

**Oakdale Civic Association  
General Monthly Meeting  
March 14, 2011**

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**Officers**

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

Minutes Recorded by Bob Mirro

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**Meeting called to order:**

President Carol Schwasnick called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm. Past President and Cub Master Ray Carta, from Pack 1001, introduced prospective Eagle Scout, Christopher Recupero of Scout Pack 272, who led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Schwasnick asked the membership if they had any corrections to offer. Seeing none, a motion was made to accept the minutes as presented. President Schwasnick requested to suspend the order of the meeting for the benefit of the membership and two guest speakers. A motion was made to accommodate the speakers.

**Guest Speaker: Ray Carta, Cub Scout Master, Pack 1001, Bohemia**

Mr. Carta introduced his pack as being chartered by the Bohemia Fire Department. The Boy Scouts of America required that each pack be chartered and supported by a local organization. He explained that scouting leadership helps young men follow the scouting way for the purposes of training these youth in the way that is consistent with the overall vision of scouting. Ray explained that scouting is one of the last places where, very openly, people can help guide today's young men to emphasize God, family and country.

Mr. Carta explained that the structure of the Cub Scout Pack is comprised of dens like a wolf pack, in 5 or 6 dens. And, that scouts start can start in first grade and go up to fifth grade. He then explained that the first badge the cubs need to earn is the Bobcat badge. Then, they work toward their Tiger badge after that. Ray then explained that the following year, the Cubs work toward their Wolf badge and then their Bear badge.

Mr. Carta then went onto explain that by the time the Cubs make it out of fifth grade and have exhausted all the required badges, the next level they work toward is called Weblos, which stands for 'We be Loyal Scouts'. Scouts continue to work on activities to reach a higher degree called Weblos II. After Weblos II, scouts work toward their Arrow of Light.

Scouting is a faith based organization that is 100% self funded through dues and fundraising. Scouting runs for ten months out of the year and leaders plan all year long even through the Summer to prepare for September.

Until ten years ago, the biggest supporter of scouting was the Department of Defense. But, due to several groups pointing to separation of Church and State, the relationship between DoD and the scouts was not continued.

Mr. Carta pointed out that several core values are stressed:

Family understanding	Character development
Faith	Respect and responsibility
Friendly service	Health and fitness

Also, Mr. Carta explained that there are several virtues important to scouting:

Wisdom	Hope
Love	Faith

Mr. Carta explained that this is a family endeavor where the entire family is invited to participate. The pack always finds a way to include all that are interested, even if money is an issue for the family. Some of the activities and field trips include:

Overnights at the aquarium	Laser tag
Picnics	Barbeques
Monster trucks shows	Pinewood Derby

To tie scouting in to the civic association, Mr. Carta noted that there is a lot of synergy between the two groups as evidenced by their belief in duty and service. Examples of community service include:

- Raking leaves for veterans,
- Sorting out cans, plastic, bottles and paper for seniors,
- Honoring seniors lifetime achievement

Mr. Carta mentioned that there are eleven uniformed leaders and a very involved parent group. He also noted that every leader is completely background checked by scouting officials. Ray pointed out that there may be opportunities where the scouts and the community can work together in the future.

### **Troup Master Joe Recupero from, Boy Scout Troop 272**

Mr. Recupero became a Scout later in life to help and support his son Christopher's endeavor. Mr. Recupero pointed out that in Cub Scouts, the parents are very involved and plan the events for the children. The Boy Scouts on the other hand do the planning of their meetings and excursions under the guidance of grown-ups but by and large the scouts set the agenda and do the hands-on development of their agendas.

Mr. Recupero discussed the ranks of a Boy Scout Tender Foot starting from a very young age and leads up to the pinnacle of Eagle Scout in the late teens. This builds confidence and character while preparing these young men to lead others and give talks.

Mr. Recupero mentioned that the Boy Scouts themselves, under the guidance and supervision of adult leaders as mentors, pick and plan their activities such as back packing for a week, canoeing, rafting, etc.

President Schwasnick pointed out, and Mr. Carta emphasized that the OCA website had a link for the purpose of matching up and/or facilitating help from many different groups as a community service. This is an opportunity for more collaboration between the Civic and the local scouts.

## **Islip Town Councilman Steve Flotteron**

Mr. Flotteron mentioned that the work to the Idle Hour drainage project should be complete in August. A member pointed out that the project was slated to be finished in June, and Mr. Flotteron explained that there were some weather related delays. Issues also discussed were:

- The roadway on Princess Gate is scheduled to be resurfaced this year.
- Drainage problems on Stuyvesant Road will be addressed soon.
- There has been trash remove on Appian Way.
- A guard rail will be removed at Biltmore Road onto the bridge to facilitate the safe passage of emergency vehicles.
- The recent Idle Hour traffic study recommended that the stop signs not be removed.
- The OCA board will send a formal request for the Idle Hour Blvd. Traffic Study.

Mr. Flotteron discussed the general the philosophy of the planning department to protect and improve historic buildings such as St. John's but there are ongoing discussions with regard to upkeep.

Mr. Flotteron discussed the lighting at the Bay Shore marina in that there are dark sky rules governing how much light could be thrown. It was his goal to make it more walkable while making it more inviting for families to enjoy. Several questions were raised to Mr. Flotteron by the membership:

- A member inquired about snow removal and outside contractors. Some members were concerned about familiarity with the snow removal route, technique and damage to property. Mr. Flotteron pointed out that it is the homeowner's responsibility to maintain, keep clear, shovel, etc sidewalks and fire hydrants in front of their home up to their curb line. Similarly, businesses, condos and other organizations like places of worship are also responsible for snow removal in front of their properties.
- A member asked Mr. Flotteron to thank Councilwoman Trish Bergin for helping rectify problems pertaining to Princess Gate as a dedicated road.
- A member asked for an update with regard to the Rollstone property and lacrosse fields. Mr. Flotteron pointed out that things are moving along. Director Cathy Cohen stated there is an easement problem with regard to running along East behind Windmill Gate from Locust.
- A member asked for an update regarding the gas station on the corner of Oakdale-Bohemia Road and Montauk Hwy. Mr. Flotteron and Cathy Cohen reiterated that the MTA owns the right- of-way from East to West and South to North for the purpose of their vehicles to approach for maintenance. The proposed location of the curb cut from the Oakdale Bohemia Rd. has been changed in building plans in an attempt to allow work to move forward.
- A member raised a concern with regard to the property just south of the Oakdale Bohemia Middle School and drainage. The owner of the aforementioned apartments petitioned to shed their age restriction requirements so that young couples starting out and/or senior citizens alike could benefit from the zoning change. This petition was recently granted by the Town.
- A member mentioned concerns about the proposed selling of the Oakdale Driving Range. The concern was that more condominiums would be built. Mr. Flotteron pointed out that there were drainage issues.
- A member asked what the Town was doing to rectify the problem with street lights

being out.

Mr. Flotteron pointed out that a community effort could pursue the clean-up of down town areas such as Oakdale just south of the train station in and around the Peters Property. It was pointed out that this could be an ongoing project organized by several cooperating groups such as, but not limited to Scouts, Honor Societies, Chamber and Civic members, KIC (Keep Islip Clean).

Several members expressed their concern that the sign rules were not being enforced. In particular the sign for the Auction House on Sunrise Hwy which has been putting its signs on Montauk and Locust as well as Sunrise and Locust on both the North and South service roads.

**Treasurer's report: Pat Kassten**

Financial highlights this month include income from dues of \$200, and disbursements of \$159 for the purchase of a recording device, \$92 for the postal box, \$185 for the Oakdale Post Master permit. Cash on hand was \$5653.74. There is a CD of \$4978.41 with accrued interest leaving total cash on hand of \$10,000. Paid membership to date is 162.

**Town Report: Cathy Cohen**

Sun Nation has expressed an interest in building something on the Peters property. The planning department pointed out that the plans need to be consistent with the vision of the Oakdale Round Table.

Ms. Cohen pointed out that the vision plan has slated a down town style approach for the Peter's property geared at stores being up close to the street with some parking in the back and a multiuse approach. It was mentioned that Oakdale Yacht Company, which moved south toward the water, may be a better property for what this business is interested in.

A question arose about the property across from Mannino's restaurant (former Bronco Charlie's Location owned by Dowling). A member noticed that the chains were down that had been blocking the entrance to the parking lot. It was suggested that this could be due to snow removal machines, but that since Mannino's has built additional parking adjacent to its location, they have not appeared to be using the Dowling lot across the street.

**President's Report: Carol Schwasnick**

President Schwasnick discussed upcoming guest speaker as Connetquot School District's Director of Fine Arts, Mr. Jon Lasher who will bring along the High School Chamber Ensemble for entertainment.

Ms. Schwasnick mentioned that a law was passed with regard to blighted properties. A certain amount of points were allocated to infractions such as graffiti, trash, overgrown, etc. If a property is abandoned or not kept up over time, this gives the town the ability to pursue, manage and correct the problem. Mr. Flotteron pointed out that other legislation has been developed to address boats and cars on the lawns and such.

President Schwasnick mentioned that she contacted Representative Al Graf and he reported that he had signed legislation to repeal the MTA Tax and that he is working with community agencies that have lost funding to restore some of this via grants.

The topic of refreshments for and against came up again and the membership was split yes/no and pronounced as inconclusive. The issue was requested to be tabled for the next meeting.

**Open session:**

Members shared their thoughts on:

- Who is allowed to speak during open session in terms of paid members vs. non-members

- Cleaning trash in and around the Light House Commons.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:38 pm, motion seconded, meeting adjourned.  
Our next meeting will take place on Monday April 11, 2011 at 7:30pm.