



BALDWIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

www.baldwincivic.org baldwincivic@gmail.com

General Membership Meeting Minutes- Draft

Thursday, January 19, 2017, 7:30 pm

Baldwin High School

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by Chair, Karen Montalbano-President; Steven Greenfield – Vice President (P) Helena Hillan – Recording Secretary (P); Christopher Tomasello- Treasurer (P); Joan Flatley- Corresponding Secretary (A); Rita Cavanagh- Chair of Beautification Committee (P), Darien Ward – Chair of Economic Development (P); Jason Vitale- Chair of Quality of Life Committee (P); Robert Weisser –Chair of Membership Committee (P); Jessenia Velasquez- Chair of Fundraising Committee (A).

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes: Read and unanimously accepted with corrections.

Treasurer's Report: Budget pending February's meeting.

Quorum was reached.

Small Group Discussions: Meeting participants broke into small groups to gather information and offer suggestions related to the vision of Baldwin for 2017.

Former Pathmark: Site has been sold to Key Food owner, Mr. Levine.

Former Amendola Fence Site: We met with attorney and prospective buyer of the of site to discuss some of the resident's concerns regarding the sites' intended use in light of the ongoing DCCR Study and redevelopment plans. They were open to new ideas including the possibility of a *Mixed-Use project, to be discussed at the next Zoning Board meeting. Lot is $\frac{3}{4}$ acre, fits 7-10 units, 4 of the 7 units would occupy the Laundromat's space. Potential barriers: -limited parking spaces, -zoning issues for 3 tier bldg. Variance is needed. DCCR is open to a 3-4 tier garage with a zoning overlay. Needs further discussion in upcoming weeks with TOH & Nassau County.

David Viana- Open House to discuss final recommendations for short and long term projects for Baldwin. For information regarding the Downtown Commercial Corridor Resiliency Study of Grand Ave, Go to: www.baldwindccrstudy.com

Money has been allocated by NYS for this project.

Tax Grievance Workshop @ BPL on Tuesday, January 24, 2017 at 7 pm.

New First Precinct Grand Opening: Deputy Inspector, Gary Shapiro, New Commanding Officer

BCA Community Engagement Series: 1.Narcan Training Course, April 2017
2.What to Do When Stopped by the Police: May 2017 at BPL
BCA will give \$50 gift: There is **no charge** for program.



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Grand Ave: Streetscape to resume in the Spring.

Baldwin Public Library: Interested in bringing community members of all ages and experiences together to discuss and share their part of Baldwin's story past and present and how it shaped them.

Coes Neck Park: Fence repair in Spring.

Treasurer: Budget to be submitted for review at February's meeting. Brian Curran says money is coming in for infrastructure from the State of NY. (Baldwin).

Christmas Storie: Donated \$200 in gift cards for the less fortunate families with children.

Membership Committee: Members can now pay dues at the meetings using their credit card via PayPal. Current membership is 60 members. Last year was 175. Goals are to increase outreach, ask members, do an email campaign. We need to capture members not on FB. Utilize Farmers Market as an advertising venue to recruit members.

Rita and Rob are working with Baldwin High School TV Studio as a resource for Community Building.

The TV Studio will be used as one tool to knit the fabric of the Baldwin community closer together.

The boomers, millennials and seniors in Baldwin utilize interviewing techniques to meet, and learn about each others experiences and life in Baldwin. The interviews are historical in nature, but the goal is to bridge relationships and share stories that span generations.

Shubert and Milburn schools may be up for sale. Shubert is currently being rented. The relationship with Hofstra and BOCES is ongoing. A question was raised about funding a Pre K program. "Uniondale SD is currently expanding their Pre K program and currently using Shubert School."

Quality of Life: Any complaints can be put in to the TOH anonymously.

Next meeting will be on February 9, 2017.

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm: A motion was made and unanimously accepted.

Signed,
Helena Hillian

P.O. Box 833
Baldwin, N.Y. 11510

**Baldwin Civic Association
General Meeting
February 9, 2017 Baldwin High School**

The meeting was canceled due to winter storm and school closure.

**Baldwin Civic Association
Minutes - Membership Meeting - March 11, 2017**

Call to order - The meeting was convened by President Karen Montalbano.

Minutes - The minutes of the previous meeting, which were previously e-mailed, were approved by voice vote.

Keyspan/National Grid Rate Hike - Jack McCloy reported that National Grid has implemented a 22% rate hike on Long Island, reportedly to improve facilities and equipment. Nassau and Suffolk Legislatures have indicated an interest in working together to review the large increase and attempt to get it modified. Jack has created a website with information and urges advocacy.

The website is [www: utilityratefighter.com](http://www.utilityratefighter.com) . Jack urged members to submit written comments to the NYS Public Service Commission. The rate hike is referenced: Case No. 16-G0058. Jack was thanked for his advocacy.

Commercial Corridor Study - An Open House to report the recommendations of the Baldwin Downtown and Commercial Corridor Resiliency Study is set for Wed., April 5, from 7-9 pm at the High School. The last open house was attended by 200 people. A similar turnout is expected and members are encouraged to participate.

Baldwin Community Open House - The School District is leading an effort for a Baldwin Community Open House on Sat. April 1, from 11-2:00 at the High School. This will provide community residents and those considering moving to Baldwin an opportunity to tour the high school, see the high tech features there and interact with community organizations who have all been invited to set up tables for information. All of the real estate companies in town have been invited to underwrite the event; two have accepted that invitation. The Baldwin Civic Association is the official host of the event.

Budget - The draft Budget of the BCA was e-mailed earlier. It calls for a budget of \$14,725, to be funded by dues and fundraising events. The two biggest items are Beautification and Insurance. There was discussion of priorities as expressed in the Budget. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Budget. Approved by voice vote.

Police Report - Sgt. Poppy reported no significant crime occurring in Baldwin recently. There had been a rash of petty larcenies: tires and wheels and side mirrors taken from cars, particularly at the train station. Theft from unlocked cars has also occurred. The best remedy: lock your car!

Gang activity? None to speak of in Baldwin in general. Some activity at the high school may occur.

POP - The Problem Oriented Policing Unit coordinated by Officer Billelo works with local organizations that report problems that need addressing.

Speeding on Sunrise Highway - Members complained about the problem of speeding along the highway throughout the county. Not much more can be done with existing resources.

Auto Storage Lot Variance - A Zoning Board hearing is scheduled to consider renewal of the variance to allow storage of new vehicles in the lot at Harrison and Sunrise Highway. The hearing is on March 29 at 2:00 pm at Town Hall Pavilion. Several members spoke of the unsightly nature of the lot, the lack of upkeep and sidewalk maintenance. Also possible violation of ground water regulations, parking on unpaved surface. Members are urged to send

letters to the Zoning Board of Appeals at the Town of Hempstead to object to continuation of the variance.

Downtown Development - There has been no progress on the Merrick and Grand RFP. Members expressed frustration with the lack of progress by the Town.

Previous Issues Discussed -

Karen reported that the church at 1675 Grand (and Stanton) is removing pillars and renovating steps. The Building Department is inquiring that the Church meet setback requirements from the sidewalk.

Church at 2040 Grand Ave - Building Department is trying to determine when the project will be completed and finalized.

Amendola Property - Karen reported that our BCA reps had met with the owner and his lawyer and architect to discuss revision of his plan for a shopping strip and laundromat. With assistance from Vision Long Island, we were able to convince the owner to consider a revised plan for 20 units of housing with shops below and a revised parking plan. This is in keeping with the transit oriented development that we have been advocating. We hope to meet again to discuss certain issues, particularly parking.

Millburn Creek Bridge - The State has allocated \$5 million to improve the culvert and road over it but work has not yet been scheduled.

Pathmark Site - In addition to a new supermarket that is planned, there is room for 20,000 sq. ft. of retail/restaurant. Jack McCloy reported on his conversation with Texas Roadhouse, a chain of casual dining, that has expressed interest. Nothing definite.

Events -

Our major fundraiser and fun-raiser is the Eggstravaganza in Baldwin Park on April 15. Help is needed.

June 9 - The Farmers Market will begin operation. The Market, which is sponsored by the BCA, will be held every Friday from 4- 7 pm in the parking lot of the Community Garden on Grand Ave, (next to SAIL Bldg). Live music for the inaugural market. Members are urged to attend.

April 22 - Shed the Meds event. More details later.

April 24 - Narcan training at the Fire House. How to administer emergency overdose meds.

Pothole Alert - If you experience potholes that are really bad, call 516-812-3471 at the Town. They have been responding well.

Membership Report - 79 paid members to date. Members are urged to renew membership on the website. Rob Weisser indicated that telephone calls will begin to encourage renewals. A raffle for a bottle of wine and a shirt was held.

He also reported that high school students are conducting video interviews of Baldwin residents who have interesting stories to tell. 3 have been conducted to date with more scheduled. Ultimately the interviews will be viewed on our website.

Treasurer's Report - Chris Tomasello reported a balance of \$4512.52 currently.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Greenfield

Baldwin Civic Association
April 6, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 by President Karen Montalbano.

Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as distributed by e-mail.

Sgt. Poppi and Deputy Inspector Shapiro from the 1st Precinct reported on activities since our last meeting:

- Parking in front of the north Post Office has been monitored to prevent blocking of the exit.
- The sidewalk across from the 1st Precinct was cleared properly by the Town following the last storm.
- There was a car chase on Grand Ave. that was initiated by the Village of Hempstead Police and concluded in an arrest in Baldwin.
- A hit and run in Rockville Centre ended in Baldwin with an arrest
- The car show that was held in March on a Sunday was not authorized and was terminated by the Police as soon as they were notified. Hundreds of people showed up via social media and were dispersed. A few summons were issued. The BCA thanked the Police for their quick response to this dangerous nuisance.

A question was raised about activity near Shubert School. Report any activity to 911 who will refer immediately to the Precinct. If you want to report anonymously, call Crimestopper #.

Starbucks - Rob DiNotto, Commercial Real Estate Developer, was introduced. He described the location of the Starbucks that he is developing, just west of the Best Buy on Sunrise Highway. It will have seating for 42, and outdoor seating as well. What he looks for when developing is a particular traffic count and an affordable property. With initial cost of purchase and taxes, which are very high, it is hard to develop. Local businesses can rarely afford the taxes; consequently, national chains come in. He complimented the BCA for being supportive of development and wished more communities were so positive. Having a community behind a project is a big plus. He encouraged us to speak at hearings in behalf of developments that we like.

Sak Pase' - The owner of a new Haitian Restaurant was introduced by Rob Weisser. It is located on Grand Ave. near Seaman. Menu sounded delicious and the BCA encouraged her success.

Community Open House - Claudia Rotundo reported on the Open House that was held on April 1 at the High School. The BCA was the official sponsor but the event was planned by the Community Coalition. Many organization participated, the school conducted tours of special programs and student groups performed. All who participated were thanked.

Grand Ave Development - The Town project for Grand and Merrick is moving very slowly. We were told that the Town is negotiating with the developer over the contract. The Town has also hired an assessor to determine the value of the properties if eminent domain is required to acquire the property. The BCA will continue to monitor and encourage movement forward.

Seat on County Legislature - With Laura Curran running for County Executive, many Democrats have expressed interest in running for her seat. The Democratic Committee is interviewing at least 10 people, including BCA members Jack McCloy and George Siberon. No Republicans have been identified at the time of the meeting. A Candidates' Forum will be held later in the year.

Transit Oriented Housing Development - BCA representatives have met with a developer regarding the Amendola site on Grand Ave. There is a possibility of 20 units of housing plus small stores on the site. We hope to meet again with him in the coming months to review the design.

Eggstravaganza - Our biggest fundraiser and fun-raiser is April 15 at Baldwin Park. A full day of kid-oriented activities have been planned by Jesse Velazquez and Rob Weisser. High school students and the Rotary Club are assisting.

Coming Events:

- April 24 - Training on intervening in a drug overdose - at the Fire Station
- May 17 - What to do if stopped by the Police - aimed at teens and their parents
- May 20 - Clean up of Milburn Park and Loft Pond area
- Storytime in the Garden - sponsored by the Library - dates forthcoming

Treasurer's Report - Chris reported \$526.88 in expenses in the past month, \$245.00 in deposits. The Current balance is \$4203.00.

Membership - 90 paid members , with a big push planned. A drawing was held for a bottle of wine among paid members. **If you have not paid your dues for 2017, please use the website and re-join. Your active membership is needed!**

Quality of Life - Jason again offered his assistance to anyone in the community who needed help figuring out how to get attention from government for a problem. His number is 516-946-7307. We are also looking for individuals to Adopt a Block to periodically pick up trash as part of our effort to keep the community looking good.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Greenfield
Secretary pro tem

**Baldwin Civic Association
General Meeting
May 11, 2017 Baldwin High School**

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 by President Karen Montalbano.

Minutes of the previous meeting were corrected and approved.

Thanks to Rita Cavanagh and Claudia Rotondo for their efforts in making the **Naloxone Meeting** a great and important success. Seventy five lifesaving kits were distributed at the meeting. Special thanks as well to Jessie Velasquez, Constance Pittas, and Rob Weisser for making the Eggstravaganza a great success again this year. We were able to raise \$2742 at this very important fundraiser.

A contract has been awarded for revitalization project at **Grand Ave and Merrick Road**. The contractor has 90 days to conduct due diligence. Eminent Domain remains a possibility if land purchases are not possible according to contract stipulations. The current plan is for mixed use buildings with apartments above commercial space. No architectural drawings have yet been received, but the developers are interested in community input and, hopefully, an input meeting will be scheduled for the future. Some have expressed a concern about the construction of more rental apartments in our community, but we're still at the very beginning of the process.

Baldwin business owner, Linda DuPuis of **Spa Vie**, located at 2801 Milburn Avenue introduced the members to her full service organic day spa. Arrangements can be made for private parties for both children and adults. Sheila Romano was the raffle winner of a complimentary visit to the spa.

Pat Winkler was the winner of a Weber grill in a raffle for all paid up BCA members.

Board of Education President, Joel Press, and members Mary Jo O'Hagan and Karyn Reid were in attendance to present the proposed **2017/2018 School Budget** and to answer questions. The budget as proposed shows a 1.26% budget-to-budget increase, and totals \$128,471,371. Candidates for the Board of Education, Ashley Davis, Karyn Reid, and Joan Kenyon-Woods introduced themselves to the members and made themselves available for questions regarding time commitment and availability, cost saving skills, and priorities for the upcoming school year. Concerns about a new STEAM teacher, after school activities, busing, and student safety were also addressed.

Up-Coming Events:

What to Do if You Are Stopped by the Police - May 17th, Baldwin Public Library, 7-8:30 PM

Milburn Pond and Lofts Pond Parks Clean-Up Big Sweep - Saturday, May 20th, 12-3:00 PM

BCA Community Input Meeting on Kellogg House - May 24th, Baldwin Public Library, 7:30 PM

Memorial Day Parade - May 29th - Free shirt to 1st 10 people who sign up

All of these events are important because they bring us together with other members of our community that we might not meet otherwise, allowing us to share ideas and common concerns. Please make every effort to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Dorothy Henry

BCA June General Meeting Minutes
June 8 at 7:30 pm in Baldwin Community Garden

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Minutes with corrections accepted
3. Police – report on latest incidents in Baldwin including car break ins and investigation into a gun found at Brookside School
4. Guest Speaker – Daniel Malesarri – NY Dept of Public Service - provided an overview of the restructured electric utility operations on Long Island. PSEG as well as DPS responsibilities including residential and non-residential customer rights and protections. There were questions about high bills, tree trimming which Daniel said he would look into.
5. David Viana – Updates from Nassau County
 - Streetscape program from Stanton to Lorenz starting next week.
 - Finishing up Downtown Commercial Corridor Study in the next couple of weeks and will be sending to the county.
 - Installed speed indicators at Baldwin High School.
 - Foxhurst Road and area stripped and ready for repaving
 - Gazebo installed at Silver Lake
 - Working on contract and RFP for consultant to design the recommendations from the Grand Avenue Traffic study
6. Update on Grand and Merrick – Economic Development Commissioner George Bakich had another commitment but shared:
 - Finalizing Traffic and zoning with outside counsel
 - Developer met with Fire Department and they are in agreement
 - Meeting with the Developers tomorrow. No site plans yet. Work with us to schedule a meeting to meet with TOH and Developer.
7. Farmer's Market -Started working in November with organization that runs several other markets. Due to a changeover in who was operating the market, and time constraints we were notified two weeks ago they would not do it. We had everything in place. Very disappointed.
8. Kellogg House had a good community input meeting will send out notes soon. Historical Designation meeting set for June 15th

Additional Notes:

1. Dogwood tree to be donated at War Memorial site – will be working with American Legion
2. Kudos and Thank You to Darien for suggesting and Helena for working with the library on the program: "What to Do when Stopped by the Police." About 75 attended. Holding Story Time in the garden the next three weeks.
3. Awaiting rendering of front of proposed building at Amendola site. If all agree, next step is to head to TOH
4. Received TOH Zoning Board decision on Sunrise Highway "parking lot" Need to monitor to make sure they are in compliance or we can get board to rescind permission.

Committee Reports:

- Beautification:
- Painting done at LIRR
- Yarn Bombed wheelbarrow for the garden
- Thank you to Dorothy Henry donated rose bush for Roots for Peace and Tom Owens for donated the lilac bushes.

Quality of Life:

- Been making complaints about flashing lights – not many left

Membership:

- 110 members
- No raffle winner

Jack McCloy noted that the proposed laundromat at Daisy Cleaners was denied

Jack and Mehta Mereday also worked to get the pillars removed from the corner of Stanton. Working on the stairway next.

Claudia Rotondo mentioned that Karen Montalbano was recognized with the PTA Honorary Life Membership Award for her work in the community

Calendar of upcoming events:

Music Series June 15th – 7 pm in the garden – Evening of world Music

Friday June 23rd – 7 pm in the garden - Original singers/ songwriters

Saturday June 24th – Tai Chi in the garden at 9 am