

**Oakdale Civic Association
General Monthly Meeting
November 16, 2009**

2009 Officers

President:	Ray Carta	560-4650 - present
Vice President:	Stan Feldman	523-8835 - present
Treasurer:	Pat Kassten	589-8222 - present
Recording Secretary	Carol Schwasnick	589-7455 - present
Corresponding Secretary	Marilyn Triolo	589-5981 - present

Directors

Cathy Cohen – present
John Eder – not present

Minutes Recorded by Carol Schwasnick

www.OakdaleCivicAssociation.org

President Ray Carta called the meeting to order at 7:30pm, and initiated the pledge of allegiance. President Carta reminded the membership that this meeting had been rescheduled from the regularly scheduled meeting on Nov. 9th in a show of support for the Taste of Oakdale event sponsored by the Oakdale Chamber of Commerce. Some members indicated they had been in attendance.

President Carta allowed a few minutes for review of the minutes from the October 2009 meeting, and requested a motion to accept the minutes as presented. A motion was made and accepted by the membership.

Treasurer's report

Income from dues this month was \$80.
Paid members for 2009 151
Paid members for 2008 190
Paid members for 2010 8 (to date)

Vice President Feldman requested that the membership spreadsheet to be emailed to him, he will coordinate a membership mailing. Corresponding Secretary Marilyn Triolo offered to assist. Recording Secretary Schwasnick will provide the updated list.

Vice President's Report

Vice President Feldman gave a "travelogue" report of his recent cross-country trip. October 1st he and his wife headed west via the northern route to celebrate their 50th anniversary and his wife's birthday. In the Dakotas it was 26 degrees and snowing. They planned a bus trip to Mt. Rushmore and Custer State Park. They saw Rushmore in the snow, but when they got up to the Crazy Horse Memorial it was too snowy to see. They left Rapid City, headed south through Denver to Santa Fe where it was 91 degrees. They went to the Georgia O'Keefe Museum and passed through Roswell NM - home of the famous UFO sightings. They stopped in Amarillo TX, and drove by all the feed lots where the aroma is amazing. In Abilene KS they went through the Eisenhower Library and Museum, then did the Truman Library in Independence, Missouri. In Oklahoma City, they visited the monument to the bombing and the Ninety Nines Museum of women pilots where there was a big display on Amelia Earhardt. They then headed east to Aurora, NC and visited with friends - the Portnoys who are formerly of Oakdale. Some stats on the trip:

220 gallons of gas
7000 miles
Less than 5200 dollars.
Every night stayed in a Holiday Inn or Hampton Inn.
32 Days in car with Spouse

Mr. Feldman's assessment of the trip: We live in a beautiful country. Mr. Feldman highly recommended considering such a trip to the membership. On a side note, Mr. Feldman noted that in the Midwest, you see cattle, also wind turbines. They are going green; the turbines work great out there. They went through a Ford assembly plant in Dearborn, MI. They have a "green" roof that is covered with grass, as well as solar panels. It's a new factory - on sunny days they don't have to turn on lighting.

A member noted that when it comes to green power, here on Long Island people are of a different mentality - and out in the Midwest they have the space. Another issue is the long payback period. A member asked, "Why don't we have solar panels on the roof in the school district?" President Carta responded that the district is actually talking about that now. For people who want to put solar in their homes, there is an initial outlay for solar panels that is prohibitive. The municipalities are talking about working it into your taxes after having the state paying out initially. Secretary Schwasnick noted a recent Newsday article stating that LIPA is now cutting back on its rebate program. A member stated that the rebate he had received through this program gave him \$36K towards the cost of his solar project.

A member also stated that Newsday ran a map of where to put wind turbines: They need to be right on the shore to be really effective, and the town will not allow you to go more than 40'.

President Carta requested a motion from the membership to waive the rules of the meeting to bring the guest speaker on. A motion was made and seconded.

Guest Speaker: Councilperson Elect Trish Bergin

Ms. Bergin introduced some of the initiatives she would like to move forward on once she takes office such as sustainability. She just built a "green" house - using spray foam insulation, geothermal heating, and bamboo floors. There is a new sustainability bill on the table in Albany and she is working closely on this. Ms. Bergin stated she is a registered Independent and has very good relations with lawmakers across the board. She tries to cross party lines on initiatives that are for the people. The bill in question is intended to make it possible to have local municipalities float bonds that are federally insured. You can use the money to put solar energy into your house, and then put payments into your property tax bill. Payment would stay on the property tax bill and transfer from owner to owner until fulfilled.

Ms. Bergin thanked those who voted for her. She is planning on meeting with Supervisor Nolan tomorrow to talk about issues key to Oakdale. She will also work with Cathy Cohen on the dredging of Oakdale Canals and wastewater management. Oakdale is such a beautiful community because it is waterfront and this must be protected. Her office will always be open. She is looking at Brookwood hall as an option for an office location because it is the midway point between Town Hall and the east end of Islip Town.

The membership noted that there has always been a complaint that we don't have a councilperson from north of Sunrise Hwy. Ms. Bergin noted her support of a councilmatic district - which would mean council reps would have responsibility for one particular part of the Town. Right now all council people are responsible for the entire Town. This can be difficult because it requires support of issues in areas where reps may not have previous knowledge. Gene Parrington lives in Sayville, John Edwards lives south. Ms. Bergin noted in the Democratic primary there was a Democratic line that lived to the north - but they lost the primary race. She noted that it is up to board decision to bring forward the idea of a

councilmatic district. Vice President Feldman noted that Brookhaven and Huntington have done this already. VP Feldman brought to Ms. Bergin's attention that Brick Kiln Creek in Oakdale is also in need of dredging. Ms. Bergin noted this and also that Chaplain's Creek in East Islip is a concern. A member posed the question: will condos be included in the solar program? Ms. Bergin replied that she will be mindful of this issue during work on the bill.

A member asked for an explanation of the "tea party" party line. The Republican Party had put this together because they were fed up with the traditional party line. They had to get thousands of signatures. The Democrats brought them to court, and the Republicans won with the decision being made in their favor. This party line was created to let people know the Republicans understand residents are concerned about taxes, etc. It was local in the Town of Islip, also in Nassau County – and is up to each local area to establish.

In closing, Ms. Bergin would like our help and suggestions and for us to know how she can help us. Until she gets her Town of Islip email address you can reach her at trishbergin@gmail.com.

President's Report

President Ray Carta gave updates on several fronts:

Correspondences:

- From the family of David Schmidt – John and Irene – came a thank you for the recent condolences on David's death.
- Christopher Quinn – we received a very nice letter with thanks for the 2009 OCA scholarship.
- A letter from John Eder was received tonight, and is his resignation. To paraphrase, Mr. Eder cited that he must resign his post as Director, effective immediately, with deep regret. His wife has recently received an unfavorable diagnosis, and he cannot devote time to the Civic due to her illness. Mr. Eder's contributions to the Civic will be missed. The elected officers have the option of appointing a replacement.

President Carta noted that he has received a couple of emails recently regarding Rose Spa, at 1240 Montauk Hwy., which offers "massage." Trish Bergin noted that she has spoken to a 5th precinct inspector. She let him know that this establishment is causing some concern in the neighborhood. Ms. Bergin cited that this business has many hallmarks of an inappropriate establishment, in line with those she witnessed in her years of investigative reporting. For example, this business is open Sunday night at 8pm, they pay cash for rent, such a business does not belong in a residential community. The Suffolk County Police have had an investigation going on. The investigation is expected to take some time, which is typical in these situations.

Announcements

- A Holiday Fair will be held at Town Hall West on Dec 5.
- A Town Hall Meeting will be held on Nov 18 at 7:30pm with the subject of the Great River property, and Islip "Smart Growth" development district.

Assemblywoman Ginny Fields was here last week and mentioned the "Parents for Megan's Law" organization. A link to their website is now provided on the Civic website under "Useful Links." Also, President Carta received a call from the Affiliated Brookhaven Civic Association regarding Suffolk County plans to build an affordable housing project in Yaphank. The County would be giving the property to a developer, and the Affiliated Civic would like to push for environmental impact studies to be done. The request from that organization is to voice our support for their effort and allow them to use the name of the Oakdale Civic. Vice President Feldman suggested that we should not lend our name without understanding all the details of the effort. Apparently it is not just affordable housing, but a Multiuse project that would include housing and business. This would be housing for our kids and senior citizens – who are

currently priced off of Long Island. County Executive Steve Levy is putting together full program, and the local civics are concerned that it is on the watershed. Director Cathy Cohen noted that the problem is that the civics are against the arena – also included in the plan - , which is needed to fund the project, and suggested we contact Sueann Johnson and ask her to send a policy paper with their position then we have to bring it to the membership for a vote. President Carta will ask for a position paper and post it to the website; he will request the County position as well.

President Carta stated that the Oakdale Improvement Society has submitted their annual request for Christmas decorations. Vice President Feldman requested a motion to give \$300. A motion was made and accepted. The Membership voted and the motion was accepted.

Nominating Committee

Bob Mirro led the committee and presented the following slate for consideration of the membership:

President: Ray Carta

Vice President: Stan Feldman

Treasurer: Pat Kassten

Recording Secretary: Carol Schwasnick

Corresponding Sec: Marilyn Triolo

This slate was determined to stand and was submitted to the board. Since no additional nominees were named by the floor, the board determined that the election could be held. A vote was held and the membership unanimously voted the board into office for 2010. Congratulations to all on your return.

Open Floor

Old Chase building: Some interest shown in the property from a medical office: Trish Bergin had heard it will become another bank, from the owner of the Best Yet half of the shopping center (the Gordon Brothers own the deli half).

PODS closing: The fellow who ran PODS was on the FBI's most wanted list. Ms. Bergin stated she had looked into running a business in that space and found the whole building needs replumbing – the copper was stolen – and there are many noted code violations. The membership asked about the potential of locating a drug store in there, which would be of interest to the community. The topic of a sewer hookup for Oakdale was raised. If you want to put up a structure, they allocate the water usage. Difficult for downtowns to flourish without the sewer hookups, they cannot operate effectively on a cesspool system. There is sewer capacity in Patchogue. The new development paid Patchogue \$2M to hook into system. This would be a long and expensive road to navigate.

Vice President Feldman noted that he would love to see sewers throughout Suffolk, but it can't help our taxes any. They are already high enough. Also, the system in Patchogue still pumps into the ground water. It should tie it into Bergen Point where it could be piped out to the ocean. Ms. Bergin stated that there is an apparent problem with Bergen point line. They think there is a crack in the pipe now; they had a plume this summer. Director Cathy Cohen suggested they pipe under Fire Island with pump stations on Fire Island.

Member Brian Lowery asked about the new stop sign on the corner of Idle Hour and Beverly Rd. His concern is that there are now 5 stop and pedestrian crossing signs along a short stretch of Idle Hour Blvd. He suggested a petition to have the signs removed, and asked how it came to be put in place. Secretary Schwasnick noted a resident that attended the meeting a few months ago had brought up the stop sign, and had contacted the Town regarding having it installed. Mr. Lowery noted that from Montauk Hwy. south to the Dowling guard booth there are 43 traffic control devices. Vice President Feldman noted that the Town does publicize new stop sign locations before they install them, covering them in Board Meetings, etc. However,

there is no reason why one can't petition the Town to remove it. President Carta asked what the feeling is with the membership: to ask the Town to pull the sign? The response from the membership is that the new sign is a nuisance but also has you emitting more fuel into the air because of the additional stop/start. President Carta asked for a show of hands in favor of removing the sign and a clear majority supported having the sign removed.

A member noted that he has just retired from the police dept. and had some insight into the Rose Spa issue. The member used to investigate Korean massage parlors as part of his job and wanted us to know that they do not pose a danger to the community. They actually often get robbed by patrons or other "inside" groups. These businesses are all headquartered in Queens. There is a gambling, prostitution and money laundering set of operations that are linked back to Korea. Typically it takes 2-4 months for a landlord to be charged for tax evasion – if they are accepting cash rent this is often the case. If Rose Spa feels the heat they will be gone. There used to be a big one next to the USA gas station on the Sunrise Hwy. service road. The 5th Precinct Commanding Officer's name is Aristides Mojica. He has gone out of his way to push information out to the public. On the first Tuesday of every month there is a public meeting at the Police Precinct, for those residents who are interested. 3-4 years ago they pulled the car patrol in Oakdale because we are a low crime area. We back up to 3rd precinct and they cut their Great River car. That sector is shut down, which is something to be aware of.

The meeting was adjourned 8:45. The next general meeting of the Oakdale Civic Association is scheduled for Monday, December 14, 2009 at 7:30pm. Our guest speaker will be NY State Senator Brian X. Foley.