

May 2016 | Rocky Point Civic |
<http://rockypointcivic.org/>

“Good things are getting done every day in Congress with bi-partisan support. What does not get done is what gets reported (in the media)”

Representative Lee Zeldin

May

Civic 2016 – 2017 Board

President: Dr. Charles Bevington

Vice President: Dr. Al Hanson

Secretary: Susan Bevington

Treasurer: Susan Wilson

Membership: Kathy Weber

Sargent at Arms: Rory Rubino

Trustees: Maureen O’Keefe,
Jeff Davis, Virginia Heslin

Treasurers Report

May 1, 2016

Checking \$2,383.30 Savings \$1,902.47

AGENDA

Pledge of Allegiance 7:30 PM

Roll Call

Reading of the April 2016 minutes

Report of Officers

 Cope Report

 Treasurers Report

 Membership Report

 Secretary Report

 President’s Report

 Land Use Committee

 Farmers Market Committee

 Beautification Committee

Old Business:

Guest Speaker 7:45PM: Kevin McAllister
founder and president of "DefendH2O"

8:30 Dr. Ring – Rocky Point School Budget

Info Speaker 8:45PM: Jessica Enzmann “The
American Chestnut”

New Business:

Motion to Adjourn

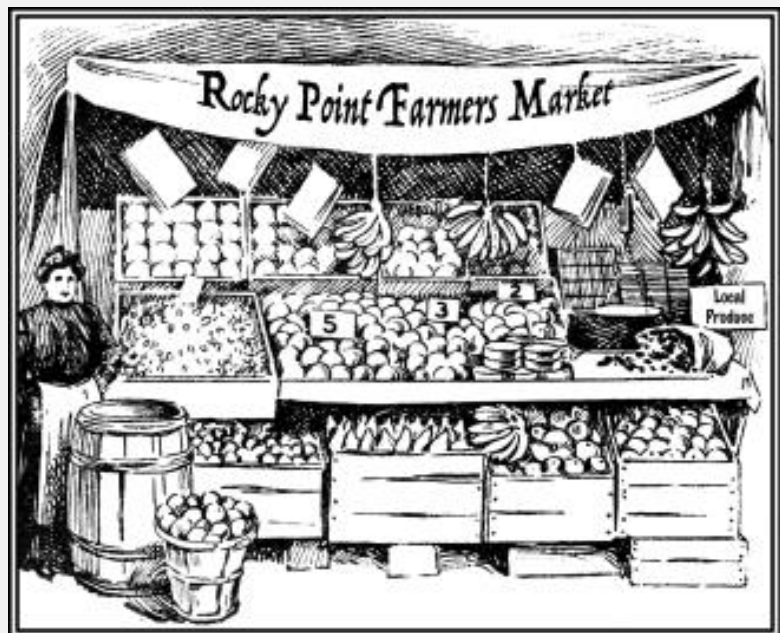
Next meeting is scheduled for June 7th

Contents

Recent Rocky Point Civic Association Actions

The cost of the Rocky Point Farmers Market permit from the Town of Brookhaven for the use of Old Depot Park from May through November was approved for reimbursement. The market is scheduled to start Mothers’ Day for a few vendors. Some farmers will be starting May 22nd. Memorial Day Weekend will be the major kick-off.

<http://rockypointfarmersmarket.org/>



Bring an item for donation for our local food pantry. All items will gladly be accepted and forwarded to our local food banks.



Superintendent Dr. Ring will address the Civic community regarding the Rocky Point UFSD 2016-2017 Budget at 8:30 PM.

Our information speaker for the evening will be Jessica Enzmann, Weekend Coordinator for Seatuck, to discuss the "American Chestnut Project" at 8:45PM.

*May 3rd Speaker: Mr. Kevin McAllister
7:45PM*

Kevin McAllister has substantial academic training that bridges several disciplines within the biological and physical sciences. His education achievements include undergraduate degrees in Natural Resources Conservation and Marine Biology. In addition, Kevin holds a Master's of Science degree in Coastal Zone Management.

Kevin's professional environmental experience spans 30 years of working in the government, consultancy and non-profit employment sectors. His expertise is in the biological sciences and coastal zone management. Prior to his current role as chief executive of Defend H2O, Kevin served for 16 years as the founder and leader of Peconic Baykeeper, Inc. Water resources protection and coastal adaptation are Kevin's primary focus.

DEFEND H2O SAFEGUARDS THE PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO CLEAN WATER AND A SUSTAINABLE COASTLINE THROUGH SCIENCE, EDUCATION AND LAW.

Defend H2O was formed in June, 2014 as a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization to protect and restore the environmental quality of groundwater, surface waters, wetlands and beaches on and around Long Island. The organization's goals are achieved by scientific analysis, education, participation in the regulatory and legislative review of projects, programs and other actions that effect water quality and habitat values.

June 7th Speaker: Dr. Sarah Meyland, NYIT 8:00 PM

ROCKY POINT CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES

April 5, 2016 - 7:30 PM

Salute to the Flag/Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call of Officers and Trustees

Present:

President – Charles Bevington

Vice President-Albert Hanson

Secretary – Susan Bevington

Sergeant at Arms – Rory Rubino

Membership Secretary – Kathy Weber

Trustee - Virginia Heslin

Trustee – Jeff Davis

Absent, Excused: Treasurer - Susan Wilson, Trustee – Maureen O’Keeffe

On a motion by Constance Iervolino and seconded by Joe Cognitore and passed by those present, the reading of the minutes of the March 1, 2016 meeting were waived.

Report of Officers

Treasurers Report: None

Membership Report: Kathy Weber

210 members, including 10 new members tonight

Secretary Report: Susan Bevington

Board of Zoning Appeals for April 6, 2016 – no Rocky Point properties listed

Two letters from Legislator, Sarah Anker’s office were received:

A letter to the NYS Department of Parks requesting assistance from the State through the Historic Grant Funding Program to preserve the former Rocky Point train station building currently located on the former Thurber property.

A letter to the US Environmental Protection Agency in opposition to the final Dredge Management Plan submitted by the US Army Corp of Engineers recommending the continued dumping of potentially hazardous dredge materials in the Long Island Sound over the next 30 years.

Cope Report: - Officer Brooks

Officer Brooks reported multiple break-ins including one on King Road and another at the Subway on 25A and a number of incidents of items being stolen out of backyards. There were three incidents of money stolen out of personal items at the Rocky Point Ale House. There was one oxycodone overdose. There have been many reports of phone scams in the area. There have been reports of squatters occupying vacant/abandoned homes in Rocky Point. Please call the COPE number if you see this happening in your neighborhood. The COPE number is 852-8775

Land Use: Chairperson Albert Hanson

A formal focus committee will be formed to discuss plans for the Thurber property. The focus of the group will be to develop an alternative plan to the proposed apartment complex development at the site. Anyone interested in joining the focus group, please contact Albert Hanson at hansonal1@aol.com

Farmers Market Committee Report: Charles Bevington – none

ROCKY POINT CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES April, 2016 ~ 7:30 PM – Continued

Speaker: Congressman Lee Zeldin

Congressman Zeldin was elected over a year ago. He is currently on three committees.

Veterans Affairs

Veterans Affairs Suffolk County has the 2nd highest population of Veterans in the country.

Congressman Zeldin introduced legislation to expand the PFC Joseph Dwyer Veteran Peers Program

Introduced a bill to eliminate the loan limit or the "maximum guarantee amount" of a loan that the VA can guarantee for a veteran.

The congressman would like to see a change to the VA benefits where a veteran can take his benefits anywhere instead of being restricted to a VA hospital.

There are two full time staff members in his office working on veterans issues.

Transportation Infrastructure Committee (which includes Army Corp of Engineers projects and dredging issues) William Doyle in the Patchogue office is the contact person for the Army Corp of Engineer projects

Federal funding for railroad track upgrades along the Ronkonkoma line has been allocated in the amount of \$100 million.

In December the House passed a five-year fully funded highway bill.

Also approved was the Safe Bridges Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act. Under the Safe Bridges Act, our critical overpasses and bridges will once again have access to the federal funding needed to repair and strengthen our infrastructure

The Congressman introduced the Long Island Sound Restoration Stewardship Act to protect and restore the Long Island Sound. The Act ensures the Sound is protected and restored for generations to come by authorizing \$65 million in funding per year through 2020 for a water quality and shore restoration program.

He is also working to stop the sale of Plum Island for preservation and public access Involved in the Sandy Recovery Projects.

The Congressman is not in favor of TPP (Trans Pacific Partnership).

The Keystone Pipeline is a dead issue. There has been no word or activity on this issue.

The Zeldin Amendment to the Education bill would allow states to opt out of Common Core without fear that there will be any loss of federal funding.

The Drug Act was permanently extended

Rails to Trails - \$10 million was available as part of the Highway Bill to complete this project. The funding was rescinded since the project was stalled for a few years and it wasn't being used. The surrounding communities were supportive of the project with the exception of Rocky Point. We can get the money back but we need to secure the funding soon and do the project right away. This upcoming Friday there is a meeting with NYS DOT and Suffolk County Legislator, Sarah Anker's office to attempt to move this project forward and get this money back.

Term limits - co-sponsored term limit bills

Responses to additional questions asked from the floor:

Re: Sound Beach FEMA mitigation funding used to reconstruct the drainage system and gabions. How is FEMA funding used for this purpose?

Superstorm Sandy was a special circumstance. The Federal response to Superstorm Sandy was to appropriate \$60 billion in funding. \$30 million of which was for New York, half of the \$30 million went to individuals for damages incurred the other half went to various applicants including local governments, businesses, public and non-public beaches for mitigation projects. The Sandy mitigation funds are special and as such do not follow the same guidelines as other FEMA funding. There are thousands of examples of mitigation projects all along the coastline. Authorized applicants include both public and private beaches.

A question was asked regarding grant opportunities our community can take advantage of. He was not aware of any available funding. We can call his office with a specific project we want to work towards and his office will research it for us to see if we can get it done by working through all available resources including local government. Re: Flag burning - can legislation be introduced to consider it a hate crime? It is a misdemeanor in Suffolk County.

While an offensive act - unfortunately protected under freedom of expression.

Climate Change

2015 leading an effort to invest in alternative energy research and bringing back the research funding to Brookhaven Labs and Stony Brook

Prediction on Supreme Court appointment. Does not anticipate confirmation prior to the election. Funding cuts at Brookhaven Lab. He would like to restore the funding that has been lost over the last 5-7 years and is trying to gain support but since he only one of the handful in congress who represents a District with a National Labs, it is tough to get support. A lot of people do not understand how important the research work is that is conducted at these labs.

"Good things are getting done every day in Congress with bi-partisan support. What does not get done is what gets reported"

Old Business

Rails to Trails Advisory Board – Jeff Carlson, Rocky Point liaison – reported the advisory board met but there is nothing to report. He will be sure to bring to the advisory board Anita LoPiccolo's concerns regarding the defoliants used along the LIPA right of way and request for soil sampling.

New Business - none

Community Announcements

- Hurricane Awareness day at the VFW – date pending
- The Town of Brookhaven – 4th Annual, "Go-Green" Event – May 14th between 9am and 1pm – at the Rose Caracappa Center in Mt. Sinai – Paper Shredding, E-Waste and Drug Take Back
- Hallock Homestead has reopened for the season.
- Town of Brookhaven pre-season beach parking stickers are on sale now

50/50

\$53 Won by Mr. Roberts (donated back to Civics)

Motion to Adjourn

On a motion made by Susan Bevington, seconded by Rory Rubino and passed by those present, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm

Next meeting date: May 3, 2016

Informational Speaker Jessica Enzmann (Seatuck): The American Chestnut Foundation New York Chapter

http://acf.org/Chapters_ny.php The Chapter is searching for large surviving American chestnut trees in New York State to be "Mother trees" for restoration. In an effort to introduce more wild pure American chestnut trees into the transgenic breeding program, the Chapter is now offering a reward for American chestnut trees found growing in the wild. For more information, come to the Civic meeting!

At one time the American chestnut tree was commonly found on over 200 million acres of the Northeast, comprising one fourth of the hardwood forest. A fungal disease known as the chestnut blight, first identified in 1904 at the Bronx Botanical Garden, has decimated the American chestnut tree, once estimated to number over four billion. The American chestnut tree was once an important part of the US environment and economy. The trees were a valuable source of food for wildlife and returned essential nutrients to the soil. The chestnuts, edible raw or cooked, are probably best known for being boiled, roasted or used in stuffing. They are highly nutritious and are the only nut that contains vitamin C. They were often sold roasted on the streets, which is still done today, though the chestnuts used today are European sweet chestnuts. The wood from the tree was used for a variety of purposes, including furniture, flooring, shingles and other home construction, piers, telephone poles and fences.

Call for Volunteers:

Ad Hic Land Use Committee: Contact 'Al Hanson' hansonal1@aol.com

Vacant Home data collection and Downtown Project

Beautification Committee: contact 'kathy weber' bluedesi@yahoo.com

Tour and Various projects



ATTENTION ROCKY POINT GARDENERS AND ARTISTS

We would like to hold our annual garden tour again this year preferably June 25.

Interested in showcasing your property? It would be about 4-5 hours, you can tend to your yard like any other day, or invite a local artist to do a mini art opening in your gardens. The civic has liability insurance to cover the event. Guests would trickel through your garden that Saturday. You may block off any areas that you wouldn't want people walking. Some garden hosts provide refreshments.

For any questions or to join, contact Kathy at:
Kathy Weber
H: 631-849-3625
C: 631-521-5726
bluedesi@yahoo.com

Environmental Committee: contact 'Charlie Bevington' cbevingt@optonline.net

Nitrogen Awareness Community Project