

THE CORAM CIVIC ASSOCIATION

General Membership

Meeting February 24, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by President Erma Gluck, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent prayer for our troops. Board members present: Erma Gluck, Martin Bailey, Paul Ziems, Carol Bedell, Bob Gluck, Chris Reilly and Jean Hartling. Kathrine Soscia and Richard Cloonan were absent with prior notice.

OLD BUSINESS: Erma Gluck reported that Conifer Community Development has closed documents for Phase I of Wincoram Commons; Phase II will be closed in March. Other business was suspended until after presentations by guest speakers. Two Boy Scout representatives thanked the membership for donations of food to the Scout food drive and announced that anyone who forgot may bring additional donations to the fire house in March.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Congressman Tim Bishop – Congressman Bishop provided a Washington update: The two-year budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 was passed with bipartisan agreement. There will be no sequestration. Suspension of the debt ceiling has been extended to 2015. An extension of unemployment insurance has been proposed. Immigration reform has passed the House and is now in the Senate. A question and answer discussion followed and included topics about health care, US relationship with Cuba, increase in the Federal minimum wage, imported food inspections, Fire Island barrier breeches, the use of corn as biofuel, and Medicare oversight. It was noted that Congressman Bishop will sponsor a mortgage seminar for homeowners at the Coram Fire House on March 18th.

Dr. Michael Lonergan - Superintendent Longwood Central School District

Dr. Lonergan explained the process for the school budget which will be voted on in May. He noted that the district will continue to keep the budget under the tax cap while maintaining quality programs. This is difficult since NYS support is now only 32% (it was 48% fourteen years ago). The Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) has resulted in a fifty million dollar loss (reduced staff, larger classes, cut programs, no raises). Dr. Lonergan encouraged residents to visit the school web site for additional information on the GEA and to send a message to Albany to “eliminate the GEA”. He will present the budget in detail at Civic meeting in April.

Frank Petrignani – TOB Highway Department Spokesperson

Mr. Petrignani provided an overview of the Highway department and its work this year. Brookhaven is the 3rd largest department in the state with more than 2,000 miles of roadway. The snow accumulation this year is the second highest in recent history. The department coordinates with Parks Department and Waste Management to have equipment ready before anticipated storms. Technology now tracks the location of personnel during inclement weather so that it may be redeployed quickly. He encouraged residents to contact the Department of Public Works with road problems. A handout with contact information was provided. A question and answer period followed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Davis Town Meeting House Society, Inc. – President Maryanne Douglas reported that Legislator Sarah Anker has offered to assist with grant writing help and letters of support. Those in attendance were encouraged to join the Davis Town Meeting House Society.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS - None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chris Reilly announced that information on single-stream recycling and Curby Can stickers are available for those who would like to take them.

Erma Gluck noted that the next meeting is March 24th. Guest speakers will be the NYS Dept. of Services – PSEG-LI/LIPA transition and Suzanne Johnson, Director of the Longwood Public Library.

50/50 DRAWING:

The 50/50 was drawn by Frank Petrignani. The winner was Francis Montera who took home \$33.50.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Martin Bailey made the motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Jean Hartling. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:05.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Hartling
Recording Secretary