

**Oakdale Civic Association
General Monthly Meeting
September 14, 2009**

2009 Officers

President:	Ray Carta	560-4650
Vice President:	Stan Feldman	523-8835
Treasurer:	Pat Kassten	589-8222
Recording Secretary	Carol Schwasnick	589-7455
Corresponding Secretary	Marilyn Triolo	589-5981

Directors

Cathy Cohen
John Eder

Minutes Recorded by Carol Schwasnick

www.OakdaleCivicAssociation.org

President Ray Carta called the meeting to order at 7:30pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Carta welcomed everyone back after a good summer.

Senator Brian Foley was scheduled to speak at this evening's meeting, but Vice President Stan Feldman reported that due to the recent death of his father, Senator Foley will not be attending. The appearance has been rescheduled for November.

President Carta asked for a motion to accept the minutes. A motion was made and seconded. President Carta also asked for a motion to waive the rules for the remainder of the meeting to accommodate our guest speaker from the Long Island Maritime Museum. A motion was made and seconded.

Guest Speaker: Natasha Alexenko, Director of the Long Island Maritime Museum

Vice President Feldman introduced the new Museum Director. He stated that one year ago, a young lady showed up at the Museum to volunteer and got heavily involved. The Museum's Director at the time left in June and an interim director was appointed. The Museum received 144 applications for the position from all over the country. This field was narrowed down to 36, then 18 names. Stan said to the young lady that it was too bad she didn't have her master's degree – but it turned out she was actually only a few credits short of completing her degree. Ms. Natasha Alexenko officially became the Museum's director in April.

Ms. Alexenko stated that the museum does not belong to the staff - they are really the stewards of the Maritime legacy and take care of what we have so we can preserve it for generations to come. Ms. Alexenko wanted to be able to use her appearance at the Oakdale Civic Association as a venue to involve us in the museum a little more. What can we give to you? How can the museum help you with your goals? She would like to create a symbiotic relationship of sorts with us in the community.

The Museum is located on Suffolk County Park property, but the Museum and its contents are privately owned. The Parks dept is the Museum's landlord. Since they own the buildings, the LIMM operates under a license agreement. The County maintains the infrastructure, supplies the utilities and maintains the grounds. The LIMM operates as a 501-C non-for-profit educational facility. The logo for the museum is always combined with the Suffolk County

Parks logo. The County is responsible for garbage removal, cleaning the restrooms, and maintaining the property.

Ms. Alexenko pulled the OCA mission off the website, "The members of the Oakdale Civic Association are committed to protecting the interest of Oakdale residents as well as increasing communication and cooperation between all the great organizations and residents in our community" to better understand our organization. She believes the museum can help us better serve the needs of our residents, and we have not had that forum before. She would like to work together with us to help make Oakdale a destination. Ms. Alexenko posed questions to the membership:

Question:

Why is the Limm of interest to Oakdale residents?

Member Answers:

It's a nice place to visit.

Provides a vision of what our forefathers went through.

Provides information on how we got here and where we are going next.

Gives the opportunity to see the way early ships/boats were built.

Helps us to appreciate the way we live today – compared to the quality of life long ago.

We do have a very interesting water system, and it provides information about that.

It can be a venue to volunteer and participate in molding your community

It is a great destination for a picnic lunch.

Has picnic tables and look at the bay on a nice afternoon.

Ms. Alexenko also noted that the museum is open 7 days/week; the outdoor park is always open, and it offers jobs – which is something else museums bring to their communities.

Ms. Alexenko stated that this year's seafood festival was one of the most successful ones we have had even with one day being a washout due to weather. The volunteer core is so important in helping to make these events possible. The museum is dedicated to presenting how absolutely unique Long Island is, and to understand that history in a wonderful way. It is great to have an opportunity to serve the community.

Question:

How can the museum serve a bigger role?

Member Answers:

Parking is difficult at the museum, can it be expanded?

Ms. Alexenko stated that the Museum was dedicated to providing shuttles to service the seafood festival from the train station and shopping center, or the Premm School. She noted that with 10,000 people at the Seafood festival, this is the best way to remedy parking for everyone.

Children in elementary schools and cub scouts are always looking for a place to go – maybe camping out overnight in a safe place. The closer to home an event is, the easier it is on the leaders.

Ms. Alexenko noted that this has come up before, and is something that could be investigated further.

Add a swimming facility for members of the organization.

Ms. Alexenko noted that while a bathing beach may be hard to allow due to the need for lifeguards, etc. some of the greatest mulch is seaweed – which is a great beach resource we can take advantage of. To the museum it's a problem, to gardeners it could be brown gold. The museum will even allow you to drive down to the shore to get it.

Provide educational classes, such as some on marine biology.

Ms. Alexenko noted that we do offer for children a summer program called "Barrens to Bay." They catch critters and have a great time learning about the surrounding environment. This program is in partnership with the Pine Barrens Conservatory.

Vice President Feldman asked: How many retired educators in the audience? Several hands went up. VP Feldman stated that the Museum is always looking for educators to come in to put together a program.

Question: What does the museum need from Oakdale?

Answers:

Volunteers!

Please come down and sit at the gate at an event, or to share computer skills.

Member John Eder noted that there is an expert on horseshoe crabs – Dr. John Tanacredi - at Dowling College, maybe have him come and speak.

Ms. Alexenko stated that the Museum can offer the forum, for issues related to history, maritime, etc. They are talking about putting together a weekend speakers program for winter, when it's cold out and folks are looking for something to do. She stated that the Museum needs our suggestions and need our attendance at Museum events in order to flourish.

Upcoming events:

There is a Kite Festival this Saturday, September 19 from 10am to 4pm. Kids can design their own kites, and an expert is coming with the world's largest Octopus kite. There will be "bowl racing" where kids run with kite behind them and it raises them up slightly off the ground. Admission is \$2, and it is \$5 to build a kite.

Friday Oct 30th is the annual Boat Burning. There will be all types of chowder, hot apple cider, and live music. The exact timing may vary – the Fire dept. has to judge the winds. Typically the burning is at about 7pm.

There is an Art Auction that will be scheduled for December, a Casino night which will be held off the property, date TBA; and a Broadway on the Bay series is in development. This will be an opportunity for CM performing arts and other local theater companies to come in – it gives them and the museum a venue. In addition, there is a Classical Concert Series in development and the Nautical Boat Festival held in the Spring. This year the festival looked to show the evolution of the watercraft. Boat dealers are experiencing a slump, and Mr. Crowley from Oakdale Boats was quite successful this year. All of these events are a celebration of who we are, and our history.

All the events we have – they are fund raisers but the Museum looks to use them to cultivate new members and future volunteers.

The Museum sponsors the Polaris award every year for excellence in three areas: education, government affairs and community development. If there is somebody in the Oakdale community you want to nominate, please contact Ms. Alexenko.

Recently the Museum received a transportation enhancement grant, and is looking to construct a new building to be called the Ockers building. This will be a building where people can watch the restoration on vintage vessels taking place behind glass and will also include a winch to haul the vessels out of the water via a marine railway. Also noteworthy is the restored vessel "The Priscilla." This is a wonderful asset to the museum, and some insurance issues were

recently ironed out. The Museum has a business plan to get her out on the water so people can experience her.

Museum Membership: One advantage is that members will be the first to see an exhibit – a “member’s only” first viewing will be available. Membership is available at different levels for everyone: Seniors/Students are \$25, Individuals is \$40, Family is \$75, and Privileged is \$150 and includes free admission to all museums in the Council of American Maritime Museums in the US.

Patron societies: There is a group from Sayville who come together looking to make their own events. “Friends of Priscilla” will come together to raise money for the Priscilla. If you are interested in setting up a Patron Society to support something you believe in, please call or email Ms. Alexenko at natashalimm@gmail.com or 631-history.

Exhibits: we look to rotate them, so there is always something new to see. The commercial fishing exhibit represents such an important part of who we were and are. Fishing and oystering on the bay are part of our history.

Vice President Stan Feldman is also Vice Chairman of the Board for the Museum. He noted we are all connected, and encouraged us to make the Museum a part of our lives, and to attend and volunteer at Museum events. The LIMM web site is www.limaritime.org.

President’s Report

President Carta thanked folks for attending the recent planting event at the Oakdale train station. A good group of community members and boy scouts attended and it was a productive morning, the train station looks beautiful.

Of note recently is that a resident communicated about a street-marker pillar on Vanderbilt that has the wrong cross-street name on it. Linda Hart stated she will get in touch with the person responsible for the pillar.

Member Glen Siemsen introduced his idea for starting an Oakdale Historical Society. Stan Feldman suggested he begin by speaking to Pat Hogeboom, who has written books about the area. President Carta offered to list Glen’s email on the OCA web site, so people can contact him with information or interest in helping out. Glen has been organizing and bringing us refreshments for the past several meetings, which has been much appreciated.

Heroin Symposium – all the school districts in Islip has gotten together and arranged for some expert guest speakers on the topic. This is taking place at 7:30pm on Sept 17th at Hauppauge High School.

President Carta reported that the Civic Association has received a thank you letter for the OCA scholarship from winner Christopher Quinn.

Town Report: John Eder

Mr. Eder reported that he met with Gene Murphy of the Town of Islip Planning Dept. last Friday.

Bronco Charlie’s property: no applications received. Gene did talk about Manino’s parking cars on the Bronco Charlie’s property. The Town says it’s no problem because the parcel is zoned for commercial use.

Delta gas station:

The required traffic study has been completed and submitted to the Town. They do have a deadline – on Dec 31, they have to close the doors because their tanks are outdated. The Oakdale Round Table came to agreement on the look with the planning dept. The remaining

question is how traffic will flow in and out of the establishment. They have to do something to keep people from using it to drive through between Montauk Hwy. and Oakdale Bohemia Rd. The existing building will be torn down and rebuilt with a convenience store. The architect is Glen Graham, who is on the Maritime Museum's Board. Apparently the adjacent pink garage will be removed also. The owners had to pull their tanks no matter what, due to EPA regulations.

Green Cactus is now open. Oak Creek commons is now open. Oakdale-Bohemia Road – we the residents paid to have it re-blacktopped, its worse than it was before. Member Bob Irwin stated he will look into it.

Oakdale driving range:

Wilnor and Gargano have had proposals in for the property. Gargano is currently out of the picture. Wilnor's plan is down from 130 units to 109 –we are not sure if they are apartments or Town houses, but the plan will have more space and more buffers. Town is looking at that with an eye to approving it.

Stop sign at Oakdale-Bohemia Road and Waterford:

The Town said they may revisit the fact they put the signs in because they are now getting some complaints about them. A member who happens to be a police officer spoke up that the stop signs are needed. A show of hands of members found the membership to be largely in favor of the new signs remaining to improve the safety of this roadway.

A member spoke about a request for a stop sign at the corner of Idle Hour Blvd. and Beverly, right before the Idle Hour bridge. Town says it meets the criteria for a stop sign, but the Town says there was Civic opposition. This opposition did not stem from the Oakdale Civic; it was suggested the member speak about this with the Idle Hour Civic Association. Vice President Feldman gave the member a number for Pete Kleksha in DPW as x5380 and suggested a call be placed over there as well.

Washington Mutual Building:

This bank is closing, and moving to the new Chase location being built next to Wendy's. The Town stated they really do not know what is going in there to replace WaMu.

Member Glen Siemsen asked if there is any way we can get Connetquot Ave reopened to go through to Van Bomel to avoid the 5 corners. President Feldman noted that to initiate issues such as this one, it would be a good idea to give Councilman Steve Floteron's office a call.

A member brought up a condition where trees on Town property hang so low when it rains or snows, the trees hit the tops of the cars. This is on Stuyvesant Rd., east of Bayview. The Town parcels are wooded all the way down the street. Member Bob Irwin noted that the Town has now outsourced pruning work. Over the summer the Town put an X on the trees, but recently they had a turnover in contracts which is slowing down progress. The new contract started in June or July. If the trees have X's they are slated for removal.

A member brought up the bus stop location in front of the train station. There is a concrete pad and when a bus comes and pulls into the middle of that merge, it causes chaos. An adding an enclosure at this location is not desirable because now you are going to put this ugly bus stop right in front of the Christmas tree. This bus stop should be moved all the way down near the west exit from the train station parking lot. Vice President Feldman made a note to call the County and look into the issue.

Member Linda Hart stated that the Bronco Charlie's parking lot is a disgrace and she would like to have a letter written from this org to Mr. Gaffney, the president of Dowling College. She would also like to plan a letter from the Oakdale Improvement Society.

Member Bob Irwin reminded us that tomorrow 9/15 is the Democratic and Republican primary and for us to go vote.

Member Pam Burner noted that here at St. Johns there is a \$10 concert planned to benefit the church on October 4th, which will be an organ recital. Oct 25 and 26 a women's retreat will be held here at St. John's. Also, on December 11 and 12 there will be a full Christmas marketplace on side of the house with decorations, cheeses, mulled cider and Church tours. In the parking lot there will be St. Nicholas and 6 elves; and the Labyrinth will be the setting for the "Journey to Jerusalem." They are also working on having a live Crèche.

President Carta called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 pm. The motion was made and seconded.

The next meeting of the Oakdale Civic Association will be on Monday, October 12, 2009.