

Oakdale Civic Association

General Monthly Meeting

January 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

President Stan Feldman called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm, opening with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Feldman announced that to accommodate a change in his schedule, he would introduce Councilman Gene Parrington right away. Councilman Parrington introduced himself and Lou Bellovsky as his aide. His office will be in the Ockers House, in Oakdale. He then led the 2008 officers in the Oath of Office. A photographer from the Town of Islip was on hand.

President Feldman then discussed the minutes from the last meeting. He noted that if we have your email address on file, you should have received a copy of the minutes for December. If we do not have your email address, please provide it for future mailings.

Tom Calissi motion to waive the reading of the minutes. John Eder seconded. Secretary Schwasnick will remember hardcopies next month.

The Treasurer's report was given by Pat Kassten.

The total income from dues this month is \$540, a good number. Paid members for 2008 to date: 52.

Letters went out from Chuck and Marilyn Triolo the last week of Dec. to those members who have not yet paid dues for 2008. 15 people moved and their letters were returned. About 25 member dues received were a result of this mailing. Folks have until the end of February to pay their dues or they will be removed from the mailing list.

The Town Report was given by John Eder

There is a meeting tomorrow, Jan 15th at 2:30pm regarding redevelopment of Grumman property on Sunrise Hwy. They will present an environmental study. Copies will be on the website, library, and the planning department for all those interested in reviewing it.

St. John's: no new applications for this property have been received by the Town. Extensive environmental concerns with this site, so will cost a lot of money for someone to do something with it.

Switching money for sidewalks to Locust: \$40K grant, which isn't that much. Gene Murphy reports the request is currently in and they are working on it.

Oakdale driving range, Larry Gargano: buyer and seller still working things out.

Bank of Smithtown wants a bank at the old KFC location. Need to address architectural concerns, want it to look like Wendy's.

Rollstone estates: Significant movement between owner and Suffolk County, which is looking to buy it. Stan Feldman noted that Bill Lindsay has been the push on this, which is the property with the old greenhouses behind Matthews Road. The children of the deceased owner really want to get this done. Owners and the county are waiting for an environmental report, as contamination will lower the sell price. The county is looking to put in playing fields. Bob Irwin noted that Bill Lindsay's legislative aide lives right in front of this property. The property is 14 acres.

Bronco Charlie's: Dowling has applied for and received a demo permit from the town for all buildings on the property. Whether the property is sold or not, Dowling will demo. There is a prospective buyer with a proposal, maybe for a restaurant. The Town is asking that some recognition of Bronco Charlie's be worked in. Architecture is a concern for the Town, models are the storage facility building and Wendy's with their use of brick. Part of this overall parcel fronts Biltmore, which runs parallel to Montauk Hwy. They want to put in 2 single family homes there, There are (2) ½ acre sites with residential zoning.

OCA Bylaws Report was given by Ray Carta

Vice President Carta reported that the bylaws are being worked on. Ray and Bob Mirro had started an update and this document has been circulated to Stan and the Board of Directors. The team needs to get together with a laptop and work through them. The February meeting will be devoted to a discussion on bylaws. John Eder found an OCA newsletter printed 1999, which was the 10 year anniversary of the OCA and the first year Stan was president, which outlined the history and some of the officers of the revived Oakdale Civic Association, which developed in 1989. Copies of this document were made available to the meeting attendees.

Pat Hogeboom introduced by President Stan Feldman

President Feldman introduced our January Guest Speaker, Author Pat Hogeboom. She has been writing a column (called "Love Pats") for the South Bay Newspaper for the past 5 years, and has recently published a book called "Idle Hours the Grace and the Glory" which she discussed. Pat is originally from Western New York State, and is a transplant to Oakdale. Her interest and love for Oakdale led her to become interested in its history, and in the history of the Vanderbilts, one of its prominent families. She uncovered history as she researched for her writing. The title of the book is from "the grace and the hope and the glory" - part of Episcopal liturgy. The book is based on the life of Consuelo Vanderbilt, who is pictured on the book's cover.

Ms. Hogeboom's prior book, "The Hope Chest," was based on the life of her aunt, who in 1912 was a 17 year old schoolteacher in Nebraska. That book called The Hope Chest. She thought she couldn't do it and get it published, but it was published and sold well in the Midwest.

Ms. Hogeboom gave a very interesting discussion on the history of our area that is included in "Idle Hours," and after the discussion signed copies of the book for purchase by meeting attendees. Ms.Hogeboom noted that she has done discussions and readings for many schools and libraries.

Refreshments

President Feldman noted that we are having a problem picking up our stuff at Best Yet. The order gets smaller and smaller every time. The deli in Sayville ran us about \$70/meeting. Mr Feldman asked for input on dropping Best Yet and either going back to the deli or saving money and not purchasing refreshments. The membership voted to pass on refreshments going forward.

Web Site

Ray Carta reported that we now have a web page at OakdaleNY.com. This basically just gives a brief description of the OCA, along with contact information. Mr. Carta reported that we are working on expanding to an actual stand-alone website. For instance, if we have a particular topic we want to post, or for posting the minutes, we really need our own site. Bohemia, West Sayville, and Bayport - many of the other local Civic Associations all have websites to serve as points of information and for links to various things. We had discussed this and agreed to go forward with it a few months back, and had determined to allocate some funds – estimated to be about \$700-\$800 to start up and run the site. Ray recommended that if all the related organizations have a site, Oakdale should have one. The first step is to draft an outline of what we would like to see. Ray reported he would be shopping around for price and looking to register our domain name.

School Tax Issues

Ray Carta – went to a tax meeting by group known as NYPA. The meeting consisted of only 12 people, a small group. Their aim is to control increases in school budgets. However, Ray reported that it didn't seem that the people there were interested in finding a better way to use their money, but rather were a bunch of people wanting to vote down any budget on LI. Stan Feldman added that right now there is a move by NY State Senator Flanagan to put a cap on school taxes and have the state be mandated to fund them. Teacher pay has been a point of contention, there must be a meeting of the minds, one school district does not use another to get a raise in pay. There is a suggestion to have the school district stop paying the teachers and have the state pay the teachers. Ray mentioned that there is a letter proposed by Connetquot Superintendent Groveman that people can send to our local representatives and let them know how we feel.

Jamie Flynn noted that in other parts of the country school districts are run at the county level. Although there has been talk of combining Long Island districts, most of the school boards are reluctant to give up control. President Feldman mentioned as an example that in Florida's Sarasota County that serving on the Board of Education is paid position.

There are 124 districts on LI, and one in NYC. Many years ago Oakdale Bohemia was one district, Ronkonkoma was another. The two joined together and combined forces to build a new high school.

Traffic Concerns

Bob Irwin brought up the traffic issues at the corner of Locust Ave and Montauk Hwy., the site of many major accidents. He reported that there is a traffic study now being done with Bill Lindsay.

Possibility of setting up a system similar to that at Lincoln and Foster Ave., in Sayville. President Feldman mentioned he would put this on the agenda for Round Table. Also discussed was the recent painting of traffic striping on Locust Ave, which have narrowed it down. People keep removing “No Parking” signs adjacent to the ball fields, people now park and the cars extend into the roadway, they are too wide for the shoulder.

The intersection of Bayview and Montauk was also mentioned as a problem. The construction trucks at Dunkin Donuts limit visibility. Others mentioned not even trying to go west on Montauk coming out of Lincoln.

Cars coming out of the 7-11 are a hazard. Instead of entering Montauk Hwy directly from the 7-11 parking lot, cars enter Vanderbilt where there is not enough room for them to pull to the light. President Feldman mentioned that the roundtable was already discussing this issue and attempting to alleviate it. He mentioned that if the round table were active 18 months ago the Dunkin Donuts will not be built. Lee Kennedy noted that Oakdale Bohemia Road and Locust are the only two routes to go North from Oakdale. Jamie Flynn noted that there is a paper road right before the RR tracks, could have once been a work road. There has been a suggestion that it might be possible to open up the Dunkin Donuts parking lot to go out onto Oakdale Bohemia road directly which may help alleviate traffic on Montauk Highway associated with this business. They are looking in to what is possible.

Other Business

President Feldman mentioned that we have not been invited to the opening of Dunkin Donuts, - which is not like Wendy’s who did invite the OCA to attend. Mr Feldman also noted that Maria Luisa’s on Montauk Highway has closed.

President Feldman asked for a motion to close the meeting. Motion from Bob Irwin. Seconded by Mario Politi.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35pm.