

Western Property Owners Association
General Meeting
September 19, 2017

Minutes (Draft)

President Gerry Kelly called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM

The Pledge of Alliance opened the meeting

Minutes of the April General Meeting were delayed until November's General Meeting

Treasurer's Report Arnold Finamore As of 9/6/2017 WPOA balance at \$7410.16 after paying \$160 for our PO Box fee. Our paid members in September stand at 300.

Vice President RoseAnn Vernice proudly introduced the Technology Committee members; **Thomas Rivera, Joe Licari, Lauren Grima and Chair, RoseAnn Vernice (Maureen Traxler)** not present). RoseAnn encouraged all WPOA members to visit the site, which is a dramatic improvement for our association. Later in meeting, Lauren promoted our new Facebook page and encouraged members to "like it". RoseAnn also promoted the WPOA Bird Sanctuary tour on October 21 from 1 to 3 PM.

President Gerry Kelly spoke next and began by choosing a Nominating Committee for Trustee for the term ending April 2018. Joseph Ra, Joellen Flanagan, Germaine Greco, Richard Valley, Gloria Weinrich, Tommy Rivera, ?.

Fall Calendar was reviewed with three outreach events including the Bird Sanctuary, a Meet and Greet at Doc O'Gradys on Nassau Blvd and Holiday Christmas Caroling on New Hyde Park Road. Gerry reviewed the process to address Traffic concerns: first draft a letter and send to the Village, attention Traffic. . The success of the Garden City Pool 2017 and our summer party were mentioned. President Kelly congratulated the Technology Committee, especially the hard work of Tommy Rivera. Gerry also handed out a summary of school board issues drawing attention to the questionnaire on the school administration web site on the Superintendent Search. A few upcoming meetings on School Superintendent Search September 28 and 29 are open to the public. Over the summer, GC School's added 100 new students (VS 20 average) so Board has been on a hiring binge especially when you add the 21 retirements at the end of last school year.

Directors Reports

Gloria Weinrich reported on the Library and the new furniture and charging stations which have proved very popular. The Senior advisory Committee has been very busy with trips, programs all filling up. Director Weinrich then commented on a serious issue she has with the current Mayor and Board of Trustees. The new administration has eliminated the liaison with various organizations around the Village. What once was a

seamless operation is now very cumbersome as there is no Trustee present or assigned to important volunteer groups around the Village. Gloria also mentioned the 50-50, which the WPOA had decided to donate our proceeds to the Bobby Menges Cancer Fund. Both Gloria and Gerry spoke on what a terrific person Bobby was and his leadership in the community.

50-50 Results: Gloria drew the winner: Lauren Grima!
Lauren donated her share to Bobby's fund for a total contribution of \$200 to Bobby Menges Memorial Fund.

Village Trustees

Bob Bolebruch reviewed the St. Paul's situation and how the Village has hired an engineer to ascertain conditions of the building.

Reviewed timeline:

1992 Village purchased for use of the community

2002 lawsuit settled for use of residents

2004 Mayor Miller made St. Paul's parkland The Board of Trustees (BOT) will evaluate structurally, but in the meantime fix broken windows and provide minimum maintenance Prior to turning off the heat was costing village 150,000 plus but now 10-15,000.

Bob assured the audience that the Board had no preconceived plans for the St Paul's site and is open to listening to residents.

Bob also mentioned engineering study of all firehouses in village with the western firehouse will be the last one addressed because it is in the worst shape. The original design of West Fire house is not appropriate for today's standards.

Bob also mentioned the plaque issue with the Mayor's name on it. He said there is no need for recognition or for commoration of former mayors.

Stephen Makrinos also spoke about plaque. Stephen also mentioned the multi purpose field completed, road paving is almost completed with Stewart Manor train station parking lot next.

Also a reminder to lock your car and please do not leave keys in car.

Guest Speaker: Hector Garcia, LIRR Senior Director of External Affairs

Mr. Garcia mentioned the history of the LIRR going back to 1834 1st train to Greenport.

1990s planning and surveys to bring RR up to date.

Ronkonkoma new train yard, more cars. Jamaica connections, more tracks to go to Penn and Brooklyn directly including a tunnel for Amtrak trains so they do not have to crossover LIRR tracks.

LIRR is busy sprucing up and updating GC Stations from Country Life Press to Stewart Manor. Stewart Manor will have new platforms, new paved parking lot and sidewalks.

The Third Track is funded and start to finish about four year starting in 2019. 2018 will be design process time with the last quarter or 2019 1st quarter building the Covert

avenue underpass. New Hyde Park follows and will take nine months. The third track will award contracts based on delivery of service along with cost. Preconstruction surveys and project hotline will be established to keep residents informed. Penalties on contractors for not fulfilling dates on time.

The New Hyde Park Avenue crossing will be raised 5 feet along the line and behind Greenridge Avenue. The sound walls will be at least 8 feet tall but neighbors are asking for more. (20 feet). The sound walls will be at least four feet above tracks. The tallest train is 15 feet.

For more information check amodernli.com

The Village's MOU is still in process and not final details not available at this time.

Questions for the LIRR came from a number of members in the audience.

The height of the sound wall along the tracks behind Greenridge Avenue, Nassau Haven Park and behind Bird Sanctuary. Residents asked for a wall of 20 plus feet while the LIRR representative stated, as of now, it would be 4 feet above the tracks. (With the tracks rising 5 feet along New Hyde Park Road, this would put the wall at 9- 10 feet at this time.) Harry Choban, resident of Greenridge Avenue disagreed with LIRR representative about the foundation requirements of higher retaining wall pointing to sound walls along highways and other travel routes that are well above 20 feet. Mr. Choban concerns included the open garbage containers traveling along his backyard and the tall railroad cars of up to 15 feet.

The start of project.? No sooner than 2019. With Covert Avenue going first, New Hyde Park would initiate sometime in 2019.

Other questions focused on the history of delays on other projects, location of staging areas and traffic flow. The LIRR has purchased a parcel on the New Hyde Park Road train station, which would be primary area for staging construction, and recent projects have been on time or ahead of schedule.

DRAFT 9/25 Gerry Kelly (Joan O'Sullivan notes) `