

**Oakdale Civic Association
General Monthly Meeting
October 11, 2010**

2010 Officers

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

Directors

Cathy Cohen – not present

Minutes Recorded by Carol Schwasnick

www.OakdaleCivicAssociation.org

Ray Carta initiated meeting with the pledge of allegiance at 7:35pm.

President Carta presented the minutes from the September meeting, which were also distributed by email and posted to the website.

Treasurer’s Report: Pat Kassten

There was no income this month from dues. Ray Carta was reimbursed for the expenses approved for the planting event which was held in May. To date there are 199 paid members for 2010, and 6 for 2011. Future mailings will include a membership form for 2011.

President’s Report: Ray Carta

President Carta reported that we received a letter from the school district thanking us for sponsoring our scholarship and asking if we will plan to do it again. There have been some recent questions from members on our criteria. Current criteria states that the recipient be a resident of Oakdale, be community minded and have participated in community events; have an 80% GPA and should not have won any other scholarship. This year we increased the scholarship to \$600 from \$500 in previous years, and had 6 applicants. There is some concern that the guidance department is not doing a good job of communicating the scholarships available. Other scholarships have also had a low number of applicants. President Carta asked the membership if we should we change the description to get more applicants.

Discussion ensued on whether we should change the description to read as a “civic minded student with an emphasis on environment.” The membership stated that the Oakdale Civic Association started because of Benton Bay, and “stop the bulldozer” used to be on the letterhead. General support of environmental causes might be more current than specifically on wetlands. President Carta stated he would approach guidance on increasing publicity on scholarships offered.

A few residents have spoken to President Carta about drug activity in the alleyway behind Lighthouse Commons Shopping Center. They have reported seeing syringes left in the area, President Carta noted that he would contact Inspector Mojica from the 5th Precinct to bring this issue to his attention and make sure this area is on the patrol.

Meet the candidates night at Oakdale Bohemia Jr. High School had an attendance of 80 people, and the audience was very vocal. Candidates in attendance included Zeldin for Senate (Foley was absent); Bob Curran, Goglas, Loguercio, and Steve Behar for judgeships; Congressional candidates

Israel and Gomez; and Assembly candidates Mangan, Graf and Fields among others. It was very interesting and President Carta recommended that folks attend these in the future as a great way to understand who is running and what they represent.

President Carta noted that he had learned that Nature's Bounty should have applied for a permit to host a party here at the St. John's campus over the summer. They had 3000 people here, and the Town would not have initiated a permit for a gathering that large.

President Carta had handout on an upcoming anti-drug forum coming up. The date is Oct 25 from 7-9:30pm and will take place at the High School.

School District Budget Suvery: All households in the district will be getting a card with a unique login and individual ID. Last year the district initiated the first survey very quickly and as a result it was not as tightly controlled as it should have been. The new format should be easy to use and will better control results.

Member John Eder posed the question of how many families the survey would be sent to. How many households are within the district? President Carta stated he would look to find out.

President Carta initiated a discussion of the "Welcome to Oakdale" signs. The sign on Locust coming in from Bohemia has no shrubs, etc. - it looks a bit downtrodden. The one from West Sayville, the one from Great River - these look good. Nancy Quinn said she had all the background on how the signs came to be located and installed Ray did an artistic rendering of plantings and how this could improve the Locust Ave. sign. The signs originally went up years ago, the Town paid for them and this had been championed by Gene Murphy in the planning dept. Richie Sullivan put the plastic in front of the signs after they were damaged a few times. Nancy agrees about the condition of the Locust sign. Discussion ensued about possible donation of monies to cover the work. Vice President Feldman noted that Anthony Quintal now lives in Oakdale, he owns Quintal landscaping and Brightwaters Farms. Stan offered to call him to discuss recommendations.

A meeting guest noted that on Holbrook-Patchogue Rd. there are several signs and very nice landscaping around them for Holbrook, which were funded by the Holbrook Chamber of Commerce. They put sprinklers in, etc. It was suggested that we take a look at what was done there to get a good idea of what's possible. It was discussed to set up an "adopt a highway" type fund to pay for the landscaping.

It was discussed that the Plexiglas was installed to protect that sign, but it needs to be cleaned and makes the sign look bad. A member asked the question, "Who owns that land the sign is on?" The reply is that it is likely owned by the Long Island Rail Road as it is adjacent to the train tracks. It was also noted that it is very hard ground, and so there would need to be some site work and topsoil added. President Carta offered to put up \$150 if the Civic would vote to put up \$150. President Feldman will speak to Mr. Quintal and then we will touch base again on the topic.

A member raised the question of where the border of Oakdale actually are. The answer is that along portions of Locust Ave., it is Oakdale on one side and Bohemia on the other.

President Carta has sent out a survey regarding what members like at meetings, what you don't like. An email will be going out as well on this. He would like some feedback on what everyone would like to see at our meetings going forward.

He continued that this is the time of year where we need to form a nominating committee. Purpose is to nominate and find folks to fill the positions on the board. Ray mentioned he has thoroughly enjoyed serving as President for the past two years, but has to step back due to other commitments.

The membership asked what the job duties are for the various offices the summary is as follows:

- President: there is no village or hamlet government so it almost like being the mayor. You hear from everybody from people with deck permit issues, to disputes between groups. President Carta noted that although it does take time, it is not as time consuming as the other organizations he is part of. Does it take up a lot of your time? Duties include arranging speakers, updating the website, collecting news from various agencies, coordinating with other local groups, generating the meeting agendas, and putting the monthly meeting notice together.
- Vice President: Duties overlap with and support that of President
- Treasurer: Collects all the dues and tracks on the computer, make deposits in the bank account, track CD's and reports monthly on income and expenses.
- Recording Secretary: Responsible for taking notes at the meetings, generating and distributing meeting minutes and posting them to the website; supplies local publications with information on monthly meetings for print; responsible for working with print vendor to coordinate mailing of monthly meeting notice; assists other officers with duties as needed.
- Corresponding Secretary: Responsible for written communications with other organizations, handles membership mailings etc.
- Directors are appointed by the executive board.

Vice President Feldman noted that we get quick responses from the Town, Gene Murphy when we reach out to them. We have a lot of credibility. The President and Vice President get some strange phone calls on occasion, you can tend to be where people think to go when they don't know where to go, and you can help to direct them properly.

Mr. Feldman noted that he is hoping to stay on as Vice President. He gave some history in that 15 years ago the meetings were held at the public library in Bohemia. Stan was nominated for President at that time and held that office for a number of years.

The membership asked the question, "What do you see as the main things the Civic has to do." President Carta stated that in the absence of a crisis –something the Civic was founded on - I see the Civic is the lead group in the neighborhood to organize community events, call the other groups, and look to do it together. The Civic is the natural for this role. The Chamber of Commerce has a function but it is business minded. The Civic has a little broader range.

The official descriptions of the officer roles are in the Bylaws on the website but they are very flexible jobs. The primary thrust is communication and to pass information on to the community and from the Community to other organizations. The Town Council members and Supervisor have to answer to 300-400 thousand people. It is much more efficient if someone from our board calls and spearheads issues on behalf of Oakdale.

Oakdale Roundtable: IHTA, OIS, Chamber and us. These organizations came together and developed a Vision Plan for Oakdale. This is an accomplishment as it is the first Vision Plan accepted by the Town for any Village or Hamlet etc.

Ray will reach out by email to everyone on nominations for office, please respond if you would like to nominate yourself or someone else.

John Eder noted that as a reminder, there is a meeting on the West Sayville Fire Department budget on Oct 19 at the West Sayville fire house. The information is on their website: www.wsfd.com. There is a link from the OCA website.

Open Floor:

Member John Eder asked if anything been heard about a freestanding CVS etc., have not heard anything about it recently. Other members noted that we don't have a drug store in Oakdale and it would be a bonus to have one here. It would be a bonus to have a pharmacy in Oakdale. However there is no news to report on this topic. Nobody wants to take a new project right now with the

economy still not in full rebound.

Maninos has purchased a house on Forbes and will look to expand their parking lot The Town has hired an independent traffic contractor to do a traffic survey in Idle Hour Blvd. So many stop signs now on Idle Hour that traffic has moved to the side streets. VP Feldman will make a call to the Town on this topic.

Yale Avenue: A member noted that Yale Ave. needs to be paved. There are several potholes and there has not been a good repair job done there in 15-20 years. Back then they used slurry, and it deteriorates. VP Feldman suggested contacting Richard Baker at the DPW. The primary issue is at the intersection of Yale and Woody Lane, and that particular block of Yale.

President Carta requested a motion to adjourn, motion made and seconded at 8:52pm. Our next meeting will be Monday Nov 8 at 7:30pm.