



The Incorporated Village of Poquott OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

Kathleen Matthews, Editor

Spring 2009



*Barbara Donovan
Mayor*

*Carol Lane
Deputy Mayor*

*Carol Castillo
Trustee*

*Sandy Nicoletti
Trustee*

*Christine Vitkun
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*John Lane
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Clerk*

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*Sal Alessi
Building Inspector*

*Maureen Kirk
Building Department*

*Kathleen Matthews
Information Officer*

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR Barbara Donovan

THE STATE OF THE VILLAGE

Thanks to the efforts of the Board of Trustees, the Village Treasurer and the Clerk's office, the fiscal state of the Village of Poquott is secure.

The Board has continued to manage the Village's money well, has made appropriate investments, applied for grants and has had the foresight to put aside excess funds in a "rainy day account" for times such as now, when additional funds are needed to meet the needs of the Village. Now is the time to take out the umbrella!

Most municipalities, in NYS and nationally, are being bailed out with taxpayers' dollars. Poquott is very pleased to announce that our 2009 budget does not require us to raise taxes or cut services, a rarity among municipalities today. With less money to spend, families are looking for ways to spend more free quality time together. With this in mind the Village is gearing up for what will be a fantastic Earth Day celebration that can be enjoyed by all residents and their families.

Village Hall is looking really good these days. Stop by and see the new furniture and window treatments (all paid for through a grant). In addition, thanks to another grant, plans to install central air conditioning are in the works and should be completed in time for summer.

A grant from LIPA/National Grid has allowed us to free up dollars for much needed road repairs. Currently we are looking at Van Brunt Manor Road, from Shore Road to White Pine and the lower western section of White Pine. As more money becomes available, other roads will be addressed. Until then the village will continue with normal maintenance and pothole repair on all roads.

Also in the works is a comprehensive review of the Village Master Plan which was last updated in the 80's. A Steering Committee representing the three village zoning districts is being formed.

In conclusion, I am very happy to report that the Incorporated Village of Poquott is doing well. I am confident that with responsible fiscal oversight and conservative budgeting, the Village will continue to thrive in the future.

VILLAGE MASTER PLAN REVISION

The Village has determined that a comprehensive review of the Master Plan, last updated in the early 1980's should be undertaken. Roger Flood, Chairman of the Planning Committee, is putting together an ad hoc Steering Committee. Deputy Mayor Carol Lane will represent the Board. Additional residents, representing the three zoning districts, will be invited to join. It is expected that the committee will be large enough to be representative of all areas of the Village, yet small enough to be a viable working group. A list of members will be published as soon as the committee is complete. Until the Master Plan has been reviewed and revisions accepted by the community, no new legislation, other than that mandated by New York State, will be proposed. Currently no new business is before the Planning Board or ZBA.

LEGAL MATTERS

NYS SUPREME COURT DECISION

The Appellate Court has affirmed the NYS Supreme Court's dismissal of a resident's appeal of a decision by the Village Zoning Board of Appeals. The decision stands denying a variance to build a dock on a lot with insufficient side yard requirements.

VAN BRUNT MANOR ROAD BEACH OPINION

The Village Attorney, in consultation with the law firm of Cahn & Cahn, Melville, NY, has rendered an opinion that the Village of Poquott is the rightful owner of the Van Brunt Manor Road Beach. The beach is a fifty-foot wide area running west to Setauket Harbor from Van Brunt Manor Road as it turns east. This beach has been used by residents since its formation from dredging done in the 1950's. The Opinion is based on reviews of Suffolk County tax maps, County dredging maps of Setauket Harbor, title searches of adjoining properties, and legal precedents. The full text of the Opinion can be found on the Village web site.



DRAINS AND STORMWATER RETENTION

The Village, in consultation with its engineering firm, has begun work to correct the drainage and flooding problem on Dyers Court. We have not yet received an estimate of the time needed to complete the required work.

The 2008-2009 reporting year for Stormwater Management closes March 9th. The Village engineers are working to complete the mandated Annual Report to the State which is due on June 1. A public hearing is scheduled for May 21st at 7:00 pm. The date and time will be posted in the Village Times Herald legal notice section and on the Village Website.

WEBSITE UPDATE

The Village website is now being updated on a regular basis. The Board of Trustees' Meeting minutes are posted monthly and the agendas are available prior to each meeting. Important information and updates along with contacts, forms, documents and the Village Codes are posted and can be downloaded. Beginning this month the Poquott Newsletter will also be available on line. Poquott's website address is www.poquott.org. Check it out and let us know if there is any other information that you would like the Board to consider adding to the site in the future.

VILLAGE PARKS & BEACHES

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Commissioner of Trustees Park is seeking volunteers to fill three positions: a garden plot manager, a greenhouse manager, and an equipment manager. All three will periodically report to the Commissioner, Ted Masters.



Garden Plot Manager: Will determine the number of existing claimed plots and distribute unclaimed ones. Will monitor the sprinkler system and watering requirements and adjust the valve located in Village Hall (or ask the Village Clerk to) as needed. Will consult with the Commissioner on the status of the garden plots, watering cycle and any need for repairs to the sprinkler system.

Greenhouse Manager: Will establish residential use plan, and periodically report to the Commissioner on the status. Will report any maintenance issues, and seek qualified repair bids.

Equipment Manager: Responsible for reporting any maintenance issues with the playground, play equipment, or tennis court, and getting repair bids if needed. Will re-establish a sign-up sheet for the tennis court.

Please contact Ted Masters at tedm@envirotrac.com or 474-1709 no later than April 15 to let him know you're interested, as he will then be staffing the positions.

The Fish Fry: A traditional rite of late summer in Poquott is in danger of becoming extinct. Each year Poquott family and friends came together to grill fish they had caught, share food and drinks, lead games for the children, and dance to the music on the green at California Park. A wonderful time was had by all. But the Board is not allowed to charge admission, and the Civic Assn. has had trouble finding volunteers willing to organize the event. Henry Nietzsche, Kathy Juhasz, and Karen Urquhart are standing by to help, but are looking for others to join the effort, and a volunteer to organize it. Many hands make light work, and the reward is in the smiles on the faces of the kids and old-timers out there partying. Contact Karen at 689-3242.

QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUES

CODE ENFORCEMENT

The Village and our Code Enforcement officers have spent the winter, a relatively quieter time of the year, working to improve all aspects of Public Safety operations. New administrative and training procedures are being used to upgrade skills, provide education and outreach to residents, and to improve patrol and enforcement capabilities. In 2008 officers recorded 322 incidents, addressed 205 special events parking requests, and performed 46 house checks for absent residents.

Although the entire Village Code is posted on the Village web site, only a few local laws affect residents on a regular basis, and most are based on good neighbor policies.

Parking Regulations: On-street parking is allowed only for special events, including garage sales and real estate open houses, and requires obtaining a permit a week ahead of the event. For unpredictable situations, give the duty officer a call. A resident parking sticker is required to park in Village parking lots.

Pet Owners: Codes regarding leashing, "pooper-scooping," and prohibition from beaches are for the safety and well-being of all residents. Last year fifteen complaints regarding pets were recorded, and sixteen owners were educated about the applicable codes.

Signage: Commercial signs, including those of home contractors, are not allowed within 25 feet of the roadway, except for alarm and real estate signs. Construction permits must be visible.

Litter and Debris: Notify your contractors to keep streets clear of grass clippings, brush, leaves, snow, and pool water or car wash residue. Use animal-proof rubbish containers. As per the Three Village Community Trust, dumping yard waste in the Preserve is not allowed.

Unregistered Vehicles: Each house is permitted one unregistered vehicle, which must be covered. We have recently addressed 8 complaints and will be following up 4 weeks later to check compliance with removal of the cars.

VILLAGE PERMITS

Parking Stickers: Application forms for resident parking stickers are available at Village Hall or on the web site. The stickers are issued annually and run from June 1st to May 31st, and entitle you to park at Village beaches and parks. The first one is free; additional stickers are \$5 each. Stickers can be picked up at Village Hall during normal work hours. Public Safety will also be issuing stickers on Saturdays from 10 am - noon during the month of May.

Mooring permits: Applications must be made for both Poquott and Brookhaven to the Village Clerk, along with the required fees for both. Having verified your residency, the Clerk will then forward your application to the Town.

Dinghy Permits: Boats stored at Village beaches must display a sticker showing that the resident has a permit to use the dinghy rack. Boats left on the ground or without a permit are subject to seizure and can be auctioned off by the Village.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

STEPHEN D. MATTHEWS NATURE PRESERVE

A small green and white sign has been erected on 25A east of Washington Street by the Three Village Community Trust, managers of the conservation easement granted by KeySpan/National Grid to preserve forever the greenspace buffer between Poquott and the PJ plant. The 10.7 acres from 25A to the Harbor was given in memory of the former deputy mayor as part of a Settlement Agreement between Poquott, KeySpan and LIPA.

In 2008 the Trust received a grant to develop a Management Plan for the Preserve, and has recently hired Bill Jacobs (see Earth Day article above) to work with the Trust and the Preserve Steering Committee members: Kathleen Matthews, Cynthia Barnes, Sandra Nicoletti, Ted Masters and Michael Schaefer. Implementation of the Plan will involve education, monitoring and removal of invasive plants. Bill will be leading a walk-through of the Steering Committee prior to Earth Day so we can mark trees and brush to be removed. Another grant is being sought to provide restorative planting of native trees and ground plants.

Plans are also being explored for two Eagle Scout projects, and participation of Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and school environmental clubs. One project is an informative brochure that will be distributed to neighbors of the Preserve explaining why dumping yard waste is not allowed, as it suffocates ground plants and introduces non-native species. Check out the flyer for Poquott's Neighborhood and Nature Preserve Clean-Up.



LIPA/NATIONAL GRID STAKEHOLDER REPORT

On Thurs. Mar. 12 Kevin Law, Pres. And CEO of LIPA, presided over a meeting of “stakeholders” (those entities identified as being affected by local power plant repowering options). He gave an update on LIPA’s plans for the Port Jefferson plant. Options for repowering the PJ plant have been narrowed to two: a hybrid plant using existing steam generators, or a new, but more expensive combined cycle plant.

The three older plants considered for re-powering, Barrett in Island Park would be first, Port Jefferson second, and Northport third. However, the cost of upgrading Barrett is estimated at \$940 million, so LIPA is still studying options. The project would take six to seven years to complete. With Caithness due to go on line this fall, a downturn in the economy, and more energy saving by consumers, there is a projected surplus of power resources through 2016. LIPA has more debt than the sum of both counties, and all townships and municipalities combined. It is unlikely that they will move on Port Jefferson in the next 5 years.

At present, Unit 3 is virtually shut down but being maintained in case needed. Only unit 4 and the two peaker units are in use. Both natural gas and oil are being used, in an average ratio of 70 per cent gas to 30 percent oil, so that pollution emissions *on average* have dropped significantly. (They have been higher this winter because more oil was used when prices were down.) A summary report has been prepared, and there will be 30 days for comments before it is finalized and goes back to the Board for implementation in June.

EARTH DAY/POQUOTT CLEAN-UP DAY



Every spring Poquott celebrates Earth Day by scheduling a Clean-Up Day for residents young and old to come together and dispose of trash and litter from the beaches, parks, and roadsides.

This year the popular event is being held on Sat. Apr. 18, (raindate Sun. Apr. 19). We're kicking off at Village Hall with coffee, doughnuts, juice and free T-shirts, provided by the Board of Trustees. As part of the Management Plan for the Stephen D. Matthews Nature Preserve, the Three Village Community Trust is sponsoring an educational presentation. At 10am Bill Jacobs, Senior

Ecologist and Invasive Species Specialist from EEA (Energy and Environmental Analysts, Inc. of Stony Brook) will give a short talk called Good Plants/Bad Plants. A group including Scouts, their leaders and interested residents will then be transported to the top of Washington St. where Bill will identify the vines and weeds that are choking out trees and native plants. Bring clippers and gloves, and wear long shirts and pants for this hands-on activity. As part of earning their badges, Scouts will learn to identify 5 good plants and 5 bad plants. Their parents and the rest of us will have an opportunity to burn (calories) and earn (lunch).

At noon, participants will be delivered to their choice of beaches/parks where leaders will be waiting with box lunches. The food and advertising for the event is being provided courtesy of Rich Parrish of Impact Environmental, and Joe Byrnes, of EnviroTrac. With full stomachs and empty bags, we will then begin picking up litter. Rich, Poquott's Environmental Commissioner, is arranging for Brookhaven to pick up the collected trash the following week.

❧ OBITUARY ❧

HELEN CASE

1919 - 2009

Helen Case, who had been part of Poquott since her early childhood, passed away at home on Sunday, March 22, 2009 at the age of eighty-nine. She kept her dry wit and keen interest in what was happening in Poquott until the end. Helen was both a participant in the history of Poquott and an observer of all that went on. Her perspective was most often from the vantage point of California Park Beach. She played there as a child, shared gossip as a teenager, and watched over her three children, Richard, Terry, and Joanne, every so often wading knee-deep into the water alongside her friends and relatives. She was also a presence at every Fish Fry, sharing food, laughter, and humor.

Because of her fondness for California Park, family members and friends have decided to purchase a special bench as a fitting memorial in celebration of her life. Anyone who would like to contribute can contact Barbara Donovan at (631) 473-4143 or Gillian (Donovan) Teixeira at (617-846-0580). Checks only please, no cash.



Rain Date
April 19th
or
April 25th

Neighborhood & Nature Preserve Cleanup Day

Saturday, April 18th

Poquott Village Hall @ 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



be an eco-hero

SPONSORED BY:

The Poquott Village Board
Three Village Community Trust
Girl Scouts/Boy Scouts
Impact Environmental
EnviroTrac

FREE: Eco-Walk, Breakfast, Lunch & T-shirts

Learn about native plants – bring clippers and
gloves, wear long pants.

The Stephen D. Matthews Nature Preserve is a ten-acre woodland that has been protected through a conservation easement donated by National Grid. The Three Village Community Trust is responsible for protecting the conservation value of this nature preserve.

CALL 631-473-0607 for event details.



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Budget Public Hearing
Thursday, April 23, 2009

Elections

June 16, 2009

12:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Nominating Petitions are available at Village Hall
First date to file with Village Clerk is May 5th, 9:00 am
Last date to file is May 12, 2009, 5:00 pm

VILLAGE HALL OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 9 am - 5 pm
(Closed for lunch 12 pm - 1 pm)
Clerks Office

Building Department

Tuesday & Thursday
9 am - 12:00 pm

Village Justice Court

4th Wednesday of the Month
7:00 PM

Board of Trustee Meeting

2nd and 4th Thursday of the Month
7:00 PM

Planning Board Meetings

Roger Flood, Chairman
2nd Monday of the Month
7:30 PM

Zoning Board of Appeals

Robert Clark, Chairman
3rd Wednesday of the Month
8:00 PM



Incorporated Village of Poquott
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