

**Oakdale Civic Association
General Monthly Meeting
February 8, 2010**

2010 Officers

President:	Ray Carta	560-4650 - present
Vice President:	Stan Feldman	523-8835 - not present
Treasurer:	Pat Kassten	589-8222 - present
Recording Secretary:	Carol Schwasnick	589-7455 - not present
Corresponding Secretary;	Marilyn Triolo	589-5981 - not present

Directors

Cathy Cohen – not present

Minutes Recorded by Bob Mirro

www.OakdaleCivicAssociation.org

President Ray Carta called the meeting to order at 7:35pm, and initiated the pledge of allegiance.

President Carta mentioned that hard copies of the minutes from the January meeting were not available for review and distribution; however they were sent to the membership via email and are available on the website as well. President Carta asked for a motion to allow the email minutes to be accepted for record. A motion was made by Joanne Festa and seconded by Leo Marinick.

Treasurer's report: Pat Kassten

Treasurer Kassten read the monthly report noting that there had been several transactions between the OCA and the Post Office.

President's Report: Ray Carta

President Carta mentioned that the Rose Spa was closed down due to lack of proper licensing for massage therapy. The OCA received a letter from the 5th Precinct commending us on keeping an eye out and remaining vigilant.

In regards to the recent Budget survey that was conducted by the Connetquot School District, Mr. Carta reported that the OCA had the second highest number of responses with respect to the district survey, with 27 members responding. It was mentioned that the group with the most responses was Cherokee Elementary School with 30, and that Bosti Elementary School was third with 25 responding. Approximately 250 community members responded overall. Mr. Carta noted that multiple responses from the same IP addresses were deleted by the Superintendent.

Mr. Carta read an announcement from the chamber of commerce with regard to their upcoming annual Easter egg hunt which will be held at the Great Lawn at Dowling on Saturday March 27th at noon. This is a great family event to attend and volunteers are needed.

Guest Speaker: 5th Precinct COPE (Community Oriented Policing Enforcement) Unit Officer

Police Officer Joel Reines introduced himself as the "Sayville foot-man" and a COPE Officer, and was present to speak on behalf of Inspector Mojica. A discussion ensued in regard to general officer patrol relief points and shift changes in Oakdale, with questions from the membership on possible periods of coverage lapses for our area. Officer Reines said he would speak with the Inspector to find out exactly what transpires during shift changes. Another member suggestion was to have specific spots targeted like a watchman (or foot-man) would do. Officer Reines acknowledged that the prior relief point was at the substation behind the West Sayville Golf Course. The question he said he would bring back to the inspector is this: "What would insure that there would be a regular

patrol car in our area?" Again, a resident requested specifically that Oakdale become a relief point and the officer mentioned that he would bring that back to the inspector.

A member brought up the topic of drug abuse in our area. Officer Reines mentioned that there are School Resource Officers that could be requested to come and speak with children at schools and community meetings. The resident also mentioned that they had witnessed drug deals and did not want to be interviewed when police were called. The officer mentioned that when reporting criminal activity the caller can request to not be interviewed. The resident mentioned that she has requested not to be interviewed in the past but that the police still came to the door to speak to her. Officer Reines said that he would put out a communication to the county officers that residents have complained that resident information needs to be more anonymous. Another member mentioned that if you had a particular complaint, to call the 5th precinct front desk at 854-8400 and ask the dispatcher to pass the message along.

A member asked for an update on the Sycamore Ave home invasion and murder. The officer said there is no new information that he knew about but he would ask the Inspector for an update. The membership was very concerned with regard to the continuing pockets of perceived drug problems in the area. They felt it was not sporadic or random but part of a larger ongoing problem in the community and wanted it pursued further especially with the re-dedication of a sector patrol car.

With regard to petty crimes, home invasions and burglaries in the area, President Carta asked the officer to speak specifically about recent crime activity in the area. The officer mentioned that there was no real upsurge in petty crimes and burglaries in his opinion. A member then asked about several recent break-ins over on Victoria Ct. and Cloverdale Rd. Coupled with the Bohemia home invasion and murder ... the membership remained concerned that we need to address Oakdale as a relief point and seek overnight patrols and sector car restoration. Officer Reines mentioned that he would also look into that and get back to President Carta and the OCA. Officer Reines then mentioned the growing importance of being vigilant and developing a community watch group.

A member asked a question about numbers of accidents at the Oakdale merge in the past before the reassignment of enforcement responsibilities on some roads to the Suffolk County Sheriff's Dept. Officer Reines stated that he did not perceive a marked increase in accidents in and around that area. The officer did mention that different agencies now handle that strip of road and data and information is handled differently these days which could be why a conclusion may be hard to draw without further and specific study.

Councilman Steve Flotteron

The Councilman spoke about the change of zone for the old Delta gas station on the corner of Oakdale Bohemia Road and Montauk Hwy. He stated that the change of zone was approved and that the property will be cleaned up and turned into a gas station/convenience store with period architecture consistent with the train station with "an old world feel." The front of the convenience store will be more toward the tracks and be backed up to the Dunkin' Donuts. Mr. Flotteron mentioned that the design for the new gas station is architecturally beautiful and thanked the Oakdale community for being proactive and receptive to improvement to the area.

A member asked how long this project will take. The Councilman mentioned that many agencies are working together and are eager to complete this quickly. A member asked a question about curb cuts and wondered how people could be deterred from cutting through the gas station and bypassing the traffic light. Councilman Flotteron said that was considered and addressed in the design and should not become a problem. A question was asked about what will become of all the derelict buildings behind the gas station abutting the railroad tracks. The Councilman said that would be all cleaned out as well.

A member asked if there was any hope for the Lighthouse Commons. Mr. Flotteron said he has not seen anything come through Islip Town Council.

A member asked about the condominiums on Oakdale-Bohemia Road and the low curb issue. Councilman Flotteron mentioned that the issue could be re-looked at if we organized as a group and made a formal inquiry. A suggestion was then made about inviting Gene Murphy to a future OCA meeting to discuss the finer points of the history of this problem in detail.

Open Forum

President Carta opened the floor at 8:41pm for open session.

The first question had to do with the cell phone tower at Byron Lake. President Carta stated that the Town has promised to alert us if any applications are filed for the tower - as of yet there have been none.

A question was raised about maintaining and plowing snow on Victoria Ct. President Carta mentioned that he spoke with the DPW Commissioner and that the Commissioner mentioned that he would initiate the procedure for plowing and dedicating the road.

****UPDATE: Victoria Ct. was plowed and sanded several times during the snow storm on February 10th as indicated by the members that live on that street.****

A resident mentioned that trailer trucks frequently make wrong turns down the new Race Place and wondered what could be done. President Carta mentioned that he would look into the updating of map software for the GPS units that the drivers may use.

President Carta called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35pm. A motion was made and seconded.

Happy Valentine's Day to all of our members. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 8th at 7:30 pm. A member from the Connetquot Foundation for the Advancement of Children (CFAC) will be here to discuss their latest projects.