

**Oakdale Civic Association
General Monthly Meeting
April 11, 2011**

Officers

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

Minutes Recorded by Bob Mirro

www.OakdaleCivicAssociation.org
OakdaleCivAssoc@gmail.com

Meeting called to order:

President Carol Schwasnick called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Schwasnick asked the membership to review the minutes from the March minutes, and asked for corrections, if any. 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: Vincent Palminteri, HS Band Director, Connetquot School District

Mr. Palminteri introduced the newly formed group this year called the Woodwind Quintet consisting of Andrea Baetz on Clarinet, Blaine D'Angelis on Bassoon, Scott Kubik on French horn, Colleen Maher on Oboe, and Danielle Abbondanza on Flute. Mr. Palminteri led the quintet in two wonderful classical music pieces: Minuetto by George Lickl, and Allegro Molto by Mozart.

Mr. Palminteri pointed out that although some high schools have various small groups such as Jazz and/or chamber ensembles, not many have a woodwind quintet. Mr. Palminteri explained that it is a very rare occurrence to have a top notch woodwind quintet due to the fact that in order to put one together there needs to be specific woodwind players all of significantly high level of talent, training and dedication. The fact that Connetquot's music department is so deep rooted with many dedicated and talented students and teachers, has led to the formation of this type of small and specialized group of musicians. Mr. Palminteri spoke about the joy teaching music to young people has brought him over the years and that this new Woodwind Quintet has really been a 'labor of love'. President Schwasnick expressed appreciation on behalf of the Civic and its members for entertainment by these musicians – and although young, are a very talented group of professionals.

Mr. Palminteri stated that the Connetquot Music Department was recently named to the list of *Best Communities for Music Education in America* by the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation and that the Connetquot Marching Band recently traveled to Washington DC to participate in the *Cherry Blossom Festival Parade*.

It was also mentioned that the Oakdale Bohemia Middle School Singchronicity choir performed on a television program called "Good Day New York" in May.

Mr. Palminteri suggested other benefits of strong school music programs:

- Students who can perform complex rhythms can also make faster and more precise

corrections in many academic and physical situations.

- Students in the arts are found to be more cooperative with teachers and peers, more self-confident, and better able to express their ideas. These benefits exist across socioeconomic levels.
- College admissions officers continue to acknowledge that participation in music is an important factor in making admissions decisions. They claim that music participation demonstrates time management, creativity, expression, and open-mindedness.
- Practicing musicians demonstrate 25 percent more brain activity than non-musicians when listening to musical sounds.
- Students who participate in school band or orchestra have the lowest levels of current and lifelong use of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs among any group and mostly contribute positively to our society. - *H. Con. Res 266*, United States Senate, June 13, 2000.

Mr. Palminteri pointed out some dates to keep track of for upcoming musical performances, stating that you don't need to be a parent to appreciate great music:

Oakdale Bohemia Middle School Music Dept:

May 16, 2011 - Spring Concert part 1- 7:30 PM at Connetquot High School
(6th Grade Band, 6th Grade Orchestra, 6th Grade Chorus)

May 23, 2011 - Spring Concert part 2- 7:30 PM at Connetquot High School
(Chamber Orchestra, 8th Grade Women's Choir, 7th & 8th Grade Orchestra, 7th & 8th Grade Mixed Chorus, 7th & 8th Grade Band)

Ronkonkoma Middle School Music Dept:

May 18, 2011 - Spring Concert part 1- 7:30 PM at Connetquot High School
(6th Grade Band, 6th Grade Orchestra, 6th Grade Chorus)

May 25, 2011 - Spring Concert part 2- 7:30 PM at Connetquot High School
(Chamber Orchestra, 8th Grade Women's Choir, 7th & 8th Grade Orchestra, 7th & 8th Grade Mixed Chorus, 7th & 8th Grade Band)

High School Music Dept:

May 11th and 12th 2011 - Spring Concert - 7:30 PM at Connetquot High School
June 2, 2011 - Spring Jazz Concert - 7:30 PM at Connetquot High School

The HS is running a Band Camp Summer 2011 Week of August 15th to the 19th. The more students that show up to camp, the less after school rehearsals we will have in the fall.

Mr. Palminteri pointed out that a Booster Club called, ORBBA (Oakdale Ronkonkoma Bohemia Boosters for the Arts) is a recognized parent group that helps supports the Connetquot Drama, Music and Arts Programs. Their goal is to provide scholarships at all levels of competency, in all areas of music and arts. Your support, membership and Donations are greatly appreciated.

Guest Speaker: Dave Genaway, Commissioner of Planning and Development Town of Islip

Mr. Genaway introduced himself, as this was his first appearance at the Oakdale Civic Association since taking over the reins of the Department from Gene Murphy, and stated he has been out speaking to organizations like the OCA because he would like to develop good productive relationships with the community.

Mr. Genaway led off his discussion with an update on the proposed gas station/convenience store proposed on Oakdale-Bohemia Road and Montauk Hwy. The town board recently adopted a change of zone from a split residential and business zone to simply a dedicated business zone. It is in the

site planning stages, and is in engineering review - there should be a new building going up soon. The department has made every attempt to make the structure appealing and consistent with the architecture surrounding it, which is in line with the Oakdale Vision Plan.

Peters Property: this is the parcel to the west of the LIRR station. This is another opportunity geared towards a better defined downtown Oakdale for the future. There is a proposal to develop a multiuse type of residential and business type of use. Nothing has come to the department in terms of real intent, but an RFP is being readied to go out to market.

St. John's University: There have been conversations with St. John's University and a conceptual plan sketched out. They would be looking to change the zoning to PLP - Planned Landmark Preservation District - which would preserve the historic structures. Current zoning is AAA residential. There are roughly 600 properties that are PLP protected in the Town of Islip, including Sagtikos Manor, for example.

At a high level, the plan for the property to be phased, with these phases including the PLP zoning, and looking to work with other schools in an educational capacity. Preservation of areas for recreation and civic space, rehabilitating the boat house to make it usable again - would be included as well as luxury senior citizen condominiums. The new zoning would be a tool to protect as well as preventing overdevelopment of the site. There will be several public town meetings over time that will be organized to establish a level of public awareness and gain necessary approvals. Mr. Genaway noted that the fact that there is a plan is a good thing - the property and structures on it are in need of upkeep and major repair. The location also contains a significant proportion of designated wetlands, which is another planning challenge and something that must be respected.

President Schwasnick inquired about the "out buildings" on St. John's campus that run along Montauk Hwy., and if the plan addresses them since they have fallen into serious disrepair and are unsightly and also a potential hazard. Mr. Genaway responded that there is a way to mandate rehabilitation, but they must be evaluated to determine if repair would be logical and feasible for these buildings.

A member asked a question about the Rollstone Property. The County is purchasing this property with open space funds, which means it must become active parkland. Once cleaned up, the county will enter into an agreement with the Town who will lease it to a local sports club - who will maintain it.

A member also asked about the proposed expansion of Oakdale Yacht Club's dock area into the Connetquot River. Mr. Genaway noted he is working with the property owner on this and with the harbormaster to determine the maximum intrusion into the River to guarantee navigability.

Members brought up the Oakdale Shopping Center that contains the Post Office, which is rumored to be marketed. Mr. Genaway stated that there is no proposal in with the Town on this property, but that the owner is actively looking to bring the property into code compliance.

The question was asked about the status of Dowling, and any proposals that have been made to the Town. Mr. Genaway noted that there have been no discussions recently, and any new structures proposed would be subject to a robust process of evaluation of environmental impacts.

On another note, President Schwasnick mentioned a recent Town ordinance that was passed that addresses blighted properties with a point system, and asked Mr. Genaway if there were any plans to clean up any of the several homes in Oakdale that have fallen into disrepair over the years. Mr. Genaway stated he would look into this and report back on any properties that are on the Town's radar.

Town Councilman Steve Flotteron

Mr. Flotteron discussed brining in speakers in an organized fashion and commended President

Schwasnick for her well thought out method of organizing speakers. Mr. Flotteron pointed out the importance of bringing a friend to a meeting. And, since we are getting into political candidate season it is a good idea to try to get many and diverse potential candidates to come to speak to the Civic Association. He stressed that attendance is really important to be able to draw guests because they will want to appear where they can be heard by the greatest population. Recently we have had great attendance at our meetings – which is important to continue.

Treasurer's report: Pat Kassten

Financial highlights this month include income from dues of \$260, and total disbursements of \$651. Paid membership to date is 191.

President's Report: Carol Schwasnick

President Schwasnick discussed the upcoming Egg Hunt which is sponsored by the Oakdale Chamber of Commerce. Volunteers are needed and a request was made for a donation to the event. A motion to donate \$200 was made and unanimously approved by the membership.

Ms. Schwasnick asked the membership to support the Annual Train Station planting. Volunteers are needed and a donation is needed as well. A motion was made to donate \$200 for plants, flowers and such to accomplish the beautification task.

The next meeting will be Monday May 9th. Superintendent Alan B. Groveman will be here to discuss the district budget for 2011-2012. The OCA is also looking to host a 'Meet the Candidates Night' for Board of Education candidates that same evening.

The OCA Scholarship winner has been selected and will be announced and presented at the High School Award Night. President Schwasnick thanked Barbara Schermerhorn for her great work reviewing the scholarships in past years. Her efforts have been truly appreciated.

President Schwasnick mentioned that there was an eviction from one of the apartments along Oakdale-Bohemia Rd., and the contents of the apartment were strewn along the sidewalk. Passersby stopped to pick through the materials, which is not legal. Some members also mentioned that they saw this and concurred that they were concerned with this behavior. Anyone who was known to take items was asked to return them. President Schwasnick noted that since this was a Sheriff's eviction, that there is a procedure in place to notify the Town's Dept. of Public Works, who then has 24 hours to clean up the property. The clean up did occur in the anticipated time period.

Open Floor:

No additional issues were raised. President Schwasnick asked for a motion to adjourn meeting at 9:10 pm, motion was made and seconded, meeting adjourned.

Our next meeting will take place on Monday May 9, 2011 at 7:30 pm.