

THE CORAM CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
General Membership Meeting  
June 26, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by President Erma Gluck, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for our troops home and abroad. Board members present: Erma Gluck, Bob Gluck, Paul Ziems, Vana McClure, Chris Reilly, and Jean Hartling. There were approximately 30 members and guests were in attendance.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**President Erma Gluck** reminded members that the petition to save the Carmans River is available at the meeting for signatures. The Coalition to Save Plum Island presented information at a recent ABCO meeting. Information handouts and a post card to Governor Cuomo requesting his action on this were made available to Civic members. Erma presented certificates to civic members who participated in the Great Brookhaven Clean Up on May 20: Paul Ziems, Vana McClure, Jean Hartling, Tom Skapinski, Casey Skapinski, Melanie Skapinski, Alexa Skapinski, Kathy Nohe and Bob Gluck.

Officer reports and other business were suspended to allow time for guest speakers.

**GUEST SPEAKERS:**

**Councilwoman Jane Bonner** highlighted the Town of Brookhaven's AAA bond rating and recent repairs to Diamond in the Pines Park made necessary due to vandalism. She discussed some main issues being addressed by the TOB: 1. Demolishment of abandoned houses declared unsafe by an engineering inspection (52 taken down in 2016; 70 scheduled for this year). The cost of this is passed on to the bank/owner. She encouraged residents to call or email the town to report problem homes so they may be inspected. 2. The opioid epidemic 3. The critical blood shortage and need for donations (there is a Longwood Community Blood Drive at the Coram Fire House on Wednesday, June 28). 4. Progress on the adult day care center located on Middle Country Road east of the Davis House. This should be completed by September or October.

The Civic membership asked questions about the process needed before taking down an abandoned home; roadwork being done along Middle Country Road from Rt. 112 to Middle Island; the recent hacking of TOB computers and efforts being made to revitalize businesses in the Coram area.

**Steve Levy from the Center for Effective Government** gave an overview of the history of the New York state Constitutional Convention. The constitution mandates a vote every 20 years to determine whether or not to hold a convention. A vote to hold conventions took place in 1846, 1869, 1894, 1938, and 1967. There was a “no” vote to conventions in 1957, 1977 and 1997. The next vote will be held during the November 2017 election. Mr. Levy discussed some of the pros and cons of holding a convention (opportunity to make changes, challenges of politics) and encouraged individuals to research the issues and make an informed vote. A Civic member inquired about the process of a convention (delegates elected in 2018; issues debated in 2019 and a ballot prepared in 2019) and its costs.

Mr. Levy also outlined other projects his organization is working on: 1. Fighting to disband the LIRR Disability Board. 2. Redistricting and gerrymandering 3. Allowing schools to purchase supplies from the Federal purchasing list and 4. Need for the County to cooperate with the Federal government to combat problems with MS 13.

**Officer Bradshaw of the 6<sup>th</sup> Precinct** provided crime statistics for the period May 25 to June 26. Statistics were similar to past months with the exception of drug overdoses that are elevated (there were 15 overdoses in the past week with two deaths).

Officer Bradshaw announced he will be retire in a few days and expressed his enjoyment in working with the Coram community. The membership thanked him for his service and wished him well.

**50/50 DRAWING:**

The 50/50 was won by Susan Capek who took home \$13.00.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Hartling,  
Recording Secretary