust Ave. and Bosti. The petition will be sent in to the Town. Ms. Berntsen stated that she had spoken to the Town of Islip about the request, and they stated that it would be legally correct to have sidewalks in this location, but the Town Engineer stated that the better organized and supported the request is, the more likely it will be to move forward. President Feldman agreed that the petition could be circulated to the membership. He also stated that Ms. Berntsen should look to have face to face meetings with Councilmen Bodkin and Parrington to discuss the situation, and also look to reach Councilman Flotteron by phone because these individuals could be helpful in working this issue through the Town.

Presidents Report

President Feldman requested an update from the nominating committee. John Eder reported that nominees are as follows:

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

Elections are held at the December meeting. Since the nominees are running unopposed, it is likely the chair for the nominating committee will announce they are elected, by default.

President Feldman announced that the school district had requested the names of an OCA representative and an alternate for the Budget Advisory Committee be submitted by Oct. 31. He had received emails from a few interested parties and announced Carol Schwasnick will

be the representative, with Ray Carta as the alternate. Both will attend all meetings. We are hopeful that there will not be conflicts with the OCA meetings, but according to a representative at the District Clerk's office, typically the BAC meets right after the Board budget meetings, which are scheduled for Tuesdays and Thursdays. The first meeting will be an orientation on February 3. President Feldman will submit the names as soon as possible; they have to go before the School Board at this Tuesday night's meeting.

President Feldman reported that he had received an email regarding a request for a stop sign at the intersection of Oakdale Bohemia Rd. and Waterford Rd. in Oakdale. Mr. Feldman spoke to Steve Flotteron at the Town, who forwarded the request directly to Bill Hillman, who has been asked to please look into this and get back to Mr. Flotteron as soon as possible.

President Feldman recently received a letter from the court system, offering a speaker program on various topics. Mr. Feldman requested feedback from the membership as whether there is any interest in a speaker to come in and tell us about what they do on any of the following areas. A district administrative judge will speak for civic organizations free of charge. The following are the topics with the voting results from the membership:

Wills and estates: 1
Landlord/Tenant & Small Claims: 6 (Majority)
Order of protection: 2
Jury Service: 1
DWI: 0

Based on the results, President Feldman will send the selection back and have them get in touch with Ray Carta.

John Eder: Town Report

This month John emailed Gene Murphy at the Town and received the following information in return:

- No new applications are with the Town this month.
- Sidewalks are in on Oakdale Bohemia Rd., but the curbs are really low. The sidewalks flood and kids still walk out in the road to get to the Junior High School. This was brought to Gene Murphy's attention. There are also drains that have been added, that should also help alleviate the problem, but the crown of road is higher than the curbs, so even if you drain it will still have problems.
- Proposed Chase bank at the former KFC site: Gene Murphy reported that since Chase took over WaMu, the application is tentatively scheduled for a decision by the Planning board on Nov 19, with the plans modified to allow for more landscaping along Montauk Hwy. Construction is expected in spring. So despite there is a WaMu branch two doors down, they are not abandoning the project.
- St. John's no update at this time.
- Rollstone: the property has not been sold yet. The property will remain county owned and will be maintained by the Lacrosse club. The property owner will be responsible for cleaning the property.
- Oakdale driving range: no new proposals since most recent planning board hearing on July 10.
- Green Cactus Restaurant: Apparently there is an issue with the Suffolk County Health Dept. Applicant was confident they would receive health dept approval shortly. The building permit is reported as pending. President Feldman noted that the story is that the building dept. said they can't give a permit to this establishment because the parking lot is not striped for handicapped parking. Two cesspools are going in soon to resolve the health department issue, so they did not want to stripe now and waste the money. The permit will be issued this Wednesday, and the restaurant should be open by Thanksgiving.

- Mannino's: they had issues with the dumpster location; this and the rear freezer box location were approved by board of appeals.
- PODS: Gene said the building permit was issued after the last OCA meeting: on Oct 14. Gene Murphy has a meeting this Wednesday with Mike Morrissey (the owner) and his attorney looking at the overall compliance of the shopping center. Gene wants to see good faith bringing in beginning to bring the place into compliance. Over the years, people made changes and nobody really cared, so now they must get on the road to resolve the issues and have a plan to do so over time.
- President Feldman brought up the example of Eli's on Commercial Blvd. Eli's stores boats out there and nobody has ever said anything about it. The Town is now cracking down on what is going on back there, and this business has been told that they can't store boats in this manner. The Town is starting to enforce the laws that are on the books. John Eder noted that in order for the Town to inspire all to comply with the code they are holding up certain establishments as examples.
- Bronco Charlie's: It was announced at last month's meeting by Ginny Fields that Bronco Charlie's was sold. She put in calls to Bob Gaffney at Dowling. Gene Murphy said there is a credible rumor, and a contact at Dowling said Mr. Gaffney was in China right now and could not comment. The thought is that Dowling - and Mr. Gaffney - wanted to make the announcement and not have it come from Civic Association. We will have to wait for an announcement from them.

Guest Speaker: Emily Chappel, Director of Senior Services, Town of Islip

Ms. Chappel stated that she has been in this role since 2006, her predecessor was Monica Dagger.

There is a newsletter called "Never Too Late" which is sent out to over 5000 senior residents in the Town. The newsletter is great if you want to participate in trips etc. You can call the office to get on the mailing list, inclusion is not automatic for enrolling in other programs or getting a senior recreation card. The membership asked a question: how does the town define a senior? Ms. Chappel stated they define seniors as anyone 60 and over. Ms. Chappel noted that since she started they have been trying to beef up services especially if these can be provided for free.

A second publication is a Resource Guide, which will provide you with all the information you need to know about services for seniors in the Town of Islip and Suffolk County and in other towns as well. The guide has contacts for a legal aid society, information on wills and estates, etc.

Third, Ms. Chappel introduced a blue flyer that indicates Town of Islip programs. One key program is Nutrition. There are certain requirements to qualify, and the program includes home delivered meals. 151 meals are delivered daily at the moment. This number is increasing due to baby boom generation maturing and increasing senior numbers. Programs like this aim at keeping people independent and in their homes longer. The flyer also lists congregant sites - senior centers - in Oakdale, Brentwood, and West Islip among others. These centers also provide nutrition services on site. Zan's out of Lake Grove is the current provider; they are doing a better job than their predecessor.

There is a home maintenance program which includes light repair and construction. The home owning senior pays for product, and there are currently two workers - Bob and Claudio - who do the work for free with your materials. The funding for residential repair is from NY State. The nutrition program is funded by Suffolk County Office for the Aging.

Another program is called "Brief Respite" and is where they send a worker into the home when the caregiver of a senior needs a break. These respites run in 4 hour intervals. There is Adult Daycare, run out of the Central Islip Senior Center on Clayton Street off Carleton Ave. The program will take Alzheimer's or cognitive impairment patients, at ages

45 years and over. The day runs from 9:30-2:45 and includes music, art, etc. as part of a therapeutic program to help socialize and remedy cognitive problems.

EISEP is "Expanded in-home Service for the Elderly Program, which arranges housekeepers to come in for qualified seniors. EISEP provides service on a Suffolk County referral.

Help is also offered in the office, helping seniors to fill out forms etc. on a walk-in basis. Senior Services has been one of the best kept secrets in the Town of Islip. You can find more information on the Town of Islip web site and also via Ms. Chapel's own email: hssc@townofislip-ny.gov.

The membership commented that the Essential Transportation service is sometimes not reliable. Ms. Chappel noted that there are 3 part time drivers and 140 seniors that are serviced every month for travel to essential appointments. It does happen that there are waits at times. Some people decide to call a cab and get home from appointments on their own. Ms. Chappel expressed her apologies to those people. There are also shopping days. The membership cited that they have put their names in 6 or 7 weeks in advance, never hear back. Ms. Chappel stated it that is actually should run where you sign up 4 weeks in advance. Currently Wednesdays is the shopping day, but one cluster of people always gets the services and this is being looked at to try to improve the system.

The membership asked about a senior center in Islip, Ms. Chappel stated that on Irish Lane in Islip is the Joyce Fitzpatrick Senior Center.

The Senior Services office does use volunteers for services. Right now they have 2 or 3. You can contact Ms. Chappel if you would like to volunteer.

Other Business

Denise Conte stated that St. John's is holding a toy drive. You can drop off new or gently used toys a at the Parish house or at 6 Brerard Ave., across the street. Please contact Denise at 589-9099.

December 8th meeting: President Feldman called Brian Foley's office and asked if he would like to be the 1st 3rd district state senator to address the Oakdale Civic Association. Hopefully it will be open on his calendar and we can include him as a speaker.

President Feldman noted that the quarterly newsletter will be out around Thanksgiving. It will include the membership application.

The Oakdale Christmas Tree lighting will be Saturday Dec 6, at 5:30pm on the lawn of the railroad station. The highlight will be Santa arriving on a fire truck. Santa will push the magic switch and turn on the tree, and will then be on stage to greet the children. The tree-lighting is a three-plus decade tradition. The Chamber of Commerce is organizing the event and trying very hard to get music. Please join this celebration, all are welcome!

Oakdale train station: President Feldman pointed out that the building is getting a new roof and brick pointing. The building is open during the day, and has restroom access. The Oakdale Chamber of Commerce office is located there.

President Feldman noted that plans are still in progress to modify the turn from Oakdale Bohemia Road to Montauk Hwy. The resolution will be two full lanes - one to turn in each direction, which will eliminate the backups that happen now. The membership also suggested following up on plans mentioned by Bill Lindsay when he was guest speaker in September for work to the North side of Montauk Hwy, including sidewalk upgrades and also drainage. This should help some of the areas that flood, including in front of Valero Gas and by 7-Eleven.

John Eder mentioned that Dowling is having a blood drive on November 11. This will be posted on the website.

John Eder made a motion to adjourn at 8:40pm.
The motion was seconded, meeting adjourned.