

Great River Community Association

General Meeting Minutes

Date / Time: Monday, November 14, 2022 at 7pm

Location: East Islip Library

Invitees / Attendees:

Board Members

- JoAnn Kukenis
- Rosina O'Shea
- Tony Blumenstetter
- James DiGiovanna
- Paul Llobell
- Georgette Lambros
- Ellen Shulman

Guest Speakers (2)

- Trish Bergin, Suffolk County Legislator
10th District
- Jim O'Connor Town of Islip
Councilman

Residents (28)

Agenda / Meeting Notes

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Acceptance of meeting minutes from the General Meeting held on Thursday May 19, 2022
 - a. Motion to accept by Joe Bertuglia and seconded by Tony Blumenstetter
 - b. Meeting minutes can be found on the GRCA11739 website.
3. Jim O'Connor
 - a. Thursday budget hearing – approved for 2023. Tax cap compliance budget. Tomorrow town board meeting.
4. Trish – county updates
 - a. Assisted living facility was petitioned for Sayville. Initially residents were not happy about it, but they are now happy and prefer that it is that instead of 7/11
 - b. Ronny Gibbons called – upset about tennis courts at Timber Point. Money was put in the county budget to resurface these and to stripe for pickleball and tennis. Work is planned for Spring completion.
 - c. Tom Cilmi did not give GRCA funds in the past, but county can give up to \$5K per year. Trish will provide the guidelines so that we can start getting funds next year to cover a cultural event.
5. Financial Report
 - a. \$31,021.63 – Checking account
 - b. \$3,307.22 – PayPal account
 - c. Outstanding to be paid
 - i. \$391.04 – landscaping
 - ii. \$174.41 – Constant Contact 10/11/22
 - iii. \$78.64 – Godaddy 9/23/22
6. Election of Officers – no additional nominations were received from the floor. Accepting the slate of officers as follows:
 - a. President - JoAnn Kukenis
 - b. Vice President - Ellen Shulman
 - c. Treasurer - Georgette Lambros
 - d. Recording Secretary - Rosina O'Shea

- e. Corresponding Secretary - Tony Blumenstetter
7. By Laws
- a. GRCA is not a corporation, we are recognized as a 501 C4.
 - b. GRCA holds liability insurance. We were paying \$2800 for the liability insurance. JoAnn spoke to Steve Etimos at Brewster Allen Wichert, 500 Montauk Hwy, West Islip and was able to reduce to \$776.
 - c. We were able to save on cost spent for getting our taxes completed. (Free-John Phelan CPA 167 E. Main St., East Islip 631-446-1800 Great River Resident; versus \$500. paid in previous years)
 - d. Update Article XI – “For the benefit of the Community, any section of these by-laws may be overridden by a two-thirds (2/3’s) vote of the Officers present”
 - e. Motion was made by Joe Bertuglia and seconded by Heather Popovich to approve the ByLaws (after making the one update noted above). The vote was unanimous.
8. 3rd Police Precinct Meeting Update –
- a. Open to the public, first Tuesday of every month.
 - b. Catalytic converter thefts are still ongoing.
 - c. 2 candy stores in the area were closed recently due to fentanyl wrapped in candy wrappers.
 - d. If you see something say something.
9. Past Events & Accomplishments
- a. Litter pick-up – Thank you’s
 - i. Scouts continue on a regular basis
 - ii. Ellen Shulman – River Road
 - iii. Carol Hopkins & Christine Carplunk – Great River Road
 - iv. Dave Jones – Great River Road
 - v. Tony & JoAnn -& Judy - parkway
 - b. Exit ramp going onto Montauk highway needs to be cleaned up – JoAnn will coordinate a clean-up effort for this area.
 - c. Halloween Party event – Sunday 10/23/22 – added face painting, fresh popped popcorn. 8 girls from the East Islip High School arts honor society assisted with face painting. Girl Scouts participated and helped the children with all of the craft activities, and assembled the balloon arch.
 - d. Facebook page has started back up. Approx. 500 followers so far.
10. Upcoming Events
- a. Tree Lighting – Sunday 12/4/22 at 3:30pm – Memorial Park on Great River Road.
 - b. Menorah Lighting m- Sunday 12/18/22 at 4pm – Memorial Park on Great River Road
 - c. Any residents that would like to assist with the events are encouraged to contact us.
11. Other notes
- a. Resident Ellen Shulman asked if we could have the town put signs up by the parkway to notify people of the fine for littering. JoAnn & Ellen will look into this.
 - i. Installed approx. 3 weeks ago but needs to be rotated so you can see it as you’re driving. It’s currently parallel to the road.
 - b. Resident asked if the town could fix the drainage issue at the dock Church Rd & Great River Rd. JoAnn advised she will call the town to see if this can be addressed.
 - i. A few weeks ago, DPW was there and consulted. There isn’t anything that can be done to drain the water. He’s not allowed to do anything to cause the water to drain into the river. The town needs to be consulted further to determine what next steps can be taken.
 - c. Bowling alley – no update at this time.
 - d. Kayaks – Trish will find out what the arrangement is with St Anthony’s. Resident Colleen Kaplan requests that it was put behind a fence as they’re concerned with security and rental fees.
 - e. Library in the post office – Colleen Kaplan volunteered to clean up the area
 - f. Emanuel Church
 - i. Church needs donations to fix the windows (cost is \$72K). Eblast sent out requesting donations, notice is put up on bulletin board.

- ii. Town of Islip historian can get background on building to see if it's registered on NYS historic registry. If it is there could be funding, if it's not the historian can help to get the church registered. This is currently being researched by Wesley Martin / Bill Kenney.