

**Oakdale Civic Association
General Monthly Meeting
June 13, 2011**

Officers

President:	Carol Schwasnick	Not Present
Vice President:	Stan Feldman	Present
Treasurer:	Pat Kassten	Present
Corresponding Secretary:	Brian Bast	Present
Recording Secretary:		
Directors:	Cathy Cohen	Present
	Ray Carta	Present

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Meeting called to order:

Vice President Stan Feldman called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:34 pm.

Vice President Feldman presented the minutes from the May meeting and requested a motion to accept as written. Member Joanne Festa made a motion, this was seconded.

Treasurer's Report: Pat Kassten

Pat provided an update on income and expenditures and membership to date.

Presentation of the Oakdale Civic Association 2011 Scholarship

Our winner this year is graduating senior Ryan Wickes. Mr. Wickes is an Oakdale resident who has had an excellent academic record throughout his high school career. He has served as both treasurer and more recently as president of Connetquot High School's chapter of Habitat for Humanity. Mr. Wickes is planning on being a premed major in college and has applied to a number of SUNY schools as well as others. Mr. Wickes was on hand to receive the scholarship from our Board and we wish him congratulations on his future endeavors.

Vice President Feldman requested a motion to waive the order of the meeting to accommodate the evening's guest speakers. The membership made a motion and seconded.

Guest Speaker: St. John's University

St. John's University presented their plans for preservation and development of the Oakdale Campus. Ginny Fields led the first part of the presentation and introduced representatives from the University including **David Bolt and their Vice President of Facilities**. She gave an introduction to the history of St. John's, and noted that the Southside Sportsman's Club was the launching point for other settlement and development in the Oakdale area. The Club and the area were visited by several US Presidents and World Leaders. Fishing was popular on the Connetquot River from these early days. Ms. Fields explained about the history of the various properties, and the transfer of these properties. She gave some detail on this history of the Bourne Family and of the floor plan of the Bourne Mansion where the Civic holds its monthly meetings. Detail on the contents of the mansion, historical photos of the boat house and boats and revolving garage were presented. Ms. Fields also touched on the history of the West Oak Recreation Club (WORC), which is a private community located between the West Sayville Golf Course – the former Meadow Edge estate – and St. John's property. Further facts:

- The Bourne property was sold to LaSalle Military Academy in 1926 and consists of 170 acres.
- The Ockers family, who built a reputation in the area, were involved in the oyster business.
- The Oakdale Train Station was built in 1899 and was designed by an architect by the name of Greene, of Sayville.
- St. John's Episcopal Church was built in 1765
- The Bayard Cutting Arboretum in Great River is 931 acres
- A gentleman named Dutch Shultz ran a whisky ring in Oakdale and was considered public enemy #1 by the FBI at that time.

St. John's VP of Facilities led the second part of the presentation which focused on development plans. St. John's has campuses in Rome, Paris, Oakdale, Queens, Manhattan and Staten Island. The school opened in 1870 and the Oakdale campus in 2001 after the school obtained the property from LaSalle Academy.

At the Oakdale Campus St. John's runs an Au Pair program, they also hold special events and meetings, and holds classes for the Schools of Education and Arts and Sciences. More funding is needed to keep the Oakdale campus running, and decisions need to be made for how to do that. The Mansion is falling apart and needs many repairs at a cost of approximately \$40M. The campus costs \$3M to \$5M per year to run, not including utility costs. Some options were outlined:

Sell some or all of the property to a developer, who will build housing.
Sell part of the property for condos.

The housing would help generate income to keep the campus viable. There are plans for a mixed use parcel of land adjacent to Montauk Hwy that would contain housing, stores, etc. No sewer treatment plant is in place, and is very expensive to install – that is one challenge.

Other aspects of the project would propose to have the Bourne Mansion entrance as a tribute to the Mansion itself, with the St. John's sign moved to the west gate. In addition the Boat House would be slated for restoration, with funds allocated immediately to this effort.

Possible programs for St. John's future would include subjects such as oceanography, science and technology, marine biology, and earth sciences. The overall proposal includes opening the campus up to the public, so traffic safety will need to be studied as well.

The presentation was concluded by St. John's attorney at 9:45pm. At a Planning meeting on June 30th, the group will present the development plan to the Town.

Vice President/ Director's Reports

Director Ray Carta highlighted the planting event that took place earlier in the month. As usual this was a great success in helping to beautify the Oakdale Train Station, with the help of local Cub Scout troop 1001.

Director Cathy Cohen reported that the gas tanks are now installed at the corner of Montauk Hwy and Oakdale Bohemia Road. The entrance for the service station from Oakdale Bohemia Rd will be moved 20 ft. south due to safety concerns with the proximity of the drive to trains at the crossing.

Director Cohen also noted that the Montauk Hwy drainage/sidewalk/lighting project is progressing and plans have been reviewed by community representatives. Plans include reconfiguring the intersection of Montauk Hwy and Oakdale Bohemia Rd to remove the triangle and improve pedestrian and traffic safety. Bill Lindsay has scheduled a meeting for June 27 for community representatives to ask more detailed questions to the project engineer.

Vice President Feldman noted that the Town has reported that Princess Gate will be repaved this summer, and Pig Wallow Pond will be cleaned up and dredged. VP Feldman also gave an update on

the stop lines at Locust Ave. at Montauk Hwy and the reason for their positioning.

Director Raymond Carta gave a mention to the Boy Scouts, and that the OCA website provides a link to Community Service.

The Town has reported that the Idle Hour drainage project will be completed in August 2011, weather permitting. Also, after review at the request of the membership the Idle Hour Blvd. stop signs will remain in place.

At the Sayville Post Office there has been a formal request for traffic study and stop signs.

Corresponding Secretary Brian Bast reported graffiti being sighted at Byron Lake at the building by the playground. Vice President noted that he has been advised by the Town that work plans to address issues at the part including issues with the pond and fountain are in progress and an update is to follow.

Request motion to close the meeting, motion made and seconded at 10:02pm.

Our next meeting will be on Sept 12 at 7:30pm.