

# Miller Place Civic Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 623, Miller Place, NY 11764

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September 2008

## **MPCA Board of Directors**

**Kathy Rousseau** -  
President/Membership

**Jim Moran**- Vice President,  
Zoning/Planning

**Woody Brown**-Treasurer,  
Webmaster

**Jackie Czarnecki** -ABCO

**Mike Guido**-Zoning/Planning,  
School Affairs

**Frank Klement**-Traffic and  
Safety, ABCO rep

**Kyle Markott**-  
Zoning/Planning

**Rita Miszuk**- Secretary

Board Meetings are held the  
second Monday of the month.

General membership meetings  
are held the fourth Monday of  
the month.

## ***A Message from the President***

Dear Neighbor,

September's general membership meeting is about a topic we should all take an interest in-the future of the quality of life in the Town of Brookhaven. Most people who have lived here a while feel this has already been diminished by the overwhelming increase in population and the subsequent building of commercial establishments, traffic, air, water & light pollution, and school issues that accompany additional bodies.

I perused the Town's web site for some statistics. The population of Miller Place was 9,315 in 1990. By the 2000 census it was 10,580, and by 2004 it rose to an estimated 11,558. By those same approximate ratios I would guess the 2010 census will be about 13,080.

Can you imagine how the descendants of families who lived here in 1686 when the Dongan Patent was established and still reside in our historic district must feel?

There is a saying that not speaking your mind is a yes vote for any issue, and this is clearly one of those situations when the more voices heard, the better the end result.

You may not be a resident of Brookhaven in 2030 but I'm sure some of your family members and friends will be. Take the time to read the Comprehensive Plan, attend our meeting or one of the Town's charrettes planned for next month, and please speak up. We know everyone's lives are busy so you are welcome to send your opinions to us at the email address and we'll pass them on to the Town.

I'm providing some Brookhaven history from the Town's web site this month to try and pique your interest.

*Kathy Rousseau*

### **General Membership Meeting**

**Monday September 22, 2008**

**7:30-9:30 PM**

**Miller Place Fire Department**

**Topic: Town of Brookhaven Comprehensive Plan**

**THIS IS IMPORTANT TO ALL RESIDENTS!!**

**Bring a friend**

## **Brookhaven Town History**

The first residents of the Town of Brookhaven were Algonquian-speaking Native Americans, the Setalcotts (or Setaukets), and the Unkechaugs. The boundaries of the Town of Brookhaven coincide almost exactly with the tribal lands of these two groups or “tribes.”

English settlers arrived on the north shore of the Town in 1655. The six men, land agents, purchased eight square miles stretching from Stony Brook to Port Jefferson in exchange for tools, wampum, lead, powder and "1 pair of children's stockings." The first settlers came from eastern Long Island and New England. The first settlement was named after the Native Americans it was purchased from: Setauket. More land purchases followed over the years, and in 1666, after Long Island became a part of the Colony of New York, Governor Richard Nicholl granted a Patent, which fixed the name of Brookhaven, confirmed title to the lands already purchased, and allowed for additional purchases. In 1686, Governor Thomas Dongan issued a Patent which granted extensive powers to the Town, and established a representative form of government.

Early Brookhaven residents were engaged in farming, fishing and whaling. By the nineteenth century, the shipbuilding, and cordwood industries became important as well.

The twentieth century witnessed the Town of Brookhaven expand from an agrarian community to a leader in communications, technology, and education. Home now to Brookhaven National Laboratory and the Stony Brook University and Health Sciences Center, Brookhaven stands proudly at the forefront of the world's leading research fields, while its 480,000 residents can still appreciate its natural resources and beauty that brought the original settlers over 350 years ago.

The advent of the Long Island Railroad in the mid-nineteenth century through the Town of Brookhaven made travel and transport of goods and materials easier and faster. The history of the United States of America includes many residents of the Town of Brookhaven. William Floyd of Mastic was a signer of the Declaration of Independence; General George Washington relied on information supplied by a spy ring, which operated out of Setauket, during the War for American Independence; and Camp Upton in Yaphank was used during World War I and World War II as a training area for soldiers. The Town of Brookhaven has seen its residents represent our country in every major conflict.

### **Dongan Patent: December 27, 1686**

Over 300 years ago, our founding fathers were granted the rights to all waterways, ponds, streams, brooks, wetlands, rivers and other estuaries, as trustees for the early settlers and for residents today. The Dongan Patent for the Town of Brookhaven, issued by Governor Dongan, is the historic and legal document that provided the foundation for Brookhaven Town government.

The Patent provided for seven Trustees, to be elected annually, and of these, the first chosen should be the President. It also provided for the election of a Clerk, and other officials. Provisions are made for a Town Seal and the raising of taxes. The patent gives the Trustees full power to sell or dispose of the proprietary lands of the Town, vesting in them that authority as agents. It also empowers the freeholders and inhabitants, as represented by the trustees, to be "one body corporate and politique," capable of making acts, order, and "to plead and be impleaded, defend or be defended in law."

This Trustee form of government predates the establishment of the State of New York, and the United States of America. The price in exchange for the Patent was: "20 barrells of whale oyle to be delivered in New York at 20 shillings per barrell, 19 barrells to be delivered at the South beach at 20 shillings per barrell and three score and twelve pounds to be paid in good Cowes and Calbes at forty shillings each, to the Treasurer at or before the fifteenth day of April next."

To this day, the Dongan Patent is used to resolve many legal questions involving preservation of natural resources and our underground water supply, as well as the free and common usage of our waterways.

### **Miller Place Hamlet Study**

Our hamlet study was developed in 1996 by a group of residents with varying interest and knowledge of Miller Place. Areas addressed were community awareness, education, environment, land use & zoning, historic and transportation. The Town has told us they refer to this document when considering applications for development however there is little concrete evidence that this actually occurs. An effort to update it was made several years ago but few volunteers came forth. It is something we still intend to work on, but feel the 2030 plan should take precedence. Web master Woody Brown is planning to make the document available at our web site in the near future.

### **What is Brookhaven 2030?**

*Brookhaven 2030 is a plan for the future, the future of your Town. It is how the Town will look, function and evolve from now until 2030. It is where and how you and your children will live.*

Brookhaven 2030 is a more sustainable future. It's the conservation of environmental resources and the provision of infrastructure, a multi-modal transportation system, a diversity of housing options and public services. It's walking around hamlets that vibrate with commerce and people having a good time; drinking clean water and breathing clean air; and accessing a multi-use trail system for bicycling from your home to a network of parks.

The most important part of Brookhaven 2030? You. You are the stakeholders. You are the residents and the community. You are the homeowners, merchants, little league coaches, firemen, teachers, truck drivers, scientists and homemakers. You are the people who live in Brookhaven now, and care about the Town's future. Brookhaven 2030 is dedicated to the idea that residents are at the heart of all community based planning decisions. Brookhaven 2030 is being crafted now and embraces an open, collaborative process involving residents, community leaders, stakeholders and public agencies in order to best prepare for the Town's future.

For the next three years, Brookhaven stakeholders all serve a vital role in establishing the goals, recommendations, strategies and legal framework for the Town's future.

Browse their website to get more familiar with Brookhaven 2030. Click these links to find out more about this three year [process](#) and how to [participate](#).

### **Membership**

Please renew your membership for the year 2008 if you haven't done so already. Check your label for the year you are paid up through if you receive a USPS mailed copy. New residents are added to our mailing list for several months which is indicated with an \* after your name. We hope you consider learning about and joining our association.

### **Upcoming Fall 2008 Monthly Meetings**

Oct. 27 <sup>th</sup>	Paul Degan	Topic: Code Enforcement Town of Brookhaven
Nov. 24 <sup>th</sup>	TBA	

**Let us know if there are any issues you'd be interested hearing at a presentation.**

Miller Place Civic Association, Inc.

Membership Application/Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

 New member:           Renewal

2008 Family Dues: \$15.00

Make checks payable to Miller Place Civic Association

**Mail to: Miller Place Civic Association, PO Box 623, Miller Place, NY 11764**