

**Baldwin Civic Association  
General Body Meeting  
January 7, 2021  
Via zoom**

The meeting opened at 7:41 by President Darien Ward. Before meeting gets under way, Assemblywoman Judy Griffin installed the new Executive Board:

President Darien Ward  
Vice President Kimberly Malone  
Treasurer Steve Greenfield  
Recording Secretary Marguerite Keller  
Corresponding Secretary Samantha Cools

Legislator Debra Mule made a statement and congratulated the Board and spoke to the members before the meeting commenced.

Rob Weisser recognized and expressed gratitude to the outgoing Board and Committee Members: Rita, Constance and Ashley. This is the 10<sup>th</sup> year for the BCA as it was established in 2011.

**Officer Reports**

- Recording Secretary
  - Adoption of minutes suspended.
- Corresponding Secretary
  - Samantha Cools is looking to organize a committee to help with social media content and communications, i.e. Zoom, YouTube, Constant Contact, etc. Other than that, there were no planned posts for Facebook, just check it daily.
- Treasurer Report
  - Treasurer Steven Greenfield reported just over \$15,000 and with no fundraisers, funds are going fast. Largest bill is insurance for \$2600.00 but that is not due for a few months.
- President/Vice President Report
  - Dates were listed on the agenda. September through December dates to be determined. President Darien Ward would like to focus on getting individuals engaged in the different committees and would like the BCA to be the “go to resource” for information on Baldwin. If you know someone who has a skill, invite them in to further enrich the BCA.
  - Unfinished business out there is the DRI and other business. Participation of the community make the BCA a better advocate. Diverse opinions are always welcome.
  - Thanked those who have already laid the groundwork and wants to maintain and achieve more. New goals are to be as productive as we can.
  - Vice President Kimberly Malone reported that she is looking forward to working with everyone and engaging more of the community.

## Standing and Adhoc Committee Reports

- Economic Development
  - Economic Development Chair Replacement: Vice President Kim Malone is still looking for someone to be Chair of the Economic Development Committee. If anyone in the community has a recommendation, please let her know. The person she had in mind is unable to take on the responsibilities at this time, so she is open to suggestions.
- Government Liaison
  - President Darien Ward expressed how Karen Montalbano has been a” one woman crusade” in this obligation and it’s really more of a one person responsibility and would like to get more members involved with the committee.
- Beautification
  - Matt Ponsot spoke about a meeting planned for next week with Rita to get a plan in place.
  - Elissa Kirchner spoke about communicating with the high school guidance department to get students involved in adopting a senior where they would help mow the lawn, etc. Additionally, cleanups around town whether it’s residential or commercial will be on the Beautification agenda.
  - Elissa pitched the idea of having food trucks at the Community Garden in the Spring/Summer and is seeking thoughts on it. She would love to do this every Friday night. Discussion took place on what permissions she may have to get in terms of the Town and a proposal from her was encouraged.
- Fundraising
  - Rob Weisser spoke for Constance in relation to the brick fundraiser that has been taking place. Polar Engraving has a website for people to go look at the product, [www.polarengraving.com/baldwincivicassociations](http://www.polarengraving.com/baldwincivicassociations). The fundraiser so far has paid for the gazebo and would like to continue this.
  - Steve Greenfield spoke about the fundraising idea, he is trying to recruit 25 BCA members who would agree to raise \$100 selling baked goods, skills, or other ideas sometime in the spring to help raise funds. We have been “living” on funds raised in 2019 because due to the pandemic fundraising has not been able to happen.
  - Darien asked if there were any members interested in helping with fundraising to reach out.
- Membership/Website
  - Rob reported 101 paid members last year. Membership is trending up and has increased.
  - Website is undergoing renovations and updates for new pictures. The blog will hopefully be used more for people to take action. Always wanted to have a newsletter monthly but we need people to create content.
- Quality of Life

- Rodney Levi spoke about resident complaints and was happy to report there have been no new complaints. Two past complaints, one on a business and the other on an intersection, have quieted down.
- The marketing campaign on QOL issues in Baldwin is trying to come up with a survey to present to the Baldwin community by putting it on the website to see what the larger issues are in Baldwin. QOL committee will be meeting again to work on the survey and other items.

### **New Business**

- Claudia Rotondo announced that the Coalition is co-sponsoring yarn bombing workshops via zoom on January 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. To participate you have to email the library and they will send you a link and it's run by Sara Hill.
- Sara spoke about what yarn bombing is all about and that there will be three different workshops. One workshop is an overview. The workshops are: 1/26 (overview), 2/17 and 2/24 at 7:00 p.m for knitting and 3/3 and 3/10 at 7 p.m. for crocheting. Then a crew will be put together to install sometime in the spring. The Baldwin Library's Piper has more information on this.
- Karen Montalbano announced that the Historical Society just did a presentation for the library. It is going to be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month so keep your eyes open for them. They are looking to put together several of them.
- Sheree Lindsay got an email from Senator Kaminsky's office about grants for restaurants who suffered in the pandemic. The grant is for restaurants who are struggling can apply and get up to \$5,000.
- President Darien Ward reported that they asked our political representatives to speak to Empire State Development Corporation about DRI prospects and what were the mechanics of when they are going to get back to us. The Empire State Development was not forthcoming with information. The aim is to keep asking New York State what is going on with the DRI. There have been some rumors about developers looking to go elsewhere and those are only rumors. Nothing solid.
- There is a supermarket coming into the Pathmark site. It's a small start up. They have property in Brooklyn & Queens. They will be leasing it from PickQuick. They are not associated with Key Food. No timeframe on when it is moving in.

Since no other announcements and nothing new to add, President Darien Ward asked for a motion to end the meeting. Motion to adjourn was made by Claudia and Karen seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:54.