

Woodland Civic Association, Inc.



December 2021

Hi Everyone!

Unfortunately, we are not going to have an in-person meeting again this year, although members of the Woodland Civic Association have still been involved in protecting our quality of life and our property values. This newsletter is an update of our activities this past year.

Republic Airport:

We have continued to question the development of five land parcels at Republic, which would be the largest project ever done at the airport. So far, there has not been much activity to begin this project, as some of our written concerns are being reviewed by the NYS Department of Transportation. We are requesting that a proper environmental study be done, and that the community have a chance to comment before any construction begins. The proposed usage has major implications for traffic and noise as well.

The Airport Layout Plan is being altered to include recent development and the moving of runway 1/19 north by 400 feet. We have been assured several times by the Republic Airport Commission that there will be a public review and comment period for any changes to the ALP before it is adopted. The ALP is basically the blueprint for the usage and expansion of the airport so we are keeping a close watch on this.

The Republic Airport Commission was formed to be a liaison between the NYS Department of Transportation and the community. Currently there are not enough members and the current members have significantly exceeded their terms. Some members may not fulfill residency requirement to serve on the board. Since commission members are appointed by the Governor, changes in the administration may have further delayed our requests to correct and reappoint members to the airport commission.

Although the RAC meetings are open to the public, we had been unable to get copies of the minutes unless a request was filed under the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL). It was taking up to a year to obtain this information, but recently the Commission agreed to our request that the minutes be posted within two weeks to the airport website.

In addition, we have questioned whether the airport would begin to accept cargo flights. This would greatly increase the air traffic and noise. In response to our concerns, the Commission is writing a recommendation advising the NYS DOT that the airport should not be used, now or in the future, for cargo operations.

We have attended all Republic Airport Commission meetings, which have been held virtually. If you hear noise from planes, please call 631-752-7707, #4. If we don't call, they claim there is no noise issue.

Route 110 Bus Rapid Transit:

This BRT has been under study since 2010 and we have been involved at every phase. There was an additional webinar meeting in November, which several of our members attended. The proposal is to run two

overlapping bus lines on Route 110 from the Amityville train station up New York Avenue all the way to Huntington Hospital. We have many concerns about this.

Although buses currently run this route, the new proposal would focus on prioritizing the buses over the cars on 110 to make the trip faster. New buses with enhanced features would run every 7 ½ minutes during rush hour in overlapping areas, getting priority at traffic lights and a separate traffic lane on the shoulder where room exists. This has implications for east/west traffic as cars crossing 110 will have to wait at longer red lights as buses going north/south pass through the signals.

There is also the question on the location of new bus stations, parking, and how that will impact homeowners in those areas. One of the lines will begin at the Farmingdale train station, which means that there will be buses running approximately every 15 minutes on Secatogue Avenue towards Conklin St. We will be watching and commenting to make sure they do not propose running buses down Melville Road as well.

Potential Plume under Republic Airport:

Correspondence to us from Town of Babylon Supervisor Rich Schaffer details the involvement of the town in cleaning up contaminants at the Airport Plaza, which was the site of the former Fairchild Aircraft manufacturing facilities. The pollution has been mitigated to the extent possible and will continue to be monitored by the town and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation for the foreseeable future.

We are still attempting to get the NYS Dept. of Transportation, owner of the property, to remove the abandoned buildings that run along the railroad tracks.

Waste Treatment:

In a meeting we attended with Rich Schaffer and several other civic leaders, our group raised concerns about development plans within the entire Town of Babylon. We were told that each proposed building project was independently evaluated, with no consideration for the overall impact of many projects on the town and residents. There is no master plan for the town.

Members of our joint civic coalition have investigated the capacity of waste treatment at the Bergen Point Waste Treatment Plant by communicating with the engineers that work there. It became clear during this meeting that town officials believe capacity to be double the current actual gallons per day. We are already very near or at capacity at this plant. There are plans to increase capacity by ten thousand gallons a day but this would still not bring capacity close to the level the town thinks we have. Our coalition has requested that future building of any kind should either be delayed or declined until we are sure there is the capability to handle the additional volume.

Noise from the SUNY Farmingdale Athletic Fields:

Noise and other disturbances have been increasing at the SUNY athletic fields during games and practices. We were able to contact school administration and the athletic director. They have been very helpful and have significantly lowered the volume of music and announcements during activity on the fields.

The problem was doubled this year because the athletic fields at SUNY Old Westbury were closed due to the installation of a vaccination site on campus. Old Westbury students have been using the SUNY Farmingdale fields, greatly increasing the noise. Hopefully the increased usage is temporary.

The athletic director gave us his personal telephone number, so if you have an issue with noise, please let us know so we can contact him.

Collaboration:

Our association has joined forces with seven other local civic groups to give more weight to our questions and more attention to our issues by the Town of Babylon and New York State. Although Woodland Civic addresses many issues independently, we have been assisted many times by neighboring civic associations, and we help them as well.

We work hard for you all year. Please support us!!! It is very important to have a show of strength and for our community to send emails and write letters when we are working on an issue that will impact us. We would also like to hear from you about any other issues you would like addressed. We need the support of our neighbors. Please join us by becoming members of the Woodland Civic Association, or keeping your membership active. Also, please share this flyer with neighbors that might not currently be on our email list.

Our annual membership drive is on, and it only costs \$5 per year to support us. Thanks!

Our email address is woodlandcivicassoc@gmail.com, and our website is www.woodlandcivicassoc.com. On our website you can view some of the documentation mentioned in this newsletter.

Membership is open to all Suffolk County, East Farmingdale homeowners that live in the Half Hollow Hills school district.

2022 Membership Dues, Woodland Civic Association, Inc.

Name_____

Address_____

Phone_____

Email_____

Please pay the annual \$5 per homeowner (one membership per address) membership dues by mailing a check payable to Woodland Civic Association, Inc. c/o Nancy Schliwka, Secretary, 18 Hawthorne Street, Farmingdale, NY 11735.