

# THE CORAM CIVIC ASSOCIATION

## General Meeting Minutes

June 24, 2013

The meeting was called to order by President Erma Gluck at 7:39pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence for the troops. Carol Bedell – Membership Secretary, W. Paul Ziems – Treasurer, Kathrine Soscia – Corresponding Secretary and Bob Gluck - Sergeant-At-Arms were present.

### OFFICER'S REPORTS

President Erma Gluck welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. Erma passed along several announcement from Suffolk County Legislator Sarah Anker's office: 3 town hall meeting are planned, the first will be on June 27th at 7pm at the Longwood Public library; Heritage Park will be hosting a Summer Concert Open Mic on July 31st; and the Free Summer Concert Series in Rocky Point.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer W. Paul Ziems reports that the balance in the treasury as of May 31, 2013 is \$3,735.60. Paul also updated the membership on the last BNL meeting – suggestions on tick removal and 'Summer Sundays for Families' program at the Lab.

### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Carol Bedell reports we have 103 paid members.

### CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

None

### PLANNING & LAND USE

None

### HIGHWAY REPORTS

None

### NEWSLETTER

Next issue in July.

### POLICE

None

### WEBSITE

Chris Reilly asked everyone to check out [CoramCivic.org](http://CoramCivic.org) as well as [DavisTownMeetingHouse.org](http://DavisTownMeetingHouse.org). Also gentlemen by the name of Rob Coram from England contacted the Civic through the website.

### DAVIS HOUSE COMMITTEE

Maryanne Douglass informed everyone that Officers for the newly incorporated Davis Town Meeting House Society were elected. They are working on a grant with the town. \$2.1 million is needed to fix interior of the house. The small empty building in the bag will be removed soon. Eagle Scout cleaned up cemetery; head stones will be fixed. Next meeting of the committee will be on July 12th at the Library. Working on a Christmas card. Long road ahead. Also working with Councilwoman Kepert.

### OLD BUSINESS

None.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Lisa Lee of NY Blood Center – Longwood Community Blood Drive at Coram firehouse 2-8pm on June 27th. All donors receive two (2) Mets tickets.

## **GUEST SPEAKERS**

Assemblyman Ed Hennessey was unable to attend due to an emergency.

Dan Gulizio – Executive Director of the Community Planning Center whose mission is to improve the quality of life for all residents. Dan educated the membership on quality of life issues in our area and the planning process.

What government is responsible for regarding our health, safety and welfare, clean air, water and equal protection for opportunities including access to parklands, affordable housing, etc. Suffolk County has the worst ozone pollution in the state, and received a "F" from the American Lung Assoc. for 13 years straight. This is due to winds carrying pollution from Midwest plants, high volume of cars due to our population, and old power plants which are not meeting current clean air standards. In our waterways, the clam population has been cut to 1% of what it was in the 70s & 80s. Same is true for Scallops. Contributing factors include brown and red tides due to septic waste. 100 days of beach closures due to rain run off of pollutants. 10,000 acres of bay area closed. A 17 year study of nitrogen levels in our water aquifer showed a 200% increase in the upper layer and 26% increase in lower layers. Ecologically our waterways need lower nitrogen levels than we do in our drinking water. These issues are not getting better, but it can change.

Average housing density in Suffolk country is 2.8 units per acre; however, new projects being approved want much higher densities. Ronkonkoma hub wants 40 units per acre. Peconic project in Riverhead has apartment building with 52 units in 1/3 acre. Islip project planned with 9,000 housing units. And these projects are receiving subsidies from the county! More development does not equal more affordable taxes.

Planning goals should not simply be minimizing harmful effects, but should be meeting stated positive goals.

Brookhaven town only has 3% zoned industrial, and too many "use" variances versus other townships. The difference between "Court ordered" and "So Ordered" stipulations (which make up 99% of the stipulations), let officials get around public demands. The definition of Smart growth is that a project must protect the environment, reinvest in existing developments and discourage major infrastructure improvements. Most so called Smart Growth projects are not that. Problems are due to 3 things: lack of public participation; better information is needed by the public (along with comprehensive nonpartisan analysis); and more partnerships are needed between Civics and hamlets to be more powerful.

## **OPEN FLOOR TO MEMBERSHIP**

Members and guests from other towns discussed the need to network and work together on projects throughout Brookhaven Town and Suffolk County,

## **50/50 DRAWING**

Tonight's 50/50 was drawn by Dan Gulizio. Winner, Tom Lyons, took home \$12.00.

## **NEXT MEETING**

Monday, July 22, 2013. Guest: Senator John Flanagan.

## **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Kathrine Soscia made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:32pm. Seconded by Chris Reilly. Motion approved.

Respectfully Submitted  
Kathrine Soscia  
Corresponding Secretary