

# Commack Community Association Meeting of 11/27/2012

Cash on hand \$1400.

Officers absent: Jeanette Salvito, Debbie Virga :

The minutes were not read because the secretary was absent from the meeting due to job related function

**Guest speaker:** *Legislator Steven Stern*



## **Road Safety**

CCA participated in a town and county on site meeting regarding Townline Rd truck traffic that resulted from 2 years of research, testing and investigation especially by Bob Semprini and Wendy La Mountain-

- 1) The goal is to reroute the 18 wheeled tractor trailer trucks that travel over the road past 2 public schools and 160 residences. Present were Bob Semprini, Debbie Virga, Bruce Ettenberg, Smithtown Councilmen Kevin Molloy and Bob Creighton, Smithtown Highway Supervisor Glen Jorgenson, Smithtown Traffic Safety Director Mitchell Crowley, Huntington Councilman Gene Cook, Huntington Supervisors representative Phil Ingerman and Huntington Traffic & Safety Supervisor Steven McGloin, Suffolk County Legislators Lynn Nowick & Steve Stern, Suffolk County Highway Department Chief Engineer William Hillman

A petition with 300 signatures will be presented to the Town of Huntington board meeting on December 18 protesting the truck traffic on Townline road. Residents are encouraged to attend and let their government know of their outrage.

Legislator Steve stern explained the history of Townline road as a county system road on the county map. After 80 years of being managed by the towns the transfer of management and ownership of Townline road to Suffolk County is official as per the NYS court of appeals decision. Suffolk County there will be no restrictions on any truck traffic as all county roads are open to all sizes of trucks. The county is negotiating to turn over control of this road to the towns. Smithtown Highway dept is willing to take back the east side of the road which sits on the Smithtown border so they can still control the truck traffic issue. The Town of Huntington refuses to reclaim the west lane of the road (which sits inside of the Town of Huntington border), as they were the township that brought the lawsuit against the county insisting- that since this was a road on the county map dating back to the depression - the county should maintain it. The county which technically now owns this road as of mid 2012 is researching

whether they can give the west lane to the Town of Smithtown as well as their east lane and help the town with some of the costs that the county would incur if they had to bring the road surface up to a heavy duty use standard suitable for trucks. Also a county road does not feature stop signs but rather uses only traffic signals. Also discussed was the current condition of the road northbound at North Ridge –the road veers too close to utility placements on the road . This needs to be repaired.

### **Truck Inspection station**

Early in 2013 a new truck safety station will be built opposite Kohl's to monitor the condition of all these trucks in the area. There will be a portable scale to check for overloads but the primary focus will be the physical condition of the tractor trailers. Enforcement will be by Suffolk county police motor carrier unit. This unit will also enforce issues such as license plates that are not visible to other drivers who may need to report any reckless driving.

Our CCA civic group helped create this safety station unit in Commack because Bruce Ettenberg and Jeanette Salvito testified at the Suffolk county legislative hearing urging action on this matter.

### **Clean Sidewalks for a walk able town**

Regarding a request made by a CCA member, Steve Stern has contacted the DPW to clean up the mud and debris on the sidewalks of Commack rd between Vanderbilt pkwy and the Service road. There is now an active open work order although it will be delayed by the Hurricane debris clean up.

### **Zoning issues**

Adele Flicker and Bruce Ettenberg attended the Smithtown Board of Zoning meeting regarding KPE Industries change of zoning. They are crushing rock and cement and loading trucks with the raw material for delivery to jobsites. They also claim to be producing precast cesspools. The lot is zoned for light industry but there has never been any enforcement. They are asking for a continuing use permit which could result in a precedent for heavy industry use. Residents complain of 24 hr noise and dust.

The board of zoning has asked for business records to prove the material nature of the business-precast cesspools or raw material processing.

## **Complaints about lack of response from our local government and should Commack become a village?**

A streetlight is dark in front of one of our member's homes on Townline road. The homeowner had called the Town of Huntington for years without a repair ever being done... Homeowner also was not supplied with information regarding tree debris removal after the hurricane as the town of Huntington

again offered no assistance e. Homeowner finally saw the county doing Hurricane cleanup through FEMA.

Commack school district did not offer respite shelter for its residents who were still suffering with no heat or power even after the district had a warm school with restored power that could have been made available. A kitchen was opened for meals for the out of town utility workers. A response from the district will be requested.

There was a suggestion of the need to make Commack a village to gain control of our government. Objections raised were that another layer of government would be added. The issue could be researched further in the future. Since some tax dollars that now go to the Townships would flow to the village perhaps the townships will take better notice rather than lose the tax revenue.

### **Crisis management**

Bob Semprini asked for a CCA crisis function committee. He suggested each area have a captain and co-captain to manage the flow of information and to check on elderly or infirm neighbors. A committee has been formed with Debbie Ettenberg, Bob Semprini, Arthur J Reilly and Maureen Veprek.

### **CCA GOVERNANCE**

A new level of membership was approved. It consists of a 3 month trial period with no voting rights. The members also approved a change of bylaws. The word year was changed to the word term as it relates to officers and the time period they serve as an officer.

Minutes by Rachel Ross