

**Oakdale Civic Association
General Monthly Meeting
June 9, 2008**

2008 Officers

President:	Stan Feldman	523-8835
Vice President:	Ray Carta	218-0041
Treasurer:	Pat Kassten	589-8222
Recording Secretary	Carol Schwasnick	589-7455
Corresponding Secretary	Marilyn Triolo	589-5981

Board Members

Cathy Cohen
John Eder

Minutes Recorded by: Carol Schwasnick

President Feldman called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm, opening with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Joanne Festa motioned to waive the reading of the minutes. This motion was seconded. Joanne Festa motioned to accept the minutes. This motion was seconded.

Buddie offered up minutes from the Windmill Gate Community from 1993 that states the sump property was turned over to the Town for ongoing maintenance etc., and seems to resolve the ownership question. This letter was intercepted by Councilman Steve Flotteron who will deliver it to the proper contact at the Town.

Treasurer's report: Pat Kassten

Income from dues this month: \$60. Income from donations: \$10. Disbursements: scholarship for \$500. Barbara Williams summarized the award presentation.

President's report: Stan Feldman

President Feldman reported on the status of the car show that has been running in the Oakdale Shopping Center (East) on Thursday nights. He has spoken to Mike Morrissey, the son-in-law of Tony Dalto, the property owner. The owners have been concerned about the car show for some time, liability with use of the property. The show started out local, but we now have people coming from all over the Island, and it has gotten too big. Plus it will go by the wayside once Chase starts building their bank on the property. Chase is currently in negotiations with the Town on specifics for this project.

This meeting was attended by 8-10 non OCA members who have been participating in or attending the car show regularly. They attended the meeting to express their disappointment with the car show being discouraged and relocated from Oakdale and cited that it is a good family venue. The speakers included Vincent Amarando, who has lived in Oakdale for 40 years, and attends every week. He noted that 70-80 people at that show live in Oakdale. Wendy's, the dry cleaners, Best Yet Market, the pizza place – all do well on Thursday nights. The group feels that the car show has been a benefit to the neighborhood, and Mr. Amarando stated that he heard that the Oakdale Civic Association is the reason that it stopped. Member Joanne Festa stated that she has been living in Oakdale for 20 years, and to adjacent residents like her the situation has been very intolerable. People urinating in public has been common. It is not peaceful, but loud into the evenings, and has equated to 3-4 years of noise and air pollution.

President Feldman stated that the car show is nothing that anybody here was able to prevent and only the owner of the shopping center has that ability. Mr. Feldman stated that there was a matter of liability there because there have also been people doing business during the car show who are not merchants in the center and are using this man's property to conduct that business. It is not a truly organized event, in that it lacks public assembly permits and facilities are required. It was noted that 105 people from the neighborhood have signed a petition in favor of stopping the car show that is posted to the web. Mr. Amarando stated that there is a petition with 5000 names in favor of the show. President Feldman stated that the situation is not in any of our hands; it is up to the landlord as far as how to proceed. He advised the car show supporters that if they wanted to appeal then the proper channel would be the property owner.

President Feldman also noted that for future reference, members of the public who are not members of the OCA should reach out and call him in advance to discuss the possibility of adding their issue to the agenda, if applicable. Mr. Feldman stated that if the property owner agrees to their request to continue the show, he is fine with it, but it is notable that the show does bother those people that live adjacent to the location. The people that live there did not sign on for a car show in their back yard when they bought their houses. President Feldman did end the discussion at this point and directed the visitors to take up further discussion with the owner of the shopping center.

Town Council Report: Steve Flotteron

The Town recreation guide just came out. Mr. Flotteron distributed copies for the membership. He also noted that now it is a law that the Town must post public hearing notices 5 days before the hearing, we can check on the site prior to our own meetings to see what is coming up that is impactful to us in Oakdale. The meeting dates are listed on the Town Calendar.

President Feldman noted that the burrito restaurant that has interest in the former Giving Tree Academy Store has a roadblock there. Mr. Feldman noted that if it takes more than 30 days to resolve the tenant is walking. Both stores in that shopping center are empty now, Mr. Flotteron cited he will be happy to help and address with the Town.

Town Report: John Eder

Cactus Café: they had a hearing on June 5, last Thursday. One party who lived behind it showed up. Parking is a concern, issues with smells emanating from the restaurant. Board decided to reserve their decision, which is leading to concern on the timing on the part of the restaurant.

Coan's landscaping: Planning Director Gene Murphy said they would have to be inspected again regarding the clean up, does not look good at the moment.

Chase Bank: there is an application for a drive-through. Town asked for brick and a more traditional look, no response yet from the Bank.

Windmill Sump: The Town says it's the County, the County (Bill Lindsay) says it's the Town. Steve F will check into it right away, with the minutes in hand that were brought up at the start of the meeting. A member noted that there is a Town sign on the fence with a phone number on it.

Bronco Charlie's: Dowling paper said it was sold when it wasn't. Ginny Fields and Bill Lindsay asked Dowling and Dowling said there was no sale. Officially there is no sale, but the tone Gene had is maybe there is something they are trying to work out. Town submitted plans back to either Dowling or Trapanis as to how the plan would work and be compliant but have not heard anything back.

St. John's: more than one inquiry since last time John spoke about it. Cushman & Wakefield is doing an assessment of the property, to see how and who to sell this property to. The Town wants to have the Mansion preserved; the Town also wants to have open, environmentally sensitive areas preserved.

Sidewalks on Locust Ave: since a different legislator, Steve Levy, introduced the transfer of funds from Oakdale-Bohemia Road to Locust Ave., the letter Ginny Field sent does not matter. Mr. Eder has been told this is now in the hands of Sheldon Silver. It is not likely to get much attention.

Rollstone Estates: Issues with the acquisition. Whatever appraisal was done is coming in very low, so the owner will not be happy. The sale will depend on how bad the kids that inherited this property want to get rid of it. One of them heads up Tony's Barge – Fire Island Waste Management. Numerous objections to the property acquisition at the Town Hall meeting, lots of objections to developing it. Still coming down to access and one house the developer bought and is now renting. The property consists of 12-13 acres with old greenhouses.

The access to the property would require a long access road with no sidewalk, split between two school districts. It is going to be hard to move the deal forward.

John asked Gene Murphy: what is new that we have not mentioned? Mr. Murphy replied that there is something with the Gargano driving range: he thought it was significant that no application has been submitted to Town yet on that property. Since Mr. Gargano is also developing the corner of Connetquot Ave and Sunrise Hwy in Islip Terrace, he seems to have his hands full with that.

Alessi's Maria Luisa's has a new sign: "OK" Dokey. Logo similar to old OkeyDokey logo, which has gone bankrupt. Did a search online. Frank Aiello's name came up with a phone number.

Last month someone asked about Yale Ave. Mr. Eder drove down there recently and it was a mess, now it is all clean. Got done before he could call DPW. President Feldman noted that things are starting to happen with Public Works, there was a storm water meeting at Town Hall. After Stan's complaint on potholes they were patched 2 days later. Recently they were there clearing the drain. They are starting to respond, which is good.

A member noted that he read in the paper recently that there are OSHA violations at the high school. President Feldman noted that it has been going on for a while, and the district is trying to take care of it. The Teacher's union is playing hardball with the district. The DEC has been on it, and it is minor, they are trying to correct it. Chuck Triolo brought it to Stan's attention. The press report was rather overblown.

Barbara Schermerhorn and President Feldman were invited to attend the HS awards ceremony last week. Rita Kushner and Barbara Schermerhorn read all of the applications for the OCA scholarship. Lucille Weigand won the award due to her exceptional achievements including but not limited to 5 years of field hockey, volunteering as a candy striper, cystic fibrosis walks, involvement with a prom boutique, soup kitchen work, playing basketball at St. John's CYO, and working as a waitress at Villa Lombardi. She works at Old Navy now. Her essay was about her most meaningful experience, which was working as a candy striper because she got to help other people. Very impressive student, and on the honor role at school.

President Feldman noted that the Maritime Museum is hosting a Pirate Festival this weekend with buses from Best Yet shopping center. He encouraged all to attend.

Guest Speaker: Steve Jones, CEO of the Suffolk County Water Authority.

Steve Jones' experience includes working as a planner for Town of Islip and Suffolk County. He is also Stan's vice-chairman at the Maritime Museum. Wisdom and tact are his forte, according to Stan.

Mr. Jones presented a power point on the Water Authority's work. The Water Authority is a 1 billion dollar company with 378K customer accounts. There are wells and office space located right here in Oakdale. Tonight he will discuss for us what it means to live over our water supply. The Water Authority is a tax exempt entity. Its mission is to keep the water as clean and inexpensive as possible and people generally like that. The water sources and delivery system is highly decentralized and runs from Amityville to Montauk. The amount of pipes serving Long Island could run from here to Los Angeles and back.

Suffolk County aquifers are our water source. There is no water coming from the Catskills or Connecticut. Due to the configuration of the aquifer, there are shallow wells on the north shore, wells on the south shore are deeper, and therefore can pick up iron. Shallow wells pick up other contaminants. Iron or rust is a natural deposit. Wells in the Pine Barrens area are the future water supply for all of Suffolk County. Very pure and clean, no development around it, and don't have to drill that deep. Unsewered cesspools work their way down into the water. Power plant runoff, sewer areas with chemicals, golf courses, landfills, farms all contribute to surface pollution due to runoff of contaminants. Deep wells can be affected by something far away. Oakdale is famous as a low lying area with drainage problems. The wells nearest us are on Montauk Hwy, and contributed to from near the airport and along Vets Hwy. SCADA control room is their "war room" on 5th Ave in Bay Shore, and can control whole system from one room if necessary. In August 2003, system was down for 1.5 minutes due to the NE grid power outage. The water authority turned on 93 independent generators to keep the water flowing. Mr. Jones stated that because of this ability, you don't need to fill bathtub in a hurricane. He also recommends having auto-gauges on sprinklers to keep water usage low. He noted that pump stations can be brought up or down as needed, water constantly monitored for consistency. Security at all pump stations, have installed security that can be centrally monitored since 9/11. There is an iron removal system, which involves lots of pipes. The Montauk Hwy site in Oakdale has a treatment building where lyme is added to get the PH to 7.5; there is a chlorine room to make sure there are no bacteria in the water or pipes. Iron removal media is special kind of sand, and this process happens in a special iron removal building. There is an iron removal pit – which contains many plants that take out a lot of the iron. The pit is cleaned out periodically to prevent iron from getting back in the ground. Back a few years, drilled across and under the Connetquot River and ran 12" high-density plastic pipe. This was the Connetquot River directional drill. During non-peak seasons, in winter, the Montauk station is not online and at those times our water comes from the Bohemia area. At peak times the Montauk well feeds Idle Hour and Great River. The SCWA slogan is "Safe pure and constantly tested." There is a testing facility in Hauppauge for this purpose.

Wells on the south shore are generally 250 -600 ft deep. The water is drawn from the middle of the aquifers. Some north shore wells are 150-200 ft deep. Avg. on South shore is 400-500'. Takes less energy to push water out of the ground. Each has an electric motor on the top of it, Electric bill for the SCWA is \$20M/year. The SCWA is the biggest user of electricity in the summer, and second in the winter only to LIRR. Have given a lot of thought to going green, and have wind power and solar cells going in. Have sold some electrical generator power to 3rd parties, in the summer during peak electrical usage the SCWA will get a call from LIPA to turn on generators for a few hours. Last year they got a \$150K back from LIPA. Try to do whatever they can to turn down that electric bill. The cost of getting to new oil is prohibitive, in terms of increasing supply for fuel. Need to find alternative means, wind, solar and other kinds of energy. Have hybrid vehicles rolling in, couple of years ago, moving to Dodge sprinter vans, and Ford Focuses. Get 22 MPG for Sprinter vans vs. 6-8MPG for the old trucks.

A member mentioned white chunks in their water. Mr. Jones thought it might be phosphate, which is a sequestering agent, the SCWA stopped using it when the anti iron facilities were built. It was used previously to keep iron particles in motion so they did not collect on pipes.

With chlorine, you do get more in your water if you live closer to the plant. Too little can smell, as well as too much. Need the perfect balance, with just enough to disinfect. Have volunteers to test, also groundwater moves about 1' per day. Deeper wells have water that is 200 years old, shallow wells have water that is two years old. One drop of water takes 100 years to get from Vets and Johnson Ave. to Oakdale pump station. We have had to increase number of special filters – carbon filters. Several sites that need them for MTBE and other contaminants. Did not need it before WWII. In some cases we have been able to clean the water well enough that the carbon filters have been able to be removed. The government outlawed some pollutants, which has also helped. We have had salt water intrusions out East in Montauk and the North Fork. There, the freshwater aquifer is sitting on top of salt water, and you can't pump too hard. Sometimes fire hydrants are opened to flush out the system. Nowadays sewer water treatment plants are required to generate water that is pretty much drinking quality. Landscaping trucks should have a permit to take water from a hydrant. They get a plastic ring that looks like a donut, they connect to the hydrant. The SCWA wanted to make something visible to make sure nothing is being pumped back into the system. Recently reconditioned the Montauk Hwy well. Screen becoming clogged with iron and needed replacement. When using pesticide sprayers that attach to your hose, you need to be careful and make sure there is a device to prevent backflow into the hose and into the system. Sprinkler systems are supposed to have backflow protection devices also. The SCWA replaced a lot of meters in the late 1990's which also help to prevent backflow. Meter readers are costing too much to send out east, the plan is to place auto readers on more houses. The membership asked a question about giving water to those areas that are drought prone, such as NY City. Mr. Jones commented that Suffolk County legislators will not give any water to anyone given what county taxpayers have invested in the protection of our drinking water, we will never give that away. If Nassau and NYC want it they will have to pay. In Suffolk County we have 44" of rain per year and use 18" worth of water. Wells are 22" in diameter. Mains in the street are 12" in diameter, generally. Water tanks are there to create pressure. The tank behind Toys R Us in Holbrook holds about one million gallons. It fills from 9am until midnight, and keeps pressure fairly steady so it doesn't bounce around too much. One tip is that if your water has a noticeable smell or taste of chlorine and you don't like it, get a Brita filter. Coffee makers heat the chlorine out. When the water is cold, you cannot smell chlorine or taste it.

Open floor: No additional topics addressed.

Motion to adjourn by Ron Beattie. Reminder that there is a ribbon cutting at the Oakdale clock on Tues June 17 at 6pm and an installation dinner after for the Chamber of Commerce. Tuesday at 7pm. \$30/per person. Civic is a member of the chamber, so the membership is invited, need RSVP by tomorrow 6/10.

Motion to adjourn seconded, 9:10pm.