

Oakdale Civic Association

General Monthly Meeting

February 11, 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. Helen Maloney was asked to lead.

Corrections to minutes were taken. Corrected minutes were voted as approved. Modified copy will be retained as record.

Treasurer's report

Dues income was \$1,260 this month, which is a nice response from the past-due billing mailing that was sent out. Now looking to put money back into a CD. A final dues bill will be sent out shortly for those people who have not paid in 2008. If they do not pay by the end of the month their membership will be terminated. If you do not receive a letter, you are assumed to be up to date. Please contact Stan or Pat with any discrepancies.

President Feldman mentioned he is looking into an ING account for small businesses where you can easily transfer money back and forth to other accounts. 3.22% is the best rate at Wamu. ING has a top rate of 3.40%. Money can be accessible in 3 days.

President's report

President Feldman noted that Senator Caesar Trunzo has announced a taxpayer rally at Ellsworth W. Allen Park in Farmingdale on Saturday March 1, at 12 noon. Steve Israel was involved with organizing. Chuck Triolo explained that the proposed NY State budget is very bad for LI, with dramatic cut-backs for our areas. The state sees our area as wealthy because of high property values, but income is reasonably the same here vs. other parts of the state. Long Island has 17% of the children in the state, but receives just over 8% of the spend – we are not getting aid for all of our students. President Feldman noted that it can be a dangerous thing to have a rally like this. If the turnout is not good, the message will be that the issue is not important. We have to show up, and spread the message. Show up, it's important. Email Ginny Fields, or Senator Trunzo. They are receptive to listening to us. Residents should send a letter to the governor, cc'd to Senator Trunzo. The governor has to get the message.

Town Report

The Town Report was given by John Eder, based on his conversation with Gene Murphy last Friday.

Rollstone Estates: owners showing willingness to sell land to County. Gene is optimistic.

Oakdale Shopping Center West: Gordon Brothers.

There are code violations, they are not serious. The Town gave them directions on what to do, but the response has been slow. Many meetings happened with Town. Like the landscaping that was to be done recently, resolution is taking time.

Oakdale Shopping Center: East

Recent hearing on the proposed bank, Town was not happy with the architecture. Town wants them to look at Wendy's brickwork as an example of the desired appearance.

Oakdale Hamlet Plan:

The Town is planning to give a report to the community in March. Jessica Joyce is out until Feb 18. When she returns she will have a plan to show the round table.

Sidewalks on Locust.

Ginny Fields trying to help out with some financial aid. The state has not responded yet.

Bronco Charlie's

Contrary to what had been previously reported, a demo permit has NOT been issued. Both sides are working on it. President Feldman noted that a meeting was recently held between the Town and Mr. Trapani and his daughter who are looking to buy the site. Mr. Trapani is a developer who owns US Industries in Bay Shore, and his daughter is a commercial investor. Trapani is absolutely interested in putting something there that the community would like. Mr. Feldman noted that he expects to learn more at the Round Table tomorrow afternoon. Trapani is looking to put up a "green" building, and is aware of the multi use zoning. Cathy Cohen noted that there was a meeting that happened; Gene Murphy was told that we do not want mixed use on that parcel. As long as Dowling holds the property, this would not be acceptable. It was noted that there is likely not enough drainage capacity for a restaurant. Mr. Trapani is thinking office space, service type space. The water table cannot accommodate it the waste generation, even if you can buy credits somewhere else. Doesn't make sense.

Sidewalks on Oakdale Bohemia Rd.

Sidewalks – Helen Maloney noted that there are no sidewalks to get from Montauk Hwy to Oakdale Bohemia Middle School. Cathy Cohen noted that Paul Anaboli, the developer of the new condos on Oakdale Bohemia Road adjacent to the Middle School is to provide sidewalks in this area as part of his responsibility in building on the property.

Following reports from Jamie Flynn:

Coan Property:

This is located north of Montauk, and has violations. It is on Commercial Blvd. (Vanderbilt becomes Commercial north of Montauk Hwy) north of Tai Show Restaurant. Landscaper Coen made an application to build a 2 family house there, and the zoning was changed to residential use. Change in zone was approved, but they are still using it as a storage area. The Town

Planning Dept. is taking him back to a hearing, on a violation of the new zoning. Also mentioned was Tom Carly and his problems in Greens Creek, West Sayville. Town is looking at this process. Should not be just the applicant that is heard, but there need to be checks and balances about what is best for the community. West Sayville laid this on the table at the latest Round Table.

Billboard:

Jamie Flynn noted that this sits on a piece of Town property – been there for many years. Has Bruno realty’s information. He asked the Town about it, and Jessica Joyce wrote back and said it appears tat there was a contract with the LIRR, but we have challenges that. The billboard is 20’ from Montauk Hwy. John investigated it and there is no such contract. The billboard has been there for 30 years. Ms. Joyce is telling billboard company to come in and take it away.

501c Status

President Feldman noted that we are currently investigating becoming a 501C non for profit so we could accept donations etc. Stan got a call from Ginny offering money, if we were a 501.

Town Clerk Regina Duffy:

Regina Duffy, newly elected Town Clerk, was in attendance. She spoke briefly about her new office. The Town Clerk’s office handles parking violations and also acts as a registrar, handling birth and death records, passports, permits for fishing garage sales and block parties. She noted the system they use right now is very old, but a new computer system was bought last year and they are working on transitioning over to it. Online forms are a goal, as is the scanning of old files to make records accessible – records from 1600’s and 1700’s. Sheldon Silver mails out a notice every month on grants available. Ms. Duffy also reported that the Town Clerk performs marriages and has 15 weddings scheduled for Valentine’s Day.

Councilman Steve Flotteron:

Mr. Flotteron also addressed the meeting attendees. He brought some copies of the Town of Islip Recreation newsletter and pointed out that it has a center insert called “People to People.” This section tries to focus on positive projects we are working on within the Town. Also, in regards to MacArthur Airport, he noted that in the next few months there will be directions to parking. Long term the airport wants to work to improve the traffic flow. The airport is the gateway to Long Island and the idea it should project the appropriate image.

President Feldman reported that there was a benefit last week for cold war veterans. There is a resolution for counties to reduce RE taxes on cold war veterans, which can be filed with the Town assessor’s office. Stan is a Vietnam vet. Wanted to make sure all veterans get respect and benefits, this is the first step. Stan asked for an email with attachment to forward to the membership.

OCA Bylaws:

Vice President Ray Carta noted that the Executive Board has been working hard to refine and agree on the current revision, which was distributed to the attendees at the meeting for review, and had also been sent out via email. With 116 paid members, we need 10% - 11 people - as a quorum to vote. Need 2/3 of the folks here to agree to the changes to the bylaws for them to be accepted. Motion to adopt the new bylaws by Jamie Flynn. Second by Chuck Triolo. Unanimous vote to accept. Recording Secretary Schwasnick will approve all edits, and provide a final clean copy via email.

NY State Assembly Update:

Patty Ryan, aide to Ginny Fields, attended with an update from Ginny's office.

Governor Spitzer shortchanged LI in the proposed budget, giving more money to city and upstate. The Governor has also called for a property tax task force, but has not designated a representative for Suffolk County. Shirley Strum Kenny from Stony Brook University, has been appointed to the force, but is not NY native and is not informed on Long Island real estate. Someone is needed with more experience. So far there is no response from the Governor's office on this point.

Broadwater: The proposed natural gas vessel would be the size of the Queen Mary. No one will be allowed to fish, boat, swim or engage in other recreational activities within 5 miles. The terminal will likely kill fish and larvae, and taxpayers will have to pay for additional security to protect it and us. In addition, LI would receive only 20% of the gas. NY Department of State is supposed to give decision on whether this is consistent with coastal management plan. The Governor has refused to meet with LI reps, but has met with Shell Oil on the subject.

Attias flea market: There have been discussions with the Town of Islip on the future of the property. Discussions have ceased and no agreement at this point.

Speedway, Oakdale Shopping Center East: The owner is to try and get a C of O. Intercounty sports in Sayville needs a CO also, this has been slow. This should be received in the next few days.

Creative Ministries has gone through some financial difficulties and is working on getting in better financial shape. Working with the PTAs on presenting theater to children, Assemblywoman Fields encourages us to go to a show. President Feldman notes that Creative Ministries should come to a meeting, we would give them some exposure.

Gargano development on NE corner of Sunrise: hearing at 401 Main Street on high density housing in this area, not as per original plan.

Great River Development at former Grumman site: President Feldman noted the first time he heard of the plan he was very against it. Now it does not seem so bad. not so bad. (357) residential units. (100) for-sale condos for Sr. Citizens, (156) 1-bedroom apartments, (45) two bedroom town houses. Estimates of approximately (69) children for East Islip school district. Net of \$1M in tax dollars for school district. 4-year anticipated project, that would include additional lights added to Montauk Hwy to control the additional traffic. Stan Feldman notes that the developer has right to develop property and right to a return on investment. Cathy Cohen noted that a balance between what landowner wants and what is best for the area must be attained. Great River protested use of Connetquot Ave. as the main access point for the development, so traffic would now be pushed East into Oakdale. An environmental impact study must be performed to determine impact of sewer output and connection to the sewer district. Right now this is undisturbed land, and the proposal would create lots of impervious areas. They are very General controversy and opposing viewpoints on this topic.

Oakdale Merge: In response to a couple of accidents last year that paralyzed the merge at Sunrise Hwy and prevented emergency vehicles from reaching the area, and emergency personnel from reporting to work, Assemblywoman Fields has held meetings with fire and rescue services. The Assemblywoman asked Ceasar Trunzo to attend the meetings. The result: incident management

plan put together in conjunction with the NY State Dept of Transportation. This would include the placement of messaging signs in the area. The State has created a web sites informny.com and informny.mobi (easier format to read on phone), and provided a \$100K grant to put a movable barrier on Sunrise Hwy. The barrier could be moved within minutes and divert traffic. Law would prohibit construction on Connetquot State park, so widening Sunrise would be difficult at this juncture.

Teen driver program: Assemblywoman Fields has contributed money to Street Safe, a program for high school children and their parents. The purpose is to teach new drivers on fog, water, and other dangerous conditions.

President Feldman asked for a word format doc of the update to send out to the membership. The Assemblywoman is intending to provide updates like this for all OCA general meetings.

OCA Website:

The new website address is: www.oakdalecivicassociation.com. This domain name has been secured for 10 years (with automatic renewal), with a three year hosting contract with a company called "godaddy." We have a decent discount and an option that will allow the site to grow. We have the ability to add unlimited pages. So far we have an outline for 15 pages of structure, and will be looking for content for the following areas: About us, Bylaws, History and Accomplishments, Meeting Minutes, Roundtable page, Town of Islip, FAQs for community services, Community links, Other Useful links (legislation, etc), News and events, Calendar, Issues at Hand.

The website committee will be asking for help with content and opinions. It is going to take a while to fill all the pages, if you have content to suggest or contribute please contact Ray Carta.

Oakdale Improvement Society:

Linda Hart reported bulbs are in and will be planted soon. No update to report on the status of the community bricks.

Peters property: Right now nothing is happening with this parcel, except for incorporating it into the Oakdale master plan and giving some guidelines on including a park or gazebo etc. Nothing should be done without consent of the Round Table. Close to final draft of master plan once Jessica Joyce comes back from vacation. One goal of master plan is that it can be used to market Oakdale.

Anti Bullying Program

Vice President Ray Carta reported on the well-developed anti-bullying program currently rolling out in Connetquot school district, with parent and community components. This needs reinforcement at home. PTA's have launched anti bullying events. There is an anti bullying workshop for parents at Connetquot HS on February 12 from 7-8:30pm, with the purpose of giving parents tools to assist children in dealing with bullying. Bullying is a problem and does have long term impact. The Bosti PTA has developed a website, www.mychildsafety.org, to provide information and links on the topic. Chuck Triolo mentioned that even the witnesses suffer for years having witnessed actions associated with bullying.

Mario Politi made a motion to close the meeting. This was seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:28pm

