

MINUTES OF THE ROCKVILLE CENTRE CIVICS ASSOCIATION MEETING
HELD JANUARY 13, 2026
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 October 14, 2025, meeting was made by Vice President Carter, seconded by Secretary McEntee and carried.

UPDATES FROM PRESIDENT MEGHAN KEARNS:

- A very special thank you to Gina and Dave Wuestmann who own the North Village Tavern for hosting our November happy hour that was a great success.
- Remarks on the Propel NY Energy project. Representatives from Propel NY will be coming to the February Civics Association meeting to give information regarding the project. If you are not familiar with the project, please make sure to go on the Propel NY website to look over the information that they have provided so far. It would be very beneficial to all members to come to the meeting ready with any questions and concerns regarding the project as well as how this will directly affect you. Their website is propelenergy.com A recap of the scope of the project can be found in the "Open Discussion" section below.
- Remarks regarding our committees. All 6 of our committees are requested to meet once between January and April to sit down and discuss their objectives for our next fiscal year as a Civics Association. These would be things that each committee would like to achieve as well as possible solutions. At the annual meeting a person from each committee will be selected to speak for approximately 5 minutes to outline those objectives.
- President Kearns will be attending a meeting on January 14, 2026 with the leaders of other groups and organizations from the Village. The Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club, Odd Fellows, Hispanic Brotherhood and many more. Thank you to member Jeff Cantos for organizing this meeting. We are hoping to work more with groups throughout the village in 2026 as we have many shared concerns and would be able to make a greater impact if we are working together.

UPDATES FROM VICE PRESIDENT CATIE CARTER:

- Clarification of the roles of both the Civics Association Beautification Committee and the Village Beautification Council. The Village has a Beautification Council that is made up of different members of the community as well as various business owners who make donations for the betterment of the Village aesthetic. Vice President Carter is a part of that council not as a board member but as a concerned citizen representing the Civics Association. Apart from that, the Civics Association has its own beautification committee. Vice President Carter brings the ideas and concerns that are discussed when the Civics Association Beautification Committee meets to the Village Beautification Council. The Village Beautification Council board includes the President and Vice

President of the Chamber of Commerce, Village Administrator Nancy Howard, Jeannine Palladino of Jeannine's Gifts and Keely Collins

- Beautification updates include ordering more snowflakes to be affixed to the lampposts for the holidays in 2026. Businesses and restaurants will have planters in front of their storefronts in the spring. The Chamber of Commerce will be having a Winterfest on Saturday February 7, 2026 on Front Street from 12:00PM-8:00PM. There will be ice skating, live music, igloos, food, activities, and a wine walk.

UPDATES FROM TREASURER EMILY KEARNS:

- Reminder that our Fiscal Year runs from May 1st through April 30th.
- Dues have been collected from 57 members for a total of \$1,373.00.
- Treasurer Kearns is working up a forecast for Fiscal Year 2026 that will run through Fiscal Year 2030. This will be presented at the annual meeting in April.

UPDATES FROM MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR RICH COLLETT

UPDATES FROM CORRESPONDING SECRETARY KELLY WEXLAR:

OPEN DISCUSSION:

- Information 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 bids have started to be awarded. 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, environmental concerns.
 - Discussion on the Propel NY energy project:
 - A member suggested inviting the Police Commissioner as well as Code Enforcement to Propel NY presentation. There are concerns about traffic as well as the volume of commercial vehicles that will be in the vicinity of Long Beach Road daily during the project. Vice President Carter confirmed that both the Fire Chief and Police Commissioner have been invited to the presentation. President Kearns confirmed that Propel NY has been coordinating with Village officials, Scott Davis and Judy Griffin. Propel NY also advised during their August meeting with President Kearns and Secretary McEntee that they had repeatedly contacted the school district regarding the school bus routes without any response.
 - Member Ed Grimm brought up financial concerns about the Propel NY energy projects. Besides the short-term construction issues, how will Village electric rates be affected as well as the reliability of updates? Also stressed the importance of bringing this project to friends' and neighbors' attention so that they will hopefully come to the presentation.
 - Member Ginny brought up concerns that this will be tying into wind turbines as well as that the scope of the project may be larger than we've been made aware of. How does Empire Wind tie into the project? President Kearns advised that this power line is being constructed so that it can evolve with energy innovation and needs. Member Ginny suggested reading through the Newsday archives of articles written by Mark Harrington on the topic. Member Howard Kamf suggested bringing in our municipal representatives to the meeting as well.

- Discussion regarding the concerns of the lack of maintenance performed throughout the Village. Secretary McEntee made a FOIL request for information about the Village maintenance schedule. Village attorney Thomas Levin confirmed that no such schedule exists. Secretary McEntee will address the Board at the next board meeting in February to gain a better understanding of what the daily, weekly, monthly, and annual maintenance schedule looks like for the Village, how many people are on the payroll that perform maintenance duties as well as what the maintenance responsibilities are for each department. The amount of county and state roads that cut through and border the Village does make this slightly more complicated as some of those maintenance responsibilities would fall on the county or state.
- Discussion on the dilapidated state of 241 Sunrise Highway brought up by member Judy. President Kearns suggested making a FOIL request to the Village to have it on record. The Village is required by law to answer a FOIL request.
- Discussion on Village water. A member brought up concerns about residents and businesses receiving letters from the water department identifying their service line status as lead, galvanized, or unknown. Per the Village, property owners with unknown service line materials are encouraged to help identify them by submitting a photo or scheduling an inspection. A water service line material needs to be confirmed by either records or visually. Sections that cannot be confirmed are classified as lead. This means that even though a water service that enters the residence is copper the section in the street may not be. The letter that was sent is required by the EPA to inform the resident of the possibility of their service being lead and the dangers of lead. If a resident has replaced the service in the street, they are asked to forward a copy of the permit to the water department so that they can update their records. Property owners are responsible for their water supply line from their home all the way out to the main in the street in front of their property. The same applies for sewage. This is standard code across the country for property ownership. President Kearns also advised that the Village will be making updates to the iron filtration systems as well as sewage treatment plants.
- Discussion on Water Surcharge. Member Joel Wasserman brought documentation regarding \$28 million in bonds issued for water infrastructure updates. The question is if bonds have been purchased by the Village for water infrastructure, what is the water surcharge needed for? President Kearns suggested bringing the concerns to the next Village board meeting as well as using the bond numbers to make a FOIL request to see who the bids were awarded to.
- Member Dave Sackoff requested for their to be the ability to make mobile payments for dues. Secretary Wexler advised that we are website host package does allow for us to accept payments across all platforms and will be testing the feature on our website in the coming weeks to hopefully be ready for our next fiscal year.
- Member Howard Kamf after discussion with Membership Director Collett made a suggestion to start fundraising on behalf of the Civics Association by going to local businesses and asking them to make donations. After a donation, business owners would be given a framed certificate showing their support to hang in the wall of their respective businesses and would be posted on our Instagram page. Vice President Carter and Treasurer Kearns expressed concern of our ability collect donations based on our 501c (nonprofit) status. Member Kamf made an additional suggestion of collecting clothes that can be weighed and sold.
- Membership Director Collett gave updates on the storage facility development on the Long Beach Road conduit and brought up concerns about development in the Village

regarding 24 South Park Avenue, 209 Sunrise Highway, 500 Sunrise Highway, and 486 Sunrise Highway. During a discussion with Mayor Murray, Membership Director Collett was advised that since Rockville Centre is in the “medical triangle” we will need more hospital and medical buildings. President Kearns advised that 24 South Park Avenue development was denied by the zoning board, 500 Sunrise Highway is on hold. They were supposed to go before the county board, but the occupant was supposed to be United Healthcare and that project seems to be on hold with due to the death of the CEO. 209 Sunrise Highway (formerly Creative Child) is still pending. Membership Director Collett expressed the importance of membership strength so that we can come together to either vote or oppose specific developments in the Village. Should there be a moratorium on certain types of businesses?

- Discussion on the future of K+K Auto. At 224 North Long Beach. As of right now, there will be storefronts with no drive-through on Seaman Avenue.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN ROCKVILLE CENTRE:

- The next Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) meeting is to be held on Wednesday February 4,2026 at 7:00PM at Village Hall.
 - The next Board of Trustees meeting is to be held on Monday February 9,2026 at 7:00PM at Village Hall.
 - Winterfest presented by the Chamber of Commerce Saturday February 7,2026 from 12:00PM-8:00PM on Front Street. There will ice skating, live music, igloos, food, activities, and a wine walk. \$10 for an all-access event pass and \$25 for the wine walk.
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UPCOMING CIVICS ASSOCIATION MEETINGS:

- Tuesday February 13,2026 7:00PM at the Rockville Centre Public Library on the basement level. There will be presentation given by representatives from the Propel NY energy project. <https://www.propelnyenergy.com>
- Tuesday March 10,2026 7:00PM at the Rockville Centre Public Library on the basement level. There will be a presentation by attorney Steve Levanthal on the Open Meetings Laws for New York State.
- Tuesday April 14,2026 7:00PM at the Rockville Centre Public Library on the basement level. This will be our annual meeting and will be open to members only. A full member is someone who is a resident of the Village of Rockville Centre and has paid their annual dues.

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