

Miller Place Civic Association, Inc.

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Winter 2010

A Message from the President

Dear Neighbor,

The RT 25A Corridor Study Community Forum being held on February 27th is an extremely important use of your time, and I'm going to tell you why. I know how difficult it is to give up several hours of a weekend but consider doing so for this one day.

You cannot leave this one up to the Civic Association. The Town of Brookhaven knows we speak our minds regularly regarding what we think is best for Miller Place. They need to hear from all of you. A large resident turnout is imperative.

The town appears to have a vision of what our hamlets should look like in the near and distant future. This vision may or may not be the same that you believe is appropriate. Although this study focuses on RT 25A it actually influences our entire hamlet. We're hearing hamlet center terms like increased density (up to 25units/acre meaning additional building height) and affordable/workforce housing. While some of the aspects of the smart growth concept are quite good, increasing population in Miller Place is not what we need. This would negatively influence our neighborhoods, school district, travel options, and our quality of life. If logical rezoning is recommended for selective property with accompanying open space and fair use of transfer development rights, perhaps sensible decisions could be made. Not only do we have to deal with what is built in Miller Place, but in every hamlet east and west of us as those residents travel to and from work and shopping on this highway. We need to pay attention to what's being discussed by our neighbors as well.

The town considers our current hamlet center to be the intersection of 25A and Miller Place Road. It appears the thought is to expand this into a green hamlet center (aka downtown) with radiating zones including increased density, walkable shopping, and on-street parking. I don't feel you should change current zoning to establish a downtown that did not evolve on its own through the years with population growth. There wasn't a downtown in Miller Place when we all moved here and I don't want one developed next door to me now. I don't want one developed next to you either. We have historically been a bedroom community and access to a downtown shopping experience is available short miles away in Patchogue, Port Jefferson, Riverhead, Rocky Point and Smithtown. Our 1996 Hamlet study refers to a Hamlet Center with a recreation focus, however the current definition is much different.

Some of you may feel differently. Residents did state their interest in a downtown area being developed at meetings held for the DeLea Sod Farm property. This type of planning is occurring all over the country, but typically on undeveloped or blighted land. The now defunct Planned Development District considered for the DeLalio Sod Farm property in Shoreham was essentially the same concept, creating much dissention among neighbors. Because of that, Councilman Kevin McCarrick proposed a Corridor Study for Shoreham and we asked him, why not include the whole area through District 2? Councilwoman Jane Bonner proposed just that when she came into office. The controversy lies in just what this Corridor Study has morphed into due to the influence of the town's draft 2030 comprehensive plan. Some worry that decisions are already made and community involvement is just for show. I am cautiously optimistic and believe we will be listened to by those making the decisions.

Can we use more of a commercial tax base? Absolutely, but not at the expense of the residents who are already here. Should traffic be slowed down along this stretch of roadway? Absolutely, but not to the point that traffic will be diverted through adjacent residential neighborhoods on Echo Avenue and

North Country Road, especially through our Historic District and by our school campuses. Are consistent building appearance, architectural integrity and signage positive aspects of any new planning? Yes, absolutely, and the civic has strived to influence exactly that for years. Would additional tree plantings and medians along 25A calm traffic and improve safety? Probably, however we all continue to feel that increasing police presence would provide the strongest deterrent to speeding and reckless driving. Medians would increase safety by eliminating the craziness that occurs with vehicles utilizing the center lane incorrectly. An enhanced streetscape would facilitate a stronger sense of hamlet beautification and identity. Bicycle lanes and sidewalks have been discussed. Although I do not ride my bike or walk on 25A there are those who do, so developing a safer option for both seems appropriate. Rails to Trails will eventually come to fruition nearby as another alternative.

This is my slice of the newsletter and my opinion. Others on the Civic board agree with this message. What NEEDS TO HAPPEN is for BFJ Planning and the Town of Brookhaven to hear YOUR opinion. There is much information for them to share, and for you to mull over and react to. This is your chance to impact the future of our community.

In response to a direct question, Tom Chawner of the TOB Department of Planning, Environment and Land Management's Planning Division stated that none of this is already established. He stated that they are looking for community feedback to learn which of these ideas is appropriate to Miller Place. If we don't give him that feedback the town will surely make those decisions for us.

Go to www.route25acorridorstudy.com to review what will be presented at the forum. If you can't attend please forward your opinions to us at 25ACorridorStudy@millerplacecivic.org. George Cosmai and Nikki & Keith Cagno-Angerame are thanked for their comments. We are hoping more of you will write in. Thank-you also to the following volunteers who attended the Working Group/Community Advisory Committee meeting along with myself and Civic directors Woody Brown, Mike Guido, and Ed Parthe; civic members Nick Aliano, Marie and Peter Campisi, George Cosmai, Mark Larson, Jan McEneany, and Carol and Sy Williams.

It's your turn to speak up. Please participate and share this information with your neighbors who may not be receiving this as civic members. **This is in all our backyards.**

Kathy Rousseau

Local Updates

DeLea Sod Farm

The DeLea Sod Farm preservation efforts remain deadlocked due to the large number of out-parcels located within the farm boundaries. We are hoping the family and County come to an agreement so that the property can be preserved as a farm.

Ging's Nursery Property

There is nothing new to report on the Ging's Nursery property or the property west of it.

Vassilaros Property

The County and Town of Brookhaven have announced that the owners of the Vassilaros property have agreed to sell. The preservation effort is now underway.

Marshall's Shopping Center

The property owner asked us to work with a sign company to design a new center sign that is aesthetically appealing to residents yet meets the advertising needs of the tenants. There has been no progress since last reported on.

Branch Funeral Home The Branch Funeral Home has received approval from the town and will now construct their new funeral home on the north side of 25A, east of Park Avenue.

25A Corridor Study

The Town of Brookhaven has initiated a corridor study covering the length of 25A from Mount Sinai to the Brookhaven Town line in Shoreham. The Working Group met February 1st with the Town and the consultant BFJ. The itinerary for the public work forum scheduled and some of the major issues regarding the 25A corridor area in our Hamlet were discussed. The next meeting is the Public Work Forum where everybody is welcome to bring your ideas and thoughts regarding our Miller Place Hamlet development along 25A. Certainly how 25A Corridor is used or developed will affect all of us in many ways. This is an extremely important meeting and we would like to see all of the hamlet residents attending.

Major issues to be considered are:

1. *Improve* vehicular and pedestrian safety
2. *Coordinate* Town Planning with SCDPW and NYSDOT Transportation Planning
3. *Redevelop* Blighted Parcels
4. *Revitalize* existing Hamlets and Preserve unique attributes
5. *Strengthen* neighbor businesses and *encourage* walkable/green Hamlet Centers
6. Assess development pressure/*ensure* open space/community amenities
7. *Maximize* citizen participation
8. *Integrate & Update* into past hamlet Studies
9. *Coordinate* with Brookhaven 2030 Comprehensive Plan

If you simply cannot make this event and wish to have your ideas shared - please write to us at 25ACorridorStudy@millerplacecivic.org.

Town of Brookhaven Youth Bureau

30th Annual Volunteer Awards Night

The Youth Bureau's 30th Annual Volunteer Awards Night is being planned. They ask your help in bringing to their attention an outstanding community member or group who volunteers his/her time with Brookhaven's youth.

If you know an individual or group who would qualify for this Award, please the Youth Bureau at 451-8011 to request a nomination form. This needs to be completed by April 26, 2010.

Should your nominee be selected, he/she will be presented with an award at a public ceremony held at the Brookhaven Town Auditorium on the evening of May 25, 2010.

Youthstock 2010

The Town of Brookhaven Youth Advisory Council is in the process of planning a huge event.

YOUTHSTOCK 2010 will be a celebration of youth, showcasing the many talents, positive contributions and opportunities for youth in the Town of Brookhaven. The event will coincide with Global Youth Service Day on Saturday, April 24, 2010. It will take place at the Town of Brookhaven Amphitheatre, South Bicycle Path Road in Farmingville.

YOUTHSTOCK will feature talented young musicians, artists, community servants and programs that support youth. Please help them get this information out to young people ages 13 – 21 that may want to schedule to share their talents or host an information table at the information fair portion of the event.

If you would like more information, please contact Louise Adipietro or Donna Napoli at the Town of Brookhaven Youth Bureau at 451-8011. More information and copies of registration forms can be found on the Town of Brookhaven Website at www.brookhaven.org.

Welcome Sign Thank-you to Al Donato for rescuing the "Welcome to Miller Place" sign on the corner of 25A and Pipe Stave Hollow Road when it fell from its deteriorated side posts a few months ago. Thank-you to Soundview Property Management for arranging the sign's rehabilitation. When CVS was built and that center was renovated Soundview offered perpetual care for this sign since it was relocated to their property.

Historical Society News The Miller Place-Mt. Sinai Historical Society has a Membership Drive underway. They are grateful for your past support and urge you to continue protecting and preserving *our* beautiful historic district and help keep alive the remarkable heritage of the men and women who founded our town. They are a non-profit organization dependent on your membership. Please visit their window in the kiosk by Stop & Shop to learn more about them. "A generation which ignores history has no past and no future." (Robert Heinlein).

Coming in April! Guest speakers will present a lecture on "Long Island Farm to Market Trucking". This is the history of Long Island that is lost to our generation where over-development has seen the demise of major farming on Long Island. Program is scheduled for Monday, April 12.

Also visit www.mpmshistoricalsociety.org or phone (631) 476-5742 for information.

Knit-A Thon Knitters Kniche will be holding their 2nd annual knit-a-thon to benefit YAI-national institute for people with disabilities. Rick Molden will be overseeing this benefit. People come for the day to knit or crochet to raise money for this worthy organization. They had a very successful day last year and want to equal or surpass it.

It will take place on Saturday Feb 27th from 10-5pm, at the Knitters Kniche on Rt 25A. There will be door prizes, raffles, and snacks. Stop by the store to pick up a sponsor sheet- if you don't have a sponsor they will find one for you.

6th Precinct Update The Sixth Precinct's 4th Community Conference was held on Tuesday, January 26, 2010. Frank Klement represented our civic in joining other community organizations within the precinct. The purpose of this meeting was to provide an opportunity for members of the community to meet the new Commanding Officer Robert T. Oswald, Deputy Inspector Meehan and other members of his staff. These meetings are held quarterly to provide a forum for residents to share community concerns. The Sixth Precinct has 11 Cope officers and a total staff of 180 Police officers. The discussion highlighted traffic accidents, which continue to be the primary cause requiring a Police response. Heroin use remains the number one problem in our schools. Confiscated Heroin has been tested and found to be 75% pure, responsible for easy addiction. Drugs in the home medicine cabinet are responsible for easy access by children. Opiate based drugs like Oxycontin have been stolen from bathroom medicine cabinets by visitors and repair people behind locked bathroom doors. We are encouraged to keep all drugs in a safe secure location within the home. The DARE program has been replaced by The Community Outreach program. Anonymous tips about drugs or other suspicious behavior may be reported to 1-800-220-TIPS.

All non-emergency calls should be made to 852-COPS. This helps our officers respond to 911 emergency calls faster.

March 2nd School District Bond Referendum Vote

Residents are reminded to vote on the bond referendum Tuesday March 2, 2010 from 6AM to 9PM at the NCRNS gymnasium. There is a community information meeting regarding this bond on Wednesday, February 24th at 7PM in the HS Library.

Additional information can be found at www.millerplace.k12.ny.us

Dave Glass, Champion of Non-Motorized Transportation

David Glass, a transportation planner for the New York State Department of Transportation, and champion of non-motorized transportation on Long Island, recently passed away after a ten year battle with cancer. Dave was also a resident of Miller Place. He leaves behind a wife and three children.

Dave Glass was instrumental in the initiation of the Port Jefferson-Wading River Trail project in the early part of this decade. The proposed twelve mile Port Jefferson-Wading River Trail would establish a twelve mile biking and walking trail extending across much of northern Brookhaven using LIPA right of way and to be leased by Suffolk County. Dave worked with the Suffolk County Dept of Planning, Paumonok Bicycling Advocacy and local civic groups to build support for the Port Jefferson-Wading River Trail project. Consequently, Dave was also influential in coordinating, advancing and approving a Transportation Enhancements Project (TEP) application for the Port Jefferson-Wading River Trail.

Finally, in 2009, only months before his passing, Dave was a liaison between Suffolk County, NYSDOT and LIPA to facilitate the start of design of the proposed Port Jefferson-Wading River Trail for his then current employer, the RBA Group.

Dave's additional achievements included the development of the Local Safe Streets and Traffic Calming Program, which provided federal aid to municipalities in order to increase the safety of biking, walking, and vehicular travel by developing traffic calming measures to slow excessive travel speeds. As a result of Dave's work, communities such as Great Neck Plaza, Glen Cove, Port Washington, Lake Grove, Riverhead and Westhampton Beach have benefited from traffic calming measures that include roundabouts, bicycle lanes, crosswalks, speed humps and curb extensions.

Dave developed a bicycle safety education program for the Hispanic community on Long Island to teach them safe cycling skills as a disproportionate number of Hispanic bicyclists were dying in crashes while cycling to and from their jobs.

Dave's dedication and leadership towards the advancement of non-motorized transportation on Long Island were unparalleled.

His family and friends are campaigning to name the Port Jefferson-Wading River Trail in Dave's honor. They ask for your support in this effort. Dave's wife, Mary Glass can be contacted at (631) 828-1163 or mfglass@optonline.net for information on who to contact.



Dave Glass

**Join Supervisor Mark Lesko and Councilwoman Jane Bonner
For District 2 Town Hall in the Community
"Down off the Hill"**

**To give residents an opportunity to see what their Town Government is doing for
them and the opportunity for residents to ask questions.**

**March 31st- Rose Caracappa Center 7:00 PM
739 Route 25A
Mt. Sinai, NY 11766**

Special General Membership Meeting
Extremely Important to Attend
Saturday February 27, 2010 9:30- 1:30
25A Corridor Study Community Forum
Miller Place High School Cafeteria

Membership We welcome new members and ask that you share our newsletters & emails with friends to familiarize them with our association. It is time to ask you to renew your membership for 2010. Our membership runs a calendar year. We strive to represent our members in many areas of life here in Brookhaven. If you have any questions please email or call.

Miller Place Civic Association, Inc.

Membership Application/Renewal

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

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-mail address _____

2009__ 2010__ Annual Dues: Family \$15.00 New____ Renewal_____

MPCA Board of Directors

Kathy Rousseau - President/Membership

Woody Brown- Vice President, Zoning/Planning, ABCO

Kevin Cantwell

Jackie Czarnecki

Mike Guido-Zoning/Planning, Treasurer

Frank Klement-Traffic and Safety, ABCO

Rita Miszuk- Secretary

Jim Moran- Zoning/Planning

Edward Parthe

Board Meetings are held the second Monday of the month.
General membership meetings are held the fourth Monday of the month