

West Islip Summit Coalition
Minutes from the Quality of Life Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Present:

Margaret Campise
Nancy Cochran
Maria Figalora
Steven Flotteron

Anthony Formica
Steve Gellar
Bill Johnston
Gloria Johnston
Barbara Jones

Jim Lundie
Lynn Luttenberger
Dawn Morrison
Rocco Pepe

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m.

- Bill Johnston from K.I.C. and Gloria Johnston from West Islip Beautification introduced themselves as new members to the committee.
- Jim Lundie, co-chairperson, provided a brief re-cap of the previous meeting.
- Conversation ensued regarding the skateboarding/loitering situation at the stores by King Kullen. Joe DiPalma and Anthony Formica are scheduled to meet on Friday, March 6, 2009 with the management company of the stores on Union Boulevard to discuss the general condition of the buildings/grounds and problems and concerns of the community. Anthony Formica mentioned that the lights behind the stores are not currently working.
- Steve Gellar noted that the Town of Islip has a skateboard park in the plans for Casamento Park. The question was raised as to whether or not skateboarders will be able to get to Casamento Park. A suggestion was made to consider both parks (Casamento and the Beach marina area) as blank slates and entertain new designs for both.
- The infrastructure at the West Islip Marina was discussed. It was mentioned that one lane in and one lane out cannot support the current traffic flow. Anthony Formica mentioned that the helicopter landing pad at the hospital (which is overgrown) should be considered as a potential additional parking down. It was suggested that administrators/representatives from Good Samaritan Hospital be invited to future meetings.
- Questions were raised as to what the committee could focus on in the short term regarding improvements at the town parks. Suggestions include:
 - walking through the beach area behind the hospital and establish short-term spring clean-up goals
 - checking to see if the restrooms at the beach are in working order
 - touching base with the YMCA to see if they would be interested in helping with the spring cleanup at the beach (since they utilize the area during the summer months)
 - getting student volunteers (high school and Dowling College students) to assist with the cleanup. Concerns about insurance coverage for volunteers and what they would be doing were discussed.

Lynn Luttenberger and Rocco Pepe will coordinate the Spring Cleanup. Steve Flotteron will look into the bathroom facilities at the beach.

- The litter along Union Boulevard was discussed. Steve Gellar mentioned that the Summit Committee was working at getting stone-faced garbage cans to place along Union Boulevard. The Summit is looking into issues that will arise if the garbage cans are obtained, such as who will empty the cans?
- Anthony Formica gave an update on vacant buildings, illegal apartments, etc. throughout the town:
 - *Corner of Sears Road/Higbie Drive* (behind Best Yet): The house looks abandoned. It is owned by someone living in South Carolina. The house is in guardianship, and the sale has been postponed due to delays in court. Once the sale goes through, the old house will be demolished and a new house will be put up. In the meantime, arrangements have been made to clean up the property.
 - *Higbie Florist*: GAD52LLC are the registered owners of the property. The person at the phone number listed on the sign at the property site is only interested in talking to people if they are interested in leasing the property. It was suggested that community members keep an eye on the property and report code violations to the town.
 - *Babylon Ford*: The area has been leveled and cleared. Rocco Pepe spoke to John Pace (the owner) who has set up a tentative meeting on March 25 with the Chamber of Commerce to discuss possible plans for the site.
 - *Zeus*: The current owner wants to sell the property and is in ongoing negotiations with an entrepreneur. The U.S. Post Office will not be relocating to this site.
 - *True Value Hardware*: The property is up for lease and/or sale. There are several interested parties. The question was raised as to whether or not parking will be an issue.
- Maria Figalora met with representatives from the Higbie Center on February 11 to determine if the committee could offer support to the center. The manager of the center requested a letter from the Quality of Life Committee stating its intentions. It was suggested that the letter come from the Summit Committee and possibly consist of the overall mission statement of the organization. Jim Lundie will confer with Bernadette Burns regarding the letter.

Mrs. Figalora mentioned that the Senior Center is in need of food donations. Dawn Morrison suggested that perhaps the schools could run food drives and donate to the Senior Center. Questions were then raised as to whether or not there is room at the Senior Center to store the food.

- Issues concerning the various clothing bins around town were discussed. Members of the committee raised concerns that the clothing was being used as rags or getting sold and not getting to people in need. A committee member stated that each bin should state the name of the organization, what they are collecting for, and a contact telephone number. Nancy Cochran noted that the town is cracking down on the collection bins.

The next meeting of the Quality of Life Committee will take place on April 15, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at District Office.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.