

MINUTES OF THE ROCKVILLE CENTRE CIVICS ASSOCIATION MEETING
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 9, 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 August 12, 2025, meeting was made by Vice President Carter, seconded by Secretary McEntee and carried.

UPDATES FROM PRESIDENT MEGHAN KEARNS:

- The Rockville Centre Civics Association will be supporting the Mary Ruchalski Foundation for pediatric cancer. Yellow ribbons will be available for purchase at Art Flower and Gift as well as Let Brie Cheese shop. Donations can also be made on the foundation website <https://themaryruchalskifoundation.org/>
- President Kearns and Secretary Wexlar met with State Assembly-woman Judy Griffin August 18, 2025. The state budget was discussed as well as the revitalization of the park on the corner of Sunrise Highway and North Forest Avenue. The Little League has a plan to revitalize the park.
- President Kearns and Secretary McEntee met with the Propel New York Energy team on August 18, 2025. regarding the underground electric transmission project developed by the New York Power Authority and New York Trans Co.
- Remarks about the Civics Association Website calendar and events that are going on throughout the Village. If you are a member that has a business that is holding an event, you are part of event, or are aware of an event that is taking place in Village and benefits the Village, please email the Civics Association so that it can be added to the website calendar.
- 2026 Civics Association meeting presenters will Assemblywoman Judy Griffin, the Open Meetings presentation, and Propel New York.
- A water surcharge will be implemented for residential and commercial businesses. The Village has advised that it's expected to raise an estimated 1.2M in funds designated for capital improvement projects for the Village.
- Democratic incumbent candidate Scott Davis will come to the October meeting.

UPDATES FROM TREASURER EMILY KEARNS:

- Dues have been collected from 46 members for a total of \$1,105.00.
- A bank account has been opened with Jovia.
- A breakdown of expenditures was given noting that the expenses have been paid for by the executive board to avoid taking money from the membership fees. Many

of these expenses are one time service fees excluding the P.O. box that will be an annual fee. Treasurer Kearns will work up a budget by December to come up with a target for approximately the next 5 years:

- \$110 was spent to file with the government to make us an official organization.
- \$15 was spent on mailing the certificate.
- \$339 was spent on the state issued Employee Identification Number.
- \$210 was spent on a P.O. Box to file paperwork with the government.
- \$35 was spent for an official letterhead.
- \$120 was spent at a Chamber of Commerce meeting for marketing.
- \$50 was spent on an additional government form to be filed with the IRS.
- Treasurer Kearns also addressed the Village Board at the September 8, 2025 Board of Trustees meeting regarding suggested changes to the Village operating budget. Suggestions included:
 - A summary page to be written by the Mayor, Treasurer or Comptroller of the Village highlighting the most important items in our budget. These would be tax rate changes, pensions, workers compensation and insurance. It would give residents without a financial background a clearer explanation of what's going on in the Village.
 - A Tax rate summary page. It would break down the taxes how they do the calculation and how much everyone would have to pay in the year following
 - Headcount for departments with payroll. We are legally allowed to ask for a headcount and payroll.
 - A comparative year to date or prior year actual amounts. A true comparison of actual amounts vs budget.

UPDATES FROM MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR RICH COLLET

UPDATES FROM VICE PRESIDENT CATIE CARTER ON THE BEAUTIFICATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:

- The Rockville Centre Beautification Council was announced at the September 8, 2025, Village Board meeting.
- The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Village Administrator walked "Little Village" and have agreed to add additional lampposts and banners.
- A grant has been received for more brackets and American flags.
- A proposal is being worked on to be submitted to Scott Davis for additional garbage cans for the Village. This will hopefully alleviate the littering going on throughout the Village.
- A traffic study was performed to determine whether speed humps should be added to certain residential streets that are being used as cut throughs. Trustee Conlon requested a breakdown from the Police Commissioner of the issuance of traffic tickets (downtown area vs. residential areas) after concerns were raised at the September 8, 2025, board meeting.
- The Mayor acknowledged the large amount of trees that have been cut down throughout the Village and confirmed that they will be replaced.

UPDATES FROM SECRETARY MCENTEE REGARDING THE PROPEL NY ENERGY PROJECT:

- Propel New York is not a company it's a state project from the partnership of the New York Power Authority and New York Transco. This is not a battery storage facility, or an offshore windmill project and it will not connect to any wind turbines.
- The job has been approved and is currently in the bidding stage. It's going forward and cannot be changed. Elected officials from the Village and county helped to decide the plan.
- There will be 90 miles of continuous underground transmission line running from the south shore of Long Island to Westchester. It will run directly through Rockville Centre via Long Beach Road.
- The electrical transmission cable brings power to Long Island that each municipality will connect to. The analogy used was that it's the Sunrise Highway for power that then connects to the various county roads.
- This is in anticipation of the need for a stronger electrical infrastructure and to alleviate the stress on the 3 existing power lines we have that are bringing hydropower down from Niagara Falls. This will also help to mitigate damage due to extreme weather such as hurricanes, snowstorms, and heat waves. Our current transmission lines are on the brink of failing and almost failed on 3 separate occasions this past summer due to the heat.
- There will be 4 new electrical substations Nassau County (Syosset), Suffolk County (Greenport), Queens and Westchester.
- We asked why the transmission line could not be routed along the Meadowbrook Parkway or Peninsula Boulevard. The Meadowbrook Parkway is a state road and the state "does not want any additional infrastructure or activity encroaching on their thoroughfares." Peninsula Boulevard is not a direct enough route to connect to the Uniondale hub.
- Construction will run from 2026-2030 but will not be continuously in Rockville Centre over the course of 4 years. They will work through our area and will only return to repave the road. Long Beach Road would not be entirely shut down. They are suggesting single lane traffic and night work. They will be able to tell us by January 2026 when exactly they will be working in Rockville Centre.
- Cables are buried at a minimum of 3 feet underground and encased in concrete. The lines have a 20–25-year lifespan until they would need maintenance. Maintenance would be performed through standard sized manholes that will be placed every 4-5 miles not permanent road plates.
- Environmental concerns about EMF's were brought up and they have insisted that they are within in New York's milligauss guidelines which are the most stringent in the country. Article 7 requires that the public has access to all information regarding state funded projects. This includes every environmental study, bids, permits, route proposal etc. propelenergy.com/article-vii
- We were also provided a case number to send concerns to case # 24-T-0446
- The Propel New York team has insisted that they want to work with us and confident that business will be brought into the Village by way of their workers patronizing our local businesses such as delis, coffee shops and gas stations.
- Concerns that have already been expressed are general construction fatigue over the past 5-6 years throughout the Village, disruptions from night road work for residents along Long Beach Road and its conduits, summer beach traffic along

Oceanside and Long Beach Roads, school traffic, choke points along Long Beach Road, egress, and entry points to Covert Elementary, Wilson Elementary and Southside High School.

- Our goal is to work with Propel New York to make this as painless as possible for Village residents. We are requesting that members please take the time between now and when the Propel New York team comes in to present to think about concerns and pain points that can be voiced regarding the project. Bus routes, personal peak travel times, when are the peak travel times.

UPDATES FROM CORRESPONDING SECRETARY KELLY WEXLAR: The website will be rolling out the member of the month feature with Carol Ruchalski being the first honoree. A social media policy is being added to the Civics Association website. The Civics Association will be exclusively on Instagram. <https://www.rockvillecentrecivic.org>.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN ROCKVILLE CENTRE:

- 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.

PRESENTATION BY REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FOR NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATOR CHARLENE JACKSON THOMPSON

OPEN DISCUSSION:

- 24 South Park Avenue. At this point, the focus needs to be on why the suggested project doesn't make sense for the character of that block. Thank you to member Dave Wuestmann who has been taking notes on the parking patterns in the municipal lot for weeks for the Board of Zoning Appeals.
- Discussion on speed humps.
- Discussion regarding the removal of trees in various areas of the Village. Thank you to Member Jackie Collett for getting the tree reports from the Village. John Harder is the arborist who is writing the reports for removal of the trees. The language being used to justify removal is that the "trees are over mature." There are discrepancies with some of the reports, incorrect house numbers, curbs not being fixed post removal etc.

UPCOMING CIVICS ASSOCIATION MEETINGS:

- Tuesday October 14, 2025, at 7:00pm at the St. Agnes Parish Center. Please note the location change.
- Tuesday November 11, 2025 at 7:00pm will be held at the North Village Tavern 40 N Village Ave, Rockville Centre, NY 11570.

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