

Great River Community Association

General Meeting Minutes

Date / Time: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 7pm

Location: East Islip Library

Invitees / Attendees:

Board Members

- JoAnn Kukenis, President
- Ellen Shulman, Vice President
- Georgette Lambros, Treasurer
- Rosina O'Shea, Recording Secretary
- Tony Blumenstetter, Corresponding Secretary

Guest Speakers

- Jim O'Connor Town of Islip Councilman
- Jim Suger, Morgan Stanley Financial Planning

Residents

(15)

Agenda / Meeting Notes

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Meeting minutes from the General Meeting held on Monday November 14, 2022 can be found on our website GRCA11739.com.
3. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Current Financials
 - i. \$30,215.97 – Checking account as of 4/30/23
 - ii. \$6,759.42 – PayPal account as of 5/9/23
 - iii. Concerns were raised regarding the amount of cash the GRCA has on hand. Suggestion was raised to eliminate membership fees for a period of time. This was denied, but the community association will consider reducing the membership fees in future. If anyone in the community has any additional suggestions on how to use funds, please reach out to an Officer or contact us through email.
 - b. 2022 Financial Report
 - i. Finances from 2022 were reviewed with the members in attendance.
 - c. 2023 Budget
 - i. Proposed spend for 2023 was reviewed with the members in attendance.
 - ii. Budget was approved by show of hands.
 - iii. Question was raised regarding the increase in spend for landscaping. The additional cost for this year is due to new plantings at the Great River Road sign.
4. Membership - 117 members to date
5. 3rd Police Precinct Meeting Update
 - a. If you see something say something.
 - b. If you have any car break-ins make sure to call 911. If enough community members report it, we can possibly get a police car to patrol the area.
 - c. There have been issues with drugs in the Great River area. Resident suggested having someone from the police department host a Narcan training and/or CPR class. GRCA will investigate having this included in a future general meeting.
6. Past Events & Accomplishments
 - a. Litter pick-up – Scouts, Ellen Shulman, Carol Hopkins, Christine Carplunk, Dave Jones, JoAnn Kukenis, Tony Blumenstetter
 - b. Tree lighting – 12/14/22
 - c. Menorah lighting – 12/18/22

7. Upcoming Events
 - a. Memorial Day Parade – Sunday May 29, 11am – Firehouse
 - i. Firehouse is providing food and beverages.
 - ii. GRCA is providing Italian ices and possibly popcorn.
 - b. Fellowship Event – Fall 2023
 - i. GRCA is planning an event for this fall. Estimated cost is \$50pp. Community association proposing to cover the cost of a happy hour instead of including beer/wine with the cost per person to keep costs down.
8. Jim O'Connor
 - a. On May 12, 2023 the East Islip boy's hockey team was recognized.
 - b. Town is focused on summer. Boaters' safety press conference was held last week. Two deaths recently occurred, one on the South Shore, one on the North Shore. It's important to keep people focused on safety.
 - c. Federal government shared some relief money that was able to be passed back to the community – improvements made at Sayville Marina, turf fields were installed at Westbrook, Byron Lake Park pool area (starting Labor Day).
 - d. Some roads in East Islip / Great River were paved last year. One area is south of Montauk near Stanleys.
 - e. Any questions or feedback the community can reach out to Jim directly via email at JPConnor@islipny.gov
9. Jim Suger, Morgan Stanley, Planning & Strategy - 20 years
 - a. Focused on documenting family assets to determine potential outcomes, in most cases, retirement. How much you have allocated, how much risk you are taking, and probability of achieving your goals.
 - b. Financial planner can assist with determining the right retirement age, provide feedback on purchasing a second home or covering your child's school expenses.
 - c. Charitable giving can be done through a donor advised fund (DAF)
 - d. Asset protection
 - e. TOD – Transfer on Death
 - f. Beneficiary forms outweigh what's in your will. Make sure to have your beneficiaries up to date at all times.
 - g. Defensive - Utilities, US debt, emerging markets
 - h. Long term care insurance – doesn't require a physical, different from life insurance. Good option to consider if you can't get rid of assets in less than the 5 years to qualify for Medicare.
10. Other notes
 - a. Eyesore areas – southern end of Woodhollow Road. JoAnn will investigate who owns this property.
 - b. Ghost house on River Road – JoAnn to speak to Jim O'Connor regarding this home.
 - c. Resident suggested having a litter camera installed to control the amount of litter being thrown out in the area, especially parkway entrance.
 - d. New flags and hanging baskets were purchased for the downtown area.
 - e. Resident requested GRCA to help support and encourage residents to not use fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides as they run off into the river and bay.