

# Oakdale Civic Association

## General Monthly Meeting

December 10, 2007

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### 2007 Officers

President:	Stan Feldman	523-8835
Vice President:	Vicki Kuhn	255-8446
Treasurer:	Pat Kassten	589-8222
Recording Secretary:	Diane Dennis	
Corresponding Secretary:	Sandy Robinson	567-2942

### Board Members

Pam Burner  
John Eder

*Minutes Recorded by: Carol Schwasnick*

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President Stan Feldman called the meeting to order at 7:45pm, opening with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting opened with the evening's guest speaker, Connetquot Superintendent Dr. Alan B. Groveman addressing the NY State EXCEL Aid program for capital projects.

*Dr. Groveman explained that the total building referendum is \$17.9M. Of this, \$12.1 million is NY State building aid, which represents 67.6% of the overall program. An additional \$2.3 million is covered by the additional EXCEL Aid program that covers construction projects related to technology, health and safety, accessibility, student capacity expansion and energy efficiency. The final portion of the total, \$3.5 million is from the existing district capital reserve fund. This is a one time opportunity, and will not result in an increase in taxes. Projects covered will include roof replacements in both middle schools and the older portion of the high school; upgrading security across the district; a new sound system for the high school auditorium; renovation and sprinklering of (5) playing fields at the high school; replacement of lockers; and upgrade of high school science rooms. Overall this nearly \$18 million package is payable over 17 years, and in the end the district estimates to be about \$300K ahead.*

*The district has had its facilities evaluated and it would take an estimated \$35 million to correct all existing deficiencies, and this amount of spend would have a tax impact. Mr. Groveman also spoke about a rolling plan to replace 80% of the bus fleet over 5 years. In addition, the Town of Islip just approved the installation of an 8" water main to the HS fields, to support the increased sprinkler and water needs.*

*Cathy Cohen stated that up to 3 years ago, there was a zero capital improvement line in the school budget, and that this was maintained at zero for about 15 years. This is 20 years of neglect and it will take an estimated 8-10 years before we are caught up.*

*Voting will be at both middle schools on Dec 12, 8am – 9pm.*

Mr. Feldman motioned to waive reading of the minutes, motion was accepted.

### **Treasurer's Report/Membership**

Treasurer Pat Kassten read the Treasurer's Report noting a total income for the month of \$40. There are 19 paid members to date for 2008. Pat noted that for both 2006 and 2007 the OCA operated at a net loss.

- Mr. Feldman noted that the newsletter is mailed to 361 people monthly, with 191 paying membership dues for last year. Mr. Feldman has penned a letter to those folks who did not pay last year to present an opportunity to join for 2008, or to be removed from the mailing list, and asked for a volunteer to handle the task of the mailings, Marilyn Triolo volunteered.
- Civic Association liabilities have largely been advertising and the scholarship fund. (9) meetings a year are held, and members representing the community meet with Bill Lindsay four times/year to discuss issues affecting Oakdale.
- A suggestion was made to waive the mailing of the monthly newsletter and to email only and post to web. This idea met with general agreement.
- Suggestions from the floor to increase membership and improve the bottom line were:
  1. Raise dues.
  2. Limit donations
  3. Doing a mailing to the entire Oakdale community, to increase membership (this has been done before, with minimal results).
  4. Identify ways to recruit members and start branding the Oakdale Civic Association.
- Mr. Feldman and Mr. Triolo had recently addressed the Bosti PTA, which has resulted in a few new members, including Ray Carta.
- Mr. Feldman read a letter he received from Phil Nolan, advising that his office is looking into a control timer for the parking lot lights at MacArthur that some residents have expressed concern over. He is also looking into a shuttle from the distant resident parking lots to the terminal.

### **Planning Report**

John Eder reported that he had recently spoken to Gene Murphy at the Town of Islip Planning Department and has the following updates:

- Rollstone Estates: (off of Matthews, behind Windmill Gate): the final application is before the board. Thursday night the planning board determined an environmental impact study will be required, due to the old greenhouses, in addition Suffolk County is interested in purchasing it for fields for recreational use. The owners wish to sell to the County. The impact to the community would be moderated by the fact that the fields would only be used on weekends and not in the winter, traffic would not be constant.
- Bronco Charlie's: A meeting was held that included Gene Murphy, and Dowling College that covered developing the property for retail use. This is specific to the property that fronts Montauk Hwy and not the residential lots that front Woodlawn, the neighborhood to

the south. The residential lots are currently undeveloped. There is a buyer looking to make an offer on the property.

- St. John's Property: This has lots of issues, most developers do not want to pursue.
- The Bank of Smithtown has plans in for review with the Town on building a branch in the east lot of the Best Yet shopping center. This would include a variance for a drive-through.
- Greenview Properties: Gargano has not submitted applications yet. Town cites the project needing "resolution between buyer and seller." Not a focus by Gargano at this time, project is probably 3-4 years away. Gargano also has property on the north side of Sunrise Hwy. he is focusing on and is working on doing something with the Grumman site.
- Sidewalks: The State has approved funding on Oakdale Bohemia Rd., but the owner of the property under development adjacent to Oakdale Bohemia Middle School, Mr. Anaboli, is responsible for installing sidewalks. Suggestion to shift these funds, then, to Locust Ave., for sidewalks there. This is being discussed.
- Peters property: Proposal for a village green with some type of development, at night something should be there. This will be discussed at a roundtable meeting, to determine what would be acceptable. The Town would always return ownership of the property; it would be leased from the Town. The Town maintains control going forward. This is almost 4-5 acres and deserves to have something put in place for the future.

Linda Hart spoke on behalf of the Oakdale Improvement Society. They have received a grant of \$2K from Ginny Fields, which will cover the planting of three trees and 2000 daffodils along Montauk Hwy. There will also be an effort to fix the fence; the posts need to be recemented.

Mr. Feldman mentioned that the Christmas Tree at the railroad station does not look healthy. John Eder offered to donate a large Norway Spruce that is on his property. Suggested to look into it this spring and contact Tony Quintel, who would have the equipment to move the tree.

### **Nominating Committee**

Chuck Triolo presents Ray Carta as nominee for Vice President. He then notes that Stan has a lot of contacts in the great community of Oakdale and it will take some time to bring a new team up to speed.

Pat Kassten is nominated for Treasurer (returning).

Carol Schwasnick is nominated for Recording Secretary.

Stan Feldman is nominated for President (returning).

Mr. Feldman reads the duties of the officer positions from the Civic Association bylaws. He mentions that Ray Carter and Bob Miro have volunteered to work on revising the bylaws and documenting the history of the Association. This will be addressed at the next Executive Board Meeting.

Cathy Cohen stated that the Oakdale Civic Association revived due to a need. Strength of the Association was renewed when the Benton Bay parcel was to be developed with 300-400 homes and a marina. People on the west side of the creek and Ginny Fields were opposed. The logo of the Association at the time was a man standing in front of a bulldozer.

Stan Feldman read the stated purpose of the Association, "The purpose of the Association shall be to unite residents to improve the quality of life for residents."

Ms. Cohen stated that in the beginning, money was kept in reserve for legal fees in the event they were needed. She asked if there were goals written for the Civic Association and suggested that the Association identify some goals for improvements or changes. The idea of a fund raiser was suggested to support the goals.

Mr. Feldman spoke about the Oakdale Improvement Society, as a not-for-profit 503C being an important relationship for the Civic Association. The Improvement Society is run by Linda Hart and Nancy Flynn.

Mr. Feldman mentioned that there is talk of widening Oakdale Bohemia Rd. at the intersection of Montauk Hwy. He also mentioned that the Association has a replica of the train station clock that was purchased for \$200 and asked for suggestions for what to do with it. Suggestions included a raffle, and using it as a fund raiser, or putting it on display in the Connetquot Library.

Voting then commenced on the installation of the officers for 2008. Marilyn Triola was nominated as Corresponding Secretary. Cathy Cohen and John Eder were nominated as Board Members for 2008.

Mr. Feldman moved to confirm the election of officers for 2008, this motion was seconded.

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:35pm.**