



# Council of Greater Manhasset Civic Associations, Inc.

(Greater Council)

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## **Executive Board & Officers 2021:**

*President: Richard Bentley*

*1<sup>st</sup> Vice Pres: Andrew Schwenk*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres: Susan Auriemma*

*Secretary:*

*Treasurer:- Donald O'Brien*

*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*

*Plandome Mills Homeowners 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:**

*Chamber of Commerce*

*Coalition Against Substance Abuse*

*Coalition for Safer Manhasset*

*Manhasset Park District*

*Manhasset Preservation Society*

## **MINUTES OF MEETING**

**March 8, 2023**

The following persons were in attendance:

### **Members Present:**

Rich Bentley, President, BCA

Andrew Schwenk, 1<sup>st</sup> VP, South Strathmore CA

Donald O'Brien, Manhasset Park CA

Rob Donno, Chamber of Commerce

Barbara Donno, Vill Plandome Manor

Eric Monroe, BCA

Matthew Donno, Chamber of Commerce

Connie Bruno, Norgate CA

Rosemary Mascali, Plandome Heights CA

### **Guests Present:**

Mariann Dalimonte, TNH

Veronica Lurvey, TNH

Jennifer DeSena, TNH

Marissa Cerrone, Recording Sect

Frank Rizzo, Manhasset Press

A regular meeting of the Council of Greater Manhasset Civic Associations, Inc. (GC) was held at 7:30 pm on March 8, 2023, at the Town Hall Supervisors Conference Rm with Rich Bentley serving as Chair and Marissa Cerrone serving as Recording Secretary.

1. **Call to Order:** This meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Rich Bentley
2. **Town Updates:** Updates on any additional current Town topics, including:
  - a. Councilwoman Veronica Lurvey; Town Open Items (link) last updated VL 6-8-22. 3.
    - **Road paving:** Concern about the roads being ripped up by electrical companies and roads being left with potholes. Concern about when Manhasset will see more roads being paved. Several complaints about potholes in North Strathmore and around the Onderdonk House. In the budget, there is double the amount of money towards repaving town roads (around \$2 million or more) than prior year. If a street needs repaving, residents need to call 311 which become factored into each summer repaving plan, based on a ranking of road condition. Concern about utility companies leaving roads not adequately finishing jobs and repaving the streets. If a company does not repave a road after tearing it up, the company must give the town the money so the town can repave it. NYS will be repaving Northern Blvd in the spring starting from the city line and ending around Plandome Road.
    - **Infiniti dealership:** Infiniti dealership is closing. The owner is making the property a used car dealership. Town code does not distinguish used vs new car sales.

- LIRR train time change: Many complaints about the change in train times after the direct line to Grand Central was added. There are fewer trains and cars going to Penn Station and the trains have gotten crowded. Many train riders are still going in and out of Penn Station and not many people are taking the Grand Central line. The LIRR wants to hear what the people are saying about the train time change. LIRR is aware there is a problem and is adding more cars to the trains from 8 cars to 10 cars.
  - NY Governor's Housing-Zoning Proposal: Concern about the proposal, since Manhasset is within a 15-mile radius of NYC, there must be a 3% increase in affordable housing over the next 3 years in each village. Nobody was in favor of the proposal. Proposal to get NYC, Westchester, and Nassau Democrats in the low-density areas to bring light to the issue and oppose the proposal and put pressure on the government to take this proposal out of the budget. To fight the Governor's proposal, constituents encouraged to write letters gov't and NYS legislators, so everyone's voice is heard.
  - Manhasset Public Library: Returning to normal hours. There have been shrubs planted in the buffer zone, but don't appear sufficient.
3. **Treasurer's Report**: Donald O'Brien (awaiting receipt)
- a. All Civics have now paid their 2022/23 GC dues.
    - When the Treasurer's Report is received, it will be added to minutes posted on GC webpage
4. **Secretary's Report**: 12/14/22 draft Minutes on [GC webpage meetings tab \(link\)](#) for approval.
- a. Motion to accept by Andrew, seconded by Rosemary. Motion passed unanimously.
5. **Old Business Status**:
- a. **311 Stats**: On-time complete Feb '23 @ 78% (down from Jan '23 @ 79%). Cumulative Open Feb '23 @ 352 (down from Jan '23 @ 382). Historical stats on [GC webpage Projects tab \(link\)](#)
6. **2023 GC Officer elections**: No volunteers or nominations received- continue to next GC meeting.
7. **Manhasset Chamber of Commerce Update**: Rob Donno.
- a. Al Fresco: Al Fresco will take place this summer again. Concern about the maintenance and advertising on hanging banners on Northern Blvd and Plandome Rd. Beautification flower basket and planters will continue in spring.
  - b. **Sewer Project Update**: Plandome Rd Sewer Project and associated Town funding status.
    - Proceeding with the Great Neck Water Pollution District (GNWPCD) sewer project installing pipe under Plandome Road. There remains widespread resident and commercial support for the new sewer pipe. The project is broken down into two parts: the installation of the pipe under Plandome Road and the lateral hookups to the commercial buildings. These buildings also support the residential apartments above businesses (40 mixed-use buildings, 88 potential hookups). \$3 million of ARPA money received from Feds to Town will be allocated towards the lateral hookups from the pipe to the Plandome Road and adjacent side street commercial businesses. Town Board vote was postponed to March 14 due to legality concerns about using the ARPA funds for the lateral hookups. The project is number 82 on the town agenda. We urge NYS Senator Gina Sillitti, who led the State \$5 million towards the project, to be actively more involved in urging the Town approval to help advance the project. The use of ARPA funds appears legal per the attorney hired by Chamber of Commerce to research, but Town Attorney not yet convinced as per last meeting held on March 8th. Town Attorney and Board members are concerned on possibility of the town being sued using the ARPA funds. Town initially said no town has used the ARPA funds on Long Island before for sewer project lateral connections. Huntington Station is in the process of a similar project and is trying to use ARPA funds as well (using funds for pipe installation and the infrastructure). Attorneys are split on whether it is legal or illegal. There is no specific Federal guideline stating a town can use ARPA funds for lateral hookups. The main pipe is legal, concerns are about the laterals. Attorneys are going to look back and conduct more research to see if the hookups are legal for private property hookups. Trying to interpret the ARPA funds in broader terms. Concern about using the funds and then the government rejecting the funding and then there will be money owed to the government. The town has until 2026 to use the ARPA funds, not April 2023. Councilwomen want a project that will happen, waiting for it to be valid. Once there is writing from the town attorney stating the lateral hookups are legal, the councilwomen will be more comfortable voting for the project to progress. Veronica indicated no issue with use of

ARPA funds to connect the pipe to the Town Hall. This project will create the model for other towns to use.

- c. **Any Bayview residential area project:** awaiting finalization of Plandome Rd project plan.
  - Goal is to keep the residents updated and to educate the residents on their plan. Petition support of Bayview area residents grows in favor of the project. If the majority of the residents are in favor of the project, they will begin the residential planning once the Plandome Rd commercial project advances.

**8. Manhasset Park District Update:** Mark Sauvigne

- a. The town attorney went to see who owns Maple Place (portion of Town roadway that is currently a travel lane inside the MPD lot), the project is moving along albeit slowly. The town might own the roadway, but the land may potentially not be owned by Town.
- b. The Park District is going to continue allowing non-commuters to park in lots on a month-to-month basis until Manhasset resident lot utilization returns to pre-pandemic volume. High School students permitted to park in the lot during pandemic low lot utilization level, is likely to be discontinued next academic year.

**9. New Business**

**Civic Report Roundtable (time permitting)**

- a. Manhasset Park: Complaints about reckless driving and drivers that too frequently roll through stop signs.
- b. Norgate: The BZA reserved their decision regarding the BMW dealership. The dealership moved the entrance and exit, now the exit is by the traffic light and will need a new traffic study. The BZA has 62 days to approve variances and permits. Waiting for approval. Concern about making the main building bigger at the dealership and if they will need more room for the extra parking spaces. Submitted a packet to BZA. Norgate has no objections and is working on a an updated buffer zone agreement. The process is just taking a long time to go through the hearings.
- c. South Strathmore: Concern about the streets getting ripped apart and not being repaved. Concern about if the town is on schedule for spring tree planting. If a tree poses a risk or is infested, the town takes the tree down immediately and replacement receives priority planting.
- d. Plandome Heights: Putting an aerator in Plandome Road Park, but there was a concern about it making a lot of noise, especially with residential homes nearby. The town has ordered new split rail fence to repair them. When it is Manhasset Senior Paint Fight next year, the village and PHCA will contact the school, police, and town to urge increased surveillance.
- e. Bayview: Bayview Ave going to be put back on the list for repaving the roads due to potholes. There is a lot of standing water by the shore and there is a drainage problem. The water is then trapped in potholes. Bayview Ave waterfront restoration project is moving far too slowly.

**Upcoming Events:**

- High in Plain Sight Speaker: Speaker event hosted by CASA that will address the drugs kids have been taking recently. April 26 at 7 pm. CASA got a speaker from Texas, but he will not speak if there are fewer than 50 people registered to attend. Suggestion to inform the schools about the event so they could send it to parents.
- SCA fair at Munsey Park school is on May 6.
- Manhasset Rotary Comedy night on March 15 7pm. \$25 a ticket; see flyer on Chamber webpage.

Meeting adjourned at 9:28 pm. Motion to adjourn by Connie, seconded by Donald and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Marissa Cerrone, Recording Secretary