



Council of Greater Manhasset Civic Associations, Inc.

(Greater Council)

PO Box 600, Manhasset, New York 11030-0600

www.manhassetcivic.org

Executive Board /Officers 2012-13

eMail: info@manhassetcivic.org

President: Richard Bentley
1st Vice Pres: Elizabeth Miller
2nd Vice Pres: John Crewe
Secretary: John W. Walter
Treasurer: William D'Antonio
Past President: Ann Marie (Curd) Fruhauf

Member Civic Associations

Bayview Civic Association
Flower Hill Civic Association
Manhasset Park Civic Association
Norgate Civic Association
North Strathmore Civic Association
Plandome Civic Association
Plandome Heights Civic Association
Shorehaven Civic Association
South Strathmore Civic Association
Strathmore Vanderbilt Civic Association
Strathmore Village Civic Association
Terrace Manor Civic Association

Liaisons to Incorporated Villages:

Flower Hill
Munsey Park
North Hills
Plandome
Plandome Heights
Plandome Manor

Other Organization Liaisons

Coalition for Safer Manhasset
Chamber of Commerce
Manhasset Preservation Society

Next Meeting: Feb 13, 2013
TNH Law Library 8pm

MINUTES: JANUARY 9, 2013.

A regular meeting of the Council of Greater Manhasset Civic Associations, Inc. was held at 8 PM on Wednesday January 9, 2013 at the Town of North Hempstead Law Library in Manhasset, New York with Elizabeth Miller, 1st Vice President serving as Chair and John W. Walter serving as Recording Secretary. The following persons were representing their civic associations or entities:

Officers Present:

1st Vice President: Elizabeth Miller, Shorehaven CA
Treasurer: William J. D'Antonio, Munsey Park
Secretary: John W. Walter, Flower Hill

Members and Liaisons Present:

Jeffrey O'Brien, North Strathmore CA
Sue Auriemma, Munsey Park
Peggy Caulan, Terrace Manor CA
Margaret Schwarz, Terrace Manor CA
Katie Miller, CSM / C of C
Matt Sherwood, Plandome Heights;
Andrew Schwenk, South Strathmore

Guests Present:

Pat Grace, Manhasset Press

The meeting was called to order by 1st Vice President Elizabeth Miller, at 8:05 PM with a roundtable introduction.

I. **Secretary's Report. Approval of 12-12-12 minutes:** The draft Minutes were circulated to the membership prior to this meeting. After no objections, the following motion was made and seconded:

Motion: To approve the minutes of December 12th, 2012 as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

II. **Treasurer's Report;** Bill D'Antonio noted current balance is: \$3,345.68. Dues received from Manhasset Park District, Norgate, South Strathmore & North Strathmore. Most other civics paid last month. There are a few still outstanding that Bill will follow up with reminder e-mails.

III. **Old Business:** Liz Miller presented the following:

A. **Legislative Redistricting:** Sue Auriemma reported a packed house at the January 3rd Public Hearing with both Republicans, Democrats, the League of Women's Voters and residents. Over 65 people asked to speak; Sue waited several hours before giving her testimony. None of the speakers supported the The committee said it would consider other comments submitted before the end of the week, so that all could be heard, the audience thought that the matter would be held over for another hearing. However, the chair then asked for a vote anyway, in spite of the earlier comment that they would not vote at this hearing. The vote was along party lines 5/5. The final decision will be sent to County Legislature for a final vote (TBD expected late Feb), so residents need to write to the County Legislators.

B. **TNH Open Items List:** See attached reviewed in detail; Discussion ensued on following items

1. **Plandome Rd – Safe Routes to School Grant** - TNH awaits final NYS-DOT approval to bid documents submitted in early 2012, now removing road paving from scope. TNH has not in any way relinquished its eligibility for the grant funds; the ONLY change was removal of the paving portion from the Grant/project scope of work (ie: TNH would do the paving work) due to NYSDOT's required use of highway grade asphalt that was 4 times more than standard asphalt. Members had many questions: It is now entirely unclear whether there are remaining issues that require the NYSDOT approval. What does this status mean in terms of when will Phase 1 be able to begin, or how TNH will be proceeding with the remainder of the Plandome Rd Vision Project?

Left Turn Lane @ Plandome Road & 25A: The restoration of prior length is certain for spring 2013, and Ms. Kaplan has additionally asked TNH Traffic Office, Diane O'Donnell to review our requested additional lengthening. If deemed warranted, Ms O'Donnell will seek NYSDOT approval. According to TNH, if NYSDOT approval is obtained before start of the planned work, additional lengthening may be achievable concurrently. Members had many questions: When will Ms. O'Donnell going to review the lengthening and if deemed wise, request NYSDOT approval? How long does it take to get this type of NYSDOT approval? Katie Miller suggested an online petition in favor of the lengthening may be helpful. Some parking spots may be eliminated with a turn lane lengthening, but all thought it was advantageous to improve horrific traffic conditions.

2. **Parking Concerns on Plandome Road and side streets:** An extended 30 minute discussion on the parking issues in Manhasset ensued.

Information needs to be provided by TNH. How often does code enforcement enforce parking regulations on Plandome Road and adjacent side street? How many parking enforcers are in the Town? How often? Is there a log that could be reviewed? How many tickets are issued daily? How are the cars on Plandome monitored? Are tires chalked? Is there a device that records the registration and location and time? How many property owners in Manhasset have Town parking permits? Which properties are grandfathered from requiring permits? How many properties in total rent parking spots? Does the Town collect a tax on the cars parked in Manhasset at these parking lots?

Katie Miller suggested nearby towns have Business Improvement Districts to help them, but Manhasset does not. Many vacant store owners live out of Town. She recommended that the Greater Council have a joint meeting with the Chamber to try to find with solutions to traffic and vacancy problems.

Many ideas were suggested: meters, parking garages, shuttle busses for store employees from alternate parking lots, renting spaces to outsiders, etc. At the end of the day, four problems have to be solved first before we can make a sizable solution to a grand scheme to fix this issue. Firstly, landlords and the store owners/renters must be in the discussion process to achieve recommendations for their common good. Secondly, a means to control traffic better from the one-way & side streets that enter Plandome Road without jamming the traffic. Thirdly, we need to improve the enforcement of the overtime parkers. Finally, we need to explore what will occur when the Post Office leaves the area. Adding meters to the mix will continue to be controversial to both the store owners and the public.

- C. **311 Stats Attached:** Manhasset's SR completion understandingly dropped in November to 47% due to Super Storm Sandy. Year end 2012 on time completion was 71% (2011 total was 76%). The Manhasset 311 details are available on Greater Council website.

- D. **MPD Update:** Andrew Schwenk attended last MPD meeting and had no notable updates other than that it was Bernie Rolston's last meeting and David Paterson is officially to begin term at its next meeting in Jan. Many recognize Bernie Rolston's effort and accomplishments, but he never actively sought input from the community. The group was encouraged that changes will take place with a new commissioner taking over especially since transparency was his platform. Member discussion and questions arose on the following:

1. **MPD Purpose:** The community needs a better background awareness of MPD to better understand its legislative purpose. This is typically given by posting its bylaws or its history on its webpage. To date, the only law found was the Nassau County Civil Divisions Act. What if any other County or Town laws have been enacted with regards to the District that created it as a parking district versus a park district? Members request the MPD to make this background more public to alleviate the confusion.
2. **MPD lot along Hillside Avenue**, adjacent to the LIRR station, across from the Verizon building: Lot frequently observed as only half filled at most. Some believe that local real estate brokers purchase those permits to have the luxury of parking anytime they stop by their office. Some past efforts to get the MDP to split it into half permit and half metered parking for local shoppers, but MPD took no action. Could be revisited with new MPD leadership.
3. **MPD lot along George Street** behind the Candy Store. What is the purpose of that lot, and who is allowed to park there?
4. **Village of North Hills (VNH) Shuttle Bus to LIRR.** Phyllis Lentini was unable to attend but provided an eMail update on the Village's shuttle service. According to the November data, the ridership from Village Hall was 308, up 62 from October, Ridership has increased every month. The Shuttle now leaves from Village Hall only, every hour 6:30 to 9:30am to the Manhasset Railroad station and returns beginning 4:30 to 7:30pm. The Christopher Morley Park shuttle was stopped due to low ridership. Residents show their photo ID card to the driver; There is no cost to VNH residents.

Members were pleased to hear of its success, which can be a model for other communities. If a group of people can ride in one vehicle, it improves our traffic and parking congestion issues. Many asked if the shuttle could leave every half hour to accommodate more people since the train leaves about every twenty minutes. Also, can VNH students take the shuttle to the train and walk from there to school?

E. SRR Cherry Tree Project: Phyllis Lentini reported via eMail that Mayor Natiss continues village efforts, requesting greater priority from the County on this matter, but little is expected to happen in the near future given the County's more urgent matters. FEMA rules prevent Village action until FEMA settles its reimbursements. County has about \$1 million budgeted for Capital improvement this fiscal year but is a 'drop in the bucket' for the damages incurred on Searingtown and SRR. Mayor Natiss is very active in the Nassau County Village Assoc and his presence will help us not to be forgotten. Tree stumps will be grinded up but no specific timing is known.

The discussion was that the former trees were not the best tree for planting under electric wires. Arborists suggest slower growing smaller trees be planted in their place, or be planted away from the overhead wires, which involves adjacent property ownership issues along both roadways.

F. LIRR Area / Downtown Beautification: Andrew Schwenk managed to get one scrub tree cut down recently. He has some ideas to "brighten-up" the station. However, getting to the right person at the LIRR at the right time is always problem. Current projects include:

- Remove the many plastic magazine boxes near the mailbox at the street entrance to the station and replacing it with a single dispenser placed in the stationhouse lobby, as done in the NYC and has worked out nicely.
- Continuing the concept of Tudor colonial type shutters throughout downtown. Jeff O'Brien is in talks with A&F Market and Louie's to have shutters placed on their buildings. The cost is about \$300 (per window?). North Strathmore Civic had inherited \$200,000 from a resident's estate to put the money to good use to improve the community. Much dedicated to Onderdonk House improvements, but perhaps some funds for downtown shutter installations. N. Strathmore is planning brick pillars as it entrances, perhaps with gas light burners.
- Liz Miller spoke of beautifying the train overpass with art work or some sort of display fitting for Manhasset. She used the example of Great Neck. See www.greatneckplaza.net. They have several Trompe L'oeil Murals in Great Neck Plaza. Perhaps, a fundraiser can be organized once an idea was agreed upon by the group.

IV. Civic Roundtable: Only those with new topics reported.

North Strathmore: Onderdonk House: Still waiting for a final permit so that they can have a new tenant occupy the top floor which will provide near \$25,000 annual income to their Foundation.

Chamber of Comm: Katie Miller introduced LI ALZHEIMER'S FOUNDATION's (LIAF) "**TASTE OF THE TOWN**" - **Tasting, Awareness & Fundraising Event**" to be held on Thurs, Jan 24th (snow date 29th) from 4 – 8 PM at the LIAF Building in Port Washington. Fine foods from some of the "**Best Restaurants**" in the Town of North Hempstead will be sampled. 100% of proceeds go to LIAF. Cost: \$12/person \$20/two persons. **RSVP to: 516-767-6856.**

Village of Flower Hill: John Walter spoke about the NYS audit that was printed on NEWSDAY, stating the current Mayor, Elaine Phillips was required to make a response to the residents and the State. However, her response left those who were not aware that she was in charge as the Mayor during the time that the audit's concerns of impropriety, one would think is was under her watch. I hope that she will issue a clarification that that her term of office as Mayor started in April 2012 at which time she became responsible for correcting the Village's problems that occurred from 2006 though 2011, all prior to her election.

V. Future GC Presentations: The following presentations will be explored:

- Manhasset – Great Neck EOC
- Spinny Hill / Mt. Olive Church property middle income housing project.

VI. Upcoming Events:

- January 14th Parking Committee @ TNH Law Library 7:30pm (same members on list from July 2012 meeting)

Adjournment: With no other business, the following motion was made, and seconded.

Motion: To Adjourn at 10:15PM. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Respectively Submitted

John W. Walter, Secretary

Greater Council Summary of Open TNH Items

Topic	Last Known Status
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Plandome Road Vision Project: More detail posted on [GC 'Our Projects'](#) tab. Following the Aug 2012 repaving, follow-up needed on (1) Repainted crosswalk designs were the standard staggered stripes (not the expected more decorative crosswalk designs) and (2) The SB Pland Rd left turn lane onto EB 25A was actually shorted from its prior length causing even more car queue-up congestion on Plandome Rd; TNH recognizes error and **Turn Lane length to be repainted in Spring 2013. Safe Routes to Schools still awaits NYSDOT approval of bid documents; paving removed from grant's scope of work to save on DOT required asphalt type.**

Apple Bank: Variance for current non-conformance proceeds through BZA process.

Plandome Rd Parking Committee: Supervisor Kaiman and Councilwoman Kaplan confirm that TNH have suspended IMA talks with MPD in view of community opposition to meters. The planning group formed in July 1012 to study/discuss a comprehensive approach to resolving chronic Plandome Rd area parking issues will reconvene on Jan 14.

Village Bath: More detail posted on [GC 'Our Projects'](#) tab. A small group of neighboring homeowners initiated legal action (presumed Article 78 suit) still pending but 'stop work order' request was denied by the Judge, so site work as planned is on-going. The 1900 Northern Blvd bldg construction (as of right) also proceeds. . Daffy store now vacant; new tenant occupancy remains in bankruptcy process. Both result in far less parking demand thru this winter. Torkan reports he met with neighbors and TNH twice since then; Residents requests under consideration include but not limited to: additional curbcut onto Northern Blvd (TNH is developing options); Awaiting desired fence detail from neighbors.

Orchard Street Parking: USPS truck parking still problematic; Ms. Kaplan's office in discussion with USPS and Chamber concurrently working to identify & propose alternative USPS truck parking location(s), such as County DPW garage and parking lot on Maple Street, opposite Manh Valley Park. D O'Donnell met with USPS 11/14 re: Moving curbside Drop Box to a location already marked as no parking in order to maximize available shopper parking. **Uncertain of rumored USPS leaving or downsizing details.**

Onderdonk Ave Traffic Calming: TNH approved 8/21/12 Don't Block the Box at Apple Bank lot entrance. **TNH Public Hearing date not yet set for Stop Sign & Crosswalk @ George St; Town received some concerns about potential backing up of traffic to 25A.**

Bayview Ave Infrastructure: Long term plan, based on BCA's1995 study highlighting the deteriorated Bayview Ave roadbed. TNH Board engaged architect for conceptual design alternatives to then be included in TNH 5 year capital plan. Architect has initiated design work. Ms. Kaplan met w/residents at BCA 10/17; to meet again with architect concepts late winter 2012.

Christ Church Parish House: More info on [MPS website](#). M Puntillo reports desire to start work ASAP, but only waiting for TNH permits to be issued w/ hopes for a mild winter.

Plandome Pond Park: D DeGiorgio reports no confirmed TNH Parks Dept time frame yet for installing water aeration devices to alleviate stagnant water condition/ mosquitoes, and fence post replacement.

Norgate / Sunset Chapel Issues since 6-4-10: 22 Norgate, owned by the Steinbergs of Sunset Chapel, remains abandoned and an eyesore to the community. TNH took owner to court to enforce a restrictive covenant. TNH attorney's office successfully got owner action in Fall 2012 on site clean up and buffer restoration, albeit some shoddy workmanship. **Stockade fence again needs repairs; A Kaplan requested TNH Code enforcement revisit site for any current potential violations.**

Valley Park Reconstruction: More detail posted on [GC 'Our Projects'](#) tab. Short term 3way STOP sign at Maple/Bayview installed July 2012; long term intersection plan being advanced. Work began Aug 2012 with completion delayed by SSSandy, but expected in March 2013. Deferred comfort station/concession, playground & field light installs due to multi-year sport org contributions. GC requested timetable clarification for Army Corp of Eng. dredging. Equinox parking lot agreement in TNH legal process - **Greatest concern is TNH needs a concurrent plan for safer pedestrian traffic between Valley Park lot and Equinox.**

Lord & Taylor Expand Project: L&T proceeding with building addition as approved but is still working on architectural design modifications to facade; will forward drawings before any resubmission to TNH.

-----Nassau County Open Issues-----

Bayview Ave/Maple waterfront: NC DPW has fence replacement in NC 2013 planned work.

Plandome Rd Repaving through Plandome Heights: Postponed pending M-L Water District water main project completion Fall 2012. Obviously, progress thwarted by Sandy Recovery priorities.