

**Oakdale Civic Association
General Monthly Meeting
April 12, 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 - present
Corresponding Secretary;	Marilyn Triolo	589-5981 - present

Directors

Cathy Cohen – present

Minutes Recorded by Carol Schwasnick

www.OakdaleCivicAssociation.org

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

President Carta noted that we have a full agenda tonight and asked for a motion to accept the minutes as posted. Hard copies are available. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Pat Kassten

Income from dues was \$140. No disbursements this month.

President Carta asked for a motion to waive the rules for remainder of meeting. A motion was made and seconded. There are more than one guest speakers this evening.

Guest Speaker: Islip Town Supervisor Phil Nolan, and DPW Commissioner Richard Baker

Supervisor Nolan stated that he will be brief, and speak on two issues that are of interest to the Civic Association.

First, an initiative that is great for Oakdale: a drainage, curbing and paving project that the Town is undertaking in the Idle Hour area. The water problems in Idle Hour are worse than usual this year this year because of groundwater flooding in this area. A major portion of the Town's capital budget this year is being devoted to this project. Hopefully this will eliminate some of the surface water issues and limit mosquito infestations.

Mr. Nolan stated that he is very aware that when we do this kind of project it can be very disruptive. This project includes at least 90 new structures such as catch basins, paving etc., and will be in front of your houses with heavy equipment. The project leads met this morning to determine how to field complaints and limit dislocations that will happen. The team will take a great deal of care to minimize disruption for residents. There will be dislocations and problems, but residents should bear with the project: the alternative is not doing it.

Second, Supervisor Nolan noted he has been getting a lot of emails regarding stop signs along Idle Hour Blvd. Mr. Nolan wanted the membership to know that the Town does not locate these signs without thought. A traffic control person looked at the issue and made a decision, sign locations are always based on the advice of a traffic engineer. Mr. Nolan stated that the Town stands ready to give assistance to residents on this topic as needed.

Member Lee Kennedy brought up road maintenance and garbage pickup in the Artist Colony section of Idle Hour. She stated that driving down Princess Gate is like driving across the moon because of all the potholes. Also, a small garbage truck used to come down the road to pick up garbage, because the road is so narrow. This has been eliminated, and all of the cans must now be brought to the corner. The biggest issue is that the garbage cans are not returned where they should go. These are tiny houses with small properties, and this is an ongoing issue. Supervisor Nolan stated he would have his office look into this issue, and that Joan Nash from his office will work through it with Chris Andrade, the Environmental Commissioner. Ms. Kennedy asked Mr. Nolan if the Town could please come down and look at the roads in this area. Mr. Nolan stated that there are two factors the Town considers in these cases: how many cars travel the road and the overall condition and he would make sure it is evaluated.

Mr. Nolan said to the membership that Islip still easily has the lowest town taxes on Long Island. This Town has fallen behind with maintenance of infrastructure. After Pete McGowan the town infrastructure was run down, for 15 years the capital investment was limited. Mr. Nolan stated that since he has been on board the Town is down 200 staff members, they laid off 37 people just last fall. The capital budget continues to be insufficient and has been for the last several years. The Town estimates it would cost over 1 billion dollars to adequately maintain the 11,000 miles of road in the Town. They are always talking about and considering an infrastructure bond issue, but they can't raise taxes without angering residents – but even if they were to increase they would still be among the lowest taxes of the LI towns. Mr. Nolan stated that the Town fixed 25,000 potholes in the first three months of this year. The Town of Islip has been reclaiming old blacktop for \$1 per ton, which saves significant costs. They employ hot patching, which is the best method to ensure a good bond with the original roadway, but it's still not perfect.

A few members brought up Oakdale Bohemia road, and addressed the rough road surface and frequent flooding. The flooding makes it impossible for students to walk to the Middle School. Supervisor Nolan noted they will go in and look at the existing drainage system. Mr. Nolan stated that in the documents for work proposed for the condos that were recently built all elements of a successful installation seemed to be in there, but people leave things out. Right now we are having less success than ever managing flooding. There are catch basins in place but normally a basin that would hold 500 gallons of water is only holding 50 because the ground water has come up so high.

The water table has been at road elevation on Montauk Ave., just east of Oakdale Bohemia Rd. and north of the train tracks. The Middle School floods and pumps water out of the basement into Oakdale-Bohemia road and that contributes to the problem. Richard Baker, the DPW Commissioner, stated he has addressed the Jr. High School water pumping. The school district has gotten several phone calls and letters from the Town. The school's water problem is the Town's water problem, and the district is being asked to come up with a solution to pump their water, even if this means hiring an engineering firm to work out solutions. President Ray Carta suggested putting the district in touch with the DPW to resolve the issue. *[Editor Note: The School District met with the Town shortly after this discussion and is working with the Town on a joint solution].*

Member Deidre Nunzig brought up the issue of people pumping overflowing swimming pools into the roadways, Commissioner Baker stated that he has seen hundreds of hoses coming from people's yards in the last few weeks with all the rain we have had. Often, these are people trying to save their homes, and the Town will not ticket in this case, but if their pumping is causing someone else's property to suffer, that is a code enforcement issue and should be reported.

A member brought up the issue of the curbing and sidewalks that had been requested last year on Bourne Ave. near Bosti Elementary School. Commissioner Baker and Supervisor Nolan stated that sidewalks are frequent requests in the Town, but there is insufficient funding to address them all. A Gentleman from the Bosti area stated that he is willing to raise the money for the sidewalk, to make sure it is installed. Supervisor Nolan stated that he will speak to the Town Attorney to confirm

whether they can accept the money to do the work.

Commissioner Baker introduced his DPW staff who have been working hard for the last 18 months to ramp up the Idle Hour drainage project, including Deputy Commissioner Fred Hefner. He stated bales of hay are in place and there are indications of work already beginning. Staff members included Mr. Hefner, Bill Stanger, John Hillebrandt, and Rob Finegan who is Town Historian and director of labor and personnel. Mr. Finegan offered to work with residents to form an Oakdale Historical Society. President Carta offered to put Mr. Finegan in touch with two members who have recently begun working on this topic. Joan Nash, Oakdale resident and representing Supervisor Nolan's office was also in attendance, as were Town Council members Trish Bergin Weichbrodt and Steve Flotteron. President Carta thanked Commissioner Baker for the focus on Oakdale and the show of force down here at the meeting, and that it is good to know the Town cares about what Oakdale thinks.

Commissioner Baker continued to say that the Connetquot Creek storm water project has already commenced. He stated that he likes to refer to it as a 2 year project. In addition to 60 catch basins, there will be 40 other structures to be put into the ground, and 20,000 feet of new curbing. Utility companies are starting right now installing water mains, which will be run in tandem to minimize inconvenience. It will be a difficult job. There is dual access to the work site – from north and east, and work hours will be 8am to 4:30pm. We will maintain a minimum of equipment parked on the roads. Commissioner Baker offered that after the presentation anyone who wants to see the map outlining the area of work can come up to review. It will be a wet messy project, digging down 10 feet when we know we hit water at 1 foot.

Councilwoman Bergin suggested looking into moving power lines underground. Commissioner Baker said he'd check but he thought it would likely not be possible. The Councilwoman also asked if there were future plans for sewer hookups. Commissioner Baker stated that this is not an option because positive gravity won't work because the area is too low. Mr. Baker explained that some homes will be without electricity for some period of time, residents will be notified of pending outages via letters in their mailboxes. He went on to explain that the Town is aware that they must communicate with the neighborhood including when to park on the street, when not to park, etc. so everybody knows what's happening at all times. Information will be forwarded that can be posted on the OCA website. Residents with questions should contact Joan Nash in the Supervisor's Office. The Dept of Public Works will make sure your needs are accommodated to the extent possible. Bill Stanger is the fire chief of Islip Hamlet. Mr Stanger wanted the membership to know that they have given a lot of thought to accommodating people with special medical needs, etc. during the project. Press releases will be going out to the local newspapers. There will be weekly updates on the Town website as well as regular coverage in the Suffolk County News and Islip Bulletin. Emergency services are notified every day of any road shutdowns. Sometimes electrical will have to be down to get structures in.

A member asked the questions about controlling new outflows, the Commissioner stated that positive outflows will have tie flaps on them to prevent backups. Along the canal, will have to discharge some water into the lagoon, cannot get to the River from these parts of Middlesex and Shore Roads. Planning for the Middlesex project is just being completed now, this is a second phase of the project. Execution for this is 2011 from Hollywood and to the west. Work from Hollywood east still has to be drawn up and needs DEC approval. On east end, water comes in from the canal and enters road and goes back out, which is a recurring problem. A member mentioned the drain and drainage issue on the corner of Montauk Hwy and Idle Hour Blvd. Commissioner Baker stated that the County was there today, and performed some repair, and is supposed to add additional drainage. The County does have a project planned on Montauk Hwy. from the LIRR bridge to Oakdale-Bohemia Road and up Lincoln. A resident living on West Shored Rd. stated that a Town Vactor cleaned the drains on Sat morning before the recent big storm and with 7" of rain this made a big difference. Even during the horrific rains they had minimal problems. In some cases cleaning the drains is all that is needed.

A member asked a question about how it was determined where the new catch basins would be placed? The Commissioner responded that it was based on an engineering study. The Concept for this project began 10 year ago, and it has finally come to fruition.

A member brought up conditions at Shore Drive and junction of Vanderbilt Blvd. Storm runoff runs to the wetlands behind the houses on the North side of the street. Little work has been done on basin closest to Vanderbilt, and it seems the pile may be collapsed. A pumper truck was sent during the last storms. This wetlands area is low, so the water does not run to the bay. If those catch basins could be cleared that would be help.

A member asked the question: "What is the Town Contribution to this project?" Commissioner Baker stated that the breakdown of the funding is approximately \$2.3M from the Town and \$1.8M from the Federal Government.

Commissioner Baker led into the second DPW topic of the evening: Local stop signs. He stated that the DPW is aware of the situation on Idle Hour Blvd with the multiple stop signs, including the new one recently added at Beverly. The DPW will take a hard look at the conditions with the Town. Idle Hour Blvd. is rather narrow. Member Brian Lowery stated that many residents are not happy with the current situation. Commissioner Baker stated that the Town feels it is an improvement to the area in that property and vehicle damage that has been reported will be mitigated, and the additional stop sign was based on a request, which the Town responded to. However the Town is prepared to re-evaluate the condition and make a recommendation. Commissioner Baker stated that the water control project underway does not involve Idle Hour Blvd., which will remain open for the duration of this work, and the Town realizes the importance of this street as the main feeder for the Idle Hour neighborhood.

A member requested that the intersection of Shore Dr. and Vanderbilt needs a three way stop. There is a stop sign on Shore, but not on Vanderbilt. Drivers fly around the corner making the right onto Shore. Traffic leaving Vanderbilt's Wharf does not stop either. A three way stop will slow traffic down, and protect neighborhood kids. Commissioner Baker stated that the Town will look into this location and also consider the corner radius, because geometric improvements might help. Trish Bergin asked Commissioner Baker to look at all the stop signs on Idle Hour. "Traffic Calming" is a new age way of dealing with traffic issues. Go through clock tower and there is one at the pond, then there are two more. A member pointed out that there are: two crosswalks at Dowling and none at Idle Hour elementary school. Councilwoman Bergin suggested that sidewalks should also be installed adjacent to Idle Hour Elementary School - from the clock tower along the wooded (west) side of the road. There is limited ability for busing from the south part of Idle Hour because buses can't turn around. However, there is no place for kids to walk to access the school. Member Bob Mirro reminded the Town representatives that a similar sidewalk request has also been raised for Bosti, and was mentioned earlier in this meeting, and has been a point of discussion for over one year now.

President Carta brought up the topic of dedicated and non-dedicated streets. Commissioner Baker stated that a dedicated street is one that a builder dedicates to the Town. They build homes, pave the street, and provide drainage. In some cases, builders have not followed through with dedication. Overall in the Town there are a very small proportion of undedicated roads. Commissioner Baker stated that the Town's policy is that that any road in the Town is our road and will be treated as such. Member Andrew Hammond brought up the matter of Victoria Ct., which had not been dedicated by the builder. He has heard Town already took the builder's bond to pay the taxes on the land. His road was plowed due to Civic Association action. President Carta noted that the Commissioner had mentioned getting the road dedicated. In this case the Town Attorney will have to go after the contractor's performance fund. The Town Attorney noted today we have seized their performance fund, and are in litigation. The Commissioner offered to get will get clarification from the Town Attorney tomorrow and report back on the status.

Member Marilyn Triolo asked if there is a mechanism that can be put in place so this does not happen in the future. The Commissioner stated that since there is very little building going on right now, there is some time to be vigilant to do the right thing with new roads coming online.

A member brought up Shore Drive.; several years ago the road was widened 4' to accommodate the construction of new homes. The work was shoddy, and is deteriorating and the member asked if there was a performance bond? The condition is located across the street from 408 Shore Dr. The Commissioner stated the Town would look into it.

President's Report

President Carta stated that in the interest of time that he would deliver the President's report this month via email.

Open Floor

Member Brian Lowery stated that last time he visited the Civic, Connetquot Superintendent Groveman told us that kids were required to take milk with each meal whether they want it or not because it was mandated, and a lot of it gets thrown out. *[Editor Note: this was actually the policy in place at the state level at the time that Dr. Groveman spoke about it].* In researching the issue, Mr. Lowery found that this policy is no longer in effect. There is a newer program called "follow and serve," which has now been put into effect in the district. President Carta thanked Mr. Lowery for identifying this change. The adoption of the new policy will control waste, which is a great thing.

Member Lisa Vaccaro thanked the Town for finally taking down the old tree that has been an issue on her block of Stuyvesant Rd., cleaned it up, and ground the stump. A Town Inspector approached them and asked if the Vaccaros were satisfied, we said no, and the service company was back they were back the next day to do the job the right way. This level of attention from the Town is appreciated.

Ms. Vaccaro mentioned another issued on Stuyvesant: three storm drains are coupled together. Not all runoff makes it to these drains, especially water running from the Premm School, which floods the end of the street. Never makes it the distance to the drains. Commissioner Baker noted that he would have this investigated.

Councilman Steve Flotteron thanked President Carta and the membership for having such a good turnout. It allows the focus to be kept on Oakdale. Mr. Flotteron specifically thanked Cathy Cohen for her hard work on behalf of the Community. He stated that the Town doesn't have enough money to get all the streets done at once, but progress is being made. We have Cathy Cohen to thank who has been coming to board meeting to Town Board meetings to raise awareness and ask for solutions.

Councilman Flotteron noted he has been attending Oakdale Civic Association Meetings for the past 4 years. He has been pleased with the Civics' focus on community visioning and development of a vision plan – a plan for the future of what our main street would be. Recently the Town approved getting the gas station on the corner of Oakdale Bohemia Rd and Montauk Hwy rezoned and changed – and the new structure will be an improvement. This is a direct result of the dialogue and work with the Civic Association and the Round Table.

Corresponding Secretary Marilyn Triolo asked if anything additional is going on with the Dowling parking lot. Town representatives did not have an update and stated that Dowling has the right to abandon the property and they can't be forced to upgrade. Now that the Bronco Charlie's building has been razed it will take more time to get to the next step with that property.

President Carta thanked the membership and asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm.

The next general meeting of the Oakdale Civic Association will be held on Monday, May 10 at 7:30pm. Our guest speaker will be Connetquot Schools Superintendent Alan Groveman who will address the district budget vote.

Thank you to the membership to adjourn the meeting 9:10pm.