

# Great River Community Association

## General Meeting Minutes

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**Date / Time:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 7pm

**Location:** Great River Firehouse

**Invitees / Attendees:**

**Board Members**

- JoAnn Kukenis
- Rosina O'Shea
- John Acerno
- Tony Blumenstetter
- James Bruno
- James DiGiovanna
- Cliff Gibbons
- Paul Llobell
- Billy Vavricka
- Jeff Wilbert

**Guest Speakers (3)**

- Officer Pete Rivera – COPE Unit 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct
- Tom Cilmi – Suffolk County Legislator
- Jim O'Connor – Islip Town Councilman

**Residents (11)**

### Agenda / Meeting Notes

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Introduction of Officers
  - Billy Vavricka - Treasurer
  - Jeff Wilbert - Corresponding Secretary
  - Rosina O'Shea - Recording Secretary & Webmaster
  - JoAnn Kukenis - President
  - Open - Vice President aspires to move into the President's position
3. Financial Report
4. Members in 2021 - 214 total
5. Guest Speakers
  - a. Officer Pete Rivera (631-854-8303)
    - i. Oct. 15 car stolen at Strip Steak which was an employee's vehicle
    - ii. Oct. 17 Woodhollow Rd. incident, criminal mischief, Grey SUV, damage to fence.
    - iii. If you see any suspicious persons or vehicles get as much details as possible including, make/model/color of cars. Report to the police as soon as possible.
    - iv. Lock it or lose it. Make sure to keep all cars locked. If you warm up your car in the morning before you leave, make sure it's locked if you're not inside your vehicle.
    - v. Drag racing has been taking place on Heckscher Pkwy. Police follow drag racers on Instagram and other social platforms to get details on when the car meets take place. Call as soon as you hear any drag racing, don't wait.
    - vi. Community member at 59 Woodhollow advised multiple cars have driven onto their property - arrows have been installed.
    - vii. STOP signs should not be used for speed control as they do not work, multiple STOP signs in Great River were requested by residents, not by traffic safety. We can petition to have them removed.

- b. Tom Cilmi
    - i. He has been the Suffolk County Legislator for 12 consecutive years. He has reached the max amount of time allowed (as of 12/31/21).
    - ii. This year's budget process was public.
    - iii. Legislators were 10(D) / 8(R). As of 12/31/21 - 11(R) / 7(D). 2005 was the last time the Republicans held the majority.
    - iv. Trish Bergin will be the new Suffolk County Legislator (as of 1/1/22).
  - c. Jim O'Connor – Islip Town Councilman
    - i. Islip has a AAA bond rating. Suffolk County is bordering on junk bond status.
    - ii. Concerns across Town of Islip
      - 1. Condos are being built
      - 2. Traffic is increasing
      - 3. Unnecessary stop signs being put up – these can be petitioned for removal.
    - iii. Dowling College
      - 1. Issues with vandalism and criminal behavior / stealing
      - 2. Three times the board voted to clean up the property. The town did do clean up and put cost back to Dowling but they're not paying it. Due to Covid there is not much else that can be done.
      - 3. Some areas of Dowling are deemed historic but not all areas. Areas damaged by fire and rebuilt are not considered historic.
      - 4. Currently no RFP's.
      - 5. Possible senior housing – open bid of over \$30M
6. Accomplishments for 2021
- a. Scout Troop 205 - Involved with different tasks at the 2 entrance area welcome signs & litter pick up
  - b. Hanging Baskets - GRCA Purchased, Strip Steak & GR Deli graciously accepted the task of watering the plants
  - c. New Website Launched in September 2021
  - d. Halloween Parade Sunday, Oct. 24 - Great Weather, Great Turn Out
7. Upcoming Events
- a. Menorah Lighting - Sunday, Nov. 28 at 4pm at the Memorial Park on GR Road
  - b. Tree Lighting - Saturday, Dec. 4 at 3:30pm at the Memorial Park on Great River Road
8. Other notes
- a. Michelle Schmidt of 7 Wilton Ct mentioned she thought that the plaque for Rudolph (Rudy) Koubek at the Memorial Park was going to be placed on the stone or upgraded to something else. She did not recall where or who had mentioned this in the past.
  - b. Dave O'Connor asked if the GRCA could send out an email to the community for the GRFD to help them solicit volunteers.