

MINUTES OF THE ROCKVILLE CENTRE CIVICS ASSOCIATION MEETING
HELD ON AUGUST 12, 2025
LOCATION: ROCKVILLE CENTRE PUBLIC LIBRARY
221 N. VILLAGE AVE, ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NY 11570

PRESENT: President Meghan Kearns, Vice President Catie Carter, Treasurer Emily Kearns, Membership Director Rich Collett, Corresponding Secretary Kelly Wexlar and Recording Secretary Caitlin McEntee

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MINUTES: A motion to adopt the minutes from the July 8, 2025, meeting was made by Vice President Carter, seconded by Secretary McEntee and carried.

UPDATES FROM PRESIDENT MEGHAN KEARNS:

- We are working to schedule a meeting with our State Senator Siela Bynoe as well as State Assembly-woman Judy Griffin.
- President Kearns and Secretary McEntee will be meeting with Propel New York Energy team regarding the underground electric transmission project developed by the New York Power Authority and New York Trans Co. It's a state project proposing an electric cable to run the entirety of Long Island from North to South. The proposed route is set to run through Rockville Centre via Long Beach Road. Member Ginny brought this to the Board's attention. Thank you, Ginny.
- For the September and October meetings, we are working to have the candidates for Nassau County Legislator come in and speak. Republican candidate Charlene Thompson Jackson will come to the September meeting. Democratic incumbent candidate Scott Davis will come to the October meeting.
- The location for the October Civics Association meeting will be moved to the St. Agnes Parish Center. This location change is temporary affecting the October meeting only.

UPDATES FROM VICE PRESIDENT CATIE CARTER ON THE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE:

- There are 2 beautification committees currently working in the Village. One is through the Civics Association, and a second called the "Beautification Council." The beautification council is made up of business owners, the President and Vice President of the Chamber of Commerce, a handful of Village Residents and President Carter representing the Civics Association. The focus continues to be on the North Village (Quealy Place to Lincoln Avenue) pilot area. The sidewalks have been power washed and Mayor Murray was able secure a grant to add brackets and flags along the street. Parking field 22 has been repaved.
- There is additional focus on business owners maintaining their storefronts. This includes putting out planters, landscaping, power washing sidewalks, etc.

- There are “street captains” designated to the downtown area as well as Little Village. They are business owners assigned by the Chamber of Commerce who are responsible for monitoring local businesses to make sure that they are following the Village code and maintaining their properties. They also escalate issues to Village officials as necessary.
- The Chamber of Commerce is looking to host a Fall Festival in October. Date TBD.
- A proposal will be submitted by the Civics Association Beautification Committee to County Legislator Davis for a grant for new as well as additional garbage cans.

UPDATES FROM TREASURER EMILY KEARNS: Dues have been collected from 45 members for a total of \$1,056.00. Checks that were collected have not yet been cashed pending the opening of our bank account which should be finalized by the next Civics Association meeting.

UPDATES FROM CORRESPONDING SECRETARY KELLY WEXLAR: Secretary Wexlar and President Kearns have created an attachment of the standard meeting recap giving members the ability to personalize and send to friends as well as neighbors in the Village. Both the by-laws as well as past meeting minutes are available for viewing on the Civics Association website <https://www.rockvillecentrecivic.org>.

PRESENTATION BY PRESIDENT KEARNS OF OUR VILLAGE GOVERNMENT AND A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE:

- Information was for the presentation was provided by Village Historian Matt Cliszis as well as the 2024 Village Annual report.
- The Village government consists of:
 - Mayor Francis X. Murray (2011)
 - 4 Trustees Deputy Mayor Kathy Baxley (2017), Trustee Emilio Grillo (2013), Trustee Kate Conlon (2021), Trustee Kevin Shaughnessy (2023)
 - 2 Village Justices Mindy Roman and Crotier
- Additional Key Positions in the Village include
 - Bob Schenone chairs the Zoning Board that deals with special use of land.
 - Donna Joyce chairs the Planning Board that deals with land use, site plan review and exterior design.
 - The Village Administrator is Nancy Howard. Responsible for overseeing all departments, supervising all Village operations and advising the Board of Trustees.
 - The Village Attorney is Thomas Levin.
- Trustee and Mayoral terms are 4 years and there are no term limits.
- Village Elections are always held in June on odd number years. The next Village Election will be 2027 in which The Mayor and 2 Trustee seats will be up for election.
- The Mayor has the ability to appoint members to the Zoning and Planning Boards as well as the Village Administrator.
- Any piece of legislation to be passed in the Village must have 3 votes in either of the following combinations 3 trustees or the Mayor and 2 Trustees.

- Anyone over the age of 18 who is a resident of the Village is eligible to run. Election packets can be picked up at Village Hall. Write-in candidates are also acceptable on Village election ballots.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN ROCKVILLE CENTRE:

- Lighting of the Gold Tree by the Mary Ruchalski Foundation Tuesday September 2, 2025 at 7:00PM at Village Hall.
- The “Playing on the Porch” musical festival will be going on throughout the Village on Saturday September 6, 2025, from 3:00PM-5:00PM.
- The next Village Board meeting is to be held on Monday September 8, 2025, at 7:00PM at Village Hall.
- The next Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) meeting is to be held on Wednesday September 10, 2025, at 7:00PM at Village Hall. The 24 South Park Avenue and 209 Sunrise Highway developments are on the agenda.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

- Discussion regarding the removal of large amounts of trees in various areas of the Village. Member Jackie Collett contacted the Mayor to express concerns. The Mayor is aware of the tree situation and said they would be replanted. The Mayor also advised that he would go and look at the trees marked to come down on Seaman Ave and make the final determination as to which should come down. Vice President Carter advised that both the Village and Conservancy offer tree planting programs at residents’ expense. The focus needs to be on who decides what trees are to be cut down and how it’s decided as well as holding the Village accountable for replanting the trees. Village Historian Matt Cliszis advised that a 2019 survey was done by an arborist for every tree in the Village. It was confirmed that over 90% of the trees were considered good healthy trees or fair (something minor is wrong with them) and only 6% were considered in poor condition. The survey advised that there needs to be a maintenance plan for the trees, doing routine pruning to keep them healthy, planting trees that are native and known to thrive in our area.
- Jeff Greenfield former Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) Trustee made remarks in favor of the Propel New York Energy project. Long Island has a contract that it gets priority on hydroelectric power from Robert Moses in Buffalo. To maintain pricing, more transmission lines need to be installed to keep electricity flowing in bulk. Currently there are 3 connections to the LIPA grid to get power to Rockville Centre and are on the brink of failing. If lines continue to fail, emergency power will have to be brought in resulting in higher bills. If the new lines go in, Long Island will be able to bring more hydropower down from Niagra to continue to keep our electric bills down. This is a critical project to the electrical infrastructure of Long Island. Confirmed that the new lines will not connect to wind turbines.
- A member whose residence is on Reeve Rd reached out to the Mayor regarding the lack of maintenance being performed on a portion of Reeve Road that is owned by the Village and where 1 of 4 Village water towers sits. Maintenance is performed maybe once a year. There is no grass, it’s overgrown with weeds and people are throwing garbage that is not being picked up. Carol Ruchalski added that there are several strips of land throughout the Village that are not either not maintained or have no landscaping at all. All the areas have become eyesores. Secretary

McEntee advised that the Village is lacking a comprehensive maintenance plan and that they should be held accountable to provide us with the current one. If a current one does not exist, then it needs to be created.

- Discussion regarding a volunteer event that the Civics Association can put on in the month of September to benefit the community. Suggestions included school supplies, backpacks, supporting The Mary Ruchalski Foundation as well as a cleanup around Hempstead Lake Park, the downtown area parking lots or Tanglewood. The group voted between supporting the Mary Ruchalski Foundation, Tanglewood clean-up and a municipal lot clean-up. The majority voted for supporting the Mary Ruchalski Foundation for pediatric cancer.

UPCOMING CIVICS ASSOCIATION MEETING: To be held on Tuesday September 9, 2025, at 7:00pm at the Rockville Centre Public library.

MOTION TO ADJOURN – Motion made by President Kearns, seconded by Vice President Carter and carried.

Please email any questions and concerns to RVC.Civic@gmail.com