



Council of Greater Manhasset Civic Associations, Inc.

(Greater Council)

PO Box 600, Manhasset, New York 11030-0600

www.manhassetcivic.org

Executive Board /Officers 2016-17

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President: Richard Bentley
1st Vice Pres: Andrew Schwenk
2nd Vice Pres:- Elizabeth Miller
Secretary:- Susan Auriemma
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 Assoc.
Strathmore Village Civic Association
Terrace Manor Civic Association

Liaisons to Incorporated Villages:

Flower Hill
Munsey Park
North Hills
Plandome
Plandome Heights
Plandome Manor

Other Liaisons

Coalition for Safer Manhasset (CSM)
Coalition Against Substance Abuse (CASA)
Chamber of Commerce
Manhasset Park District
Manhasset Preservation Society

Agenda

Wed Sept 13, 2017 @ 7:30pm; Town Hall, Law

(use Andrew St entrance; up half flight stairs to 1st Floor – 1st door on right, enter thru Town Attny Office)

1. **Call to order.** Roundtable Introduction.
2. **Councilwoman Kaplan / Sabereh Samet TNH Update-** Open Items List Review ([link](#)). No updates received yet; hopefully will be covered verbally at the meeting.
3. **President's Report/ Old Business:** Rich Bentley
 - a. **311 stats** [311 detail reports \(link\)](#). Will be updated and reported @ October mtg.
 - b. **Beautification Updates** (Jeff O'Brien/ Andrew Schwenk/ Katie Miller)
 - c. **(FYI)Town Attorney** status of review Grandfathered Commercial Parking Permit records.
 - d. **Manhasset Park District Updates** (MPD rep or Andrew S if present)
 - e. **Bylaw review.**
4. **Secretary's Report:**
 - a. **Approval of Prior Minutes:** Draft of June 14, 2017 minutes posted ([link](#)).
5. **Treasurer's Report-** Bill D'Antonio.
6. **Civic Report Roundtable**
7. **New Business:** Added "Common Sense Guidelines for Campaign Signs in Manhasset areas" (attached)

Upcoming Events:

(Please submit dates/ events you want listed)

next meeting – Wed Oct 11, 2017

“Common Sense Guidelines for “lawn signs” on public roadways

GOAL: to create a better and safer condition for our residents; In absence of Town actions to improved Town-wide legislative revisions to signs to reduce the visual littering of our communities during campaign seasons that improve vehicular and pedestrian safety, Greater Council has moved to adopt voluntary guidelines in the Manhasset area.

Background/ Discussion of Issues relating to Campaign Signs:

Discussed **numerous** times over decades and arises every campaign season. Despite criticism of signs voiced over the years on the signs that 'visually litter' our communities and 'lawn sign' placement on public land, particularly at hazardous vehicular locations is potentially detrimental, where drivers attention is best kept on the road, immediately following every election, most signs come down and the issue falls dormant. Several of our local Inc Villages do have more restrictive ordinances that better control the matter focussed on all sign; many Inc Villages are predominantly residential with few if any true commercial properties. Thus, we all see unincorporated Town locations are more problematic. Lawmakers tout 'free speech' and apple pie, permission of the property owners, etc.. and ultimately have never entertained any Town wide local law change that would further restrict their own future campaigns. At root is fact that name recognition as an important factors to candidates in local elections, where candidate campaign funds generally can't afford TV/radio ads and thus, these signs are effectively in getting their 'name out on the streets'. Candidates DO rely on such campaign signs for their election; Local name recognition remains an important election factor. Case law suggests ordinaances are appropriate only when written to address all signs, not specific to campaign signs. We understand legislative ACTION will be difficult, but not impossible, beacuse action would affect incumbent's future campaigns, and it's unlikely to any 'party' support to take action. This is a chronic issue - not just the current campaign(s), nor limited to just Town elected offices, but includes every local and special district election seasons as well, and DOES affects ALL residents.

Candidates at GC meetings include considerable discussion time ends up being spent on campaign signs. This often detracts from discussion of many other pertinent issues of each election. Past GC efforts have been sporadically successful when we contact the candidates themselves and urge they curtail signs at our most notorious 'dangerous vehicular / pedestrian intersections', and we have gotten varying stages of cooperation, but are frequently short-lived. Problem is compounded by campaign staffers (not the candidates themselves) that place the signs wherever they personally feel it has 'good' visibility. Evidently one or two signs are ineffective - if the red team puts 10 signs, the blue team needs to place 12 signs, which gets the red team to place 4 more (or vice-verse), and so on. Current Town Code refers to permits to place signs, but are either not enforced or not required to maintain any master location list to know where all signs are placed, to enable more effective removal within the 10 days following the election date as required by code. While many signs are removed (and some even recycled by the parties for the next campaign season), inevitably there are 'straggler' locations that can have signs remain for FAR longer. Signs that fall flat on ground are frequently observed to stay for MONTHS/YEARS.

Common Sense Guidelines: No change is proposed on “lawn” signs on private property with the owners approval. The Town can and should improve upon its Town code for lawn signs so that they are less visually littering within our communities several times per year, and that they reduce driving hazards that take drivers attention off the road. Town might start with an appointed bipartisan resident study to propose improved **common sense guidelines**, addressing SAFETY FIRST - the chronic condition of signs that divert attention of drivers by being placed at heavily trafficked and pedestrian intersections or dangerous blind roadway curves, and that cause visual littering in our communities. **Absent Town ordinance action, GC has advanced the following Guidelines for the unincorporated Manhasset community, and issue to all candidate campaigns before each election season for their voluntary compliance.**

Restrict areas and limit qty of where lawn /banner signs can NOT be placed:

- No signs on municipality owned (Public) property- that wrongly convey municipality's endorsement of any candidate.
- 75 feet before any intersection with a traffic control device or crosswalk.
- 75 feet before any posted official yellow roadway warning sign (blind curves, pedestrian crossings, RR track).
- Maintain list of locations where every sign is placed that is then used to remove every sign 10 days after the election
- No more than 2 signs of the same sign within 75 feet of any other campaign sign.