

Chamber of Commerce General Meeting
January 15th 2007

Directors present: Mark Smothergill, Bob Sinkowitz, Susan Wischhusen, Barbara Kruk, Barbara Johantges, Joe Asaro, Rich Geraci, Rick Drnek, James Ng, Glenn Hollins, Pat Peluso, Nancy Marks

Directors absent: Monique Genchi, Tony Saggio Tony Liberti, and Barbara Giaccone

President Mark Smothergill called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. and led us in reciting the pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary Susan Wischhusen read the minutes from the December 11th General Meeting. A motion was made to accept the minutes as written by Joe Asaro. Bob Sinkowitz seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Susan Wischhusen then read the minutes from the January 8th Directors Meeting. Frank Montanez and Pat Peluso asked to be added to the Christmas Parade and Spring Egg Hunt Committees. Susan Wischhusen asked to be on the Bylaws Committee. Joe Asaro made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Rich Geraci seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Pat Peluso asked for a copy of the budget. Mark Smothergill had copies available and gave Pat a copy.

Guest Speaker: Councilwoman Carol Bissonette began by wishing every one a Happy New Year. She went on to say that the moratorium along Neighborhood Road has expired. There is \$370,000 in grants for beautification along Neighborhood Road. Trees have been selected to replace dead ones. There will be an intermingling of species; they will be planted on Neighborhood Road between Commack Road and Cranberry Drive. 33 trees in all will be planted. A mixture of Bartlett Pears, Golden Rain tree and other flowering trees will be planted.

The project timeline:

- ❖ This week order trees
 - ❖ Pin Oaks will be removed as removal will disturb sidewalks
 - ❖ New Trees will be planted
 - ❖ New lighting installed (Battery Park Style Lantern with brackets for hanging banners)
 - ❖ Metal grates installed
 - ❖ Sidewalks installed
 - ❖ Remove and replace planters (if enough funding remains)
 - ❖ Gazebo will be placed at Nutrition Center
 - ❖ New Sound system installed
 - ❖ New Street Benches
 - ❖ New Decorative Street signs and Poles
- (Mark Smothergill passed around a packet that showed the placement of new lights.)

Councilwoman Bissonette stated that the Draft copies of the results of the visioning were presented at MBPOA for comment last Thursday night. Public comment is needed. A copy of the draft will be available at the Town Clerk's Office, The MMS Community Library and eventually on the web. You can also call 451-6502 and request a copy be mailed to you.

We can move forward on the revitalization efforts as we work on the quality of life issues. We are aware that we need to make legislative changes to the Town code.

There will be a new Dunkin Donuts at the Mastic Road-Mastic Beach Road intersection. Ben Bathiga the owner is designing it with a more residential look.

Montauk Highway Corridor will also be moving forward now that the County has a plan in place.

Barbara Kruk asked if there was grant money for small businesses or any tax abatements?

Carol Bissonette said her office is working on researching the possibility of an Empire Zone

Carol Bissonette suggested inviting Nicole Christian and Ray Donnelley from the Economic Development Dept of Brookhaven Town to discuss particulars of an Empire Zone.

A discussion took place about the possibility of Mastic Beach becoming a historic district. Carol Bissonette said that typically a historic district is a contiguous stretch of roadway and that there is not much on neighborhood road that would qualify.

Barbara Kruk said that without help the revitalization effort is putting a Band-Aid on a gaping wound. Without incentives like tax abatements we will attract no viable businesses and there will be no one to come and visit. She made the analogy that there is no point putting on an evening gown if you have not washed sufficiently!

Carol Bissonette stated that there is no instant gratification. It will take 5,10,15 years.

Pat Peluso stated that when you call the Town they say the moratorium is still in effect. Carol Bissonette said the Moratorium ended on 5/29 and it will not be reinstated. That people must now make comments on the draft.

Pat Peluso asked if there would be 3 story buildings. Carol Bissonette said no. She continued saying that there were heated discussions about the second story buildings. Pat asked about health dept issues and Carol said that could not be determined until an application was made.

A discussion took place about the Forge River Moratorium. Bissonette stated that the Town is still in extensive conversation as to whether the Forge River can be addressed

without such a drastic measure. If it were to go forward it would not be up for public comment until the 1st or 2nd meeting in March at the earliest but more likely the end of March or Early April would be more realistic.

A vote was taken to accept the following new members:
MCS Mortgage Bankers represented by Artie Bizzoso
The Press of Manorville & Moriches represented by Bill Sutton
Chase Investment Services represented by James Ng
Binetti Painting, Inc. represented by Marie Binetti

A motion was made by Joe Asaro to accept the new members. Nancy Marks seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Old Business: no comments made

New Business: Nancy Marks brought up the fact that several businesses have been robbed at gunpoint and we need to speak with the legislator about increasing police presence and start retaking our community.

Pat Peluso state that his tenant Wendy's had been robbed and that a detective from the 7th precinct is on the case and that one individual is committing these crimes.

Rich Geraci asked if any progress had been made finding a new meeting place. Mark Smothergill stated that two people are looking into it and will get back to him.

Raffle:

Collected \$122.00 from the 50/50 Winner was Beth Wahl who received \$61.00

Collected \$140.00 for Special Raffle Barbara Johanntges won the draw but did not pick the ace-she picked the 6 of clubs, which was torn up .39 cards, remain in the deck.

Motion was made to close the meeting by Joe Asaro. Frank Montanez seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Susan Wischhusen