



Illustration by
Dennis Puleston

Fire Place

BROOKHAVEN VILLAGE ASSOCIATION, INC.

Spring 2018

Organized-1906

Incorporated-1944

President's Report



Bo Bankewitz

The BVA board directors were busy with many issues in the community over the last few months. Several members met with Brookhaven Town officials in January to discuss final improvements to the remediation project at the end of Beaver Dam Road. Standing water and lack of plant growth were the main issues. The Town assured us this would be attended to this spring. The Town also applied for a grant for funds to correct the drainage situation at the bridge on Beaver Dam Road. The deteriorating road situation there was brought to the Town's attention by our board in October 2014, to no avail. Hopefully funds will be appropriated now, and the road conditions can be remedied. 2,600 feet of infiltration trenches are planned, along with 14 catch basins. The

road shoulders will also be addressed.

The severe winter storm damage to the boat slips at the marina had the Squassux Committee planning the necessary repairs needed for our spring opening. The annual boaters' meeting was held on January 17th, and was well attended.

Our annual BVA membership meeting will be held on June 20th at the St. James Church Hall on Bay Road. The slate for BVA officers and directors for June 2018-June 2019 will be presented. Adrienne Esposito, executive director of Citizens Campaign for the Environment, is our planned guest speaker.

Ellen Clyne, a board member for 10 years, will be terming out this June. Ellen served as director, secretary, and vice president. She was on the Squassux, Virginia Brown Scholarship and By Laws committees. Over the last 9 years she has spent countless hours editing, publishing, contributing and improving our newsletters. The new color editions of our newsletters was one of her most recent improvements. Ellen will be honored at our June 24th Sunset Salute celebration at Squassux Marina. Please plan to attend to thank Ellen for all these years as a BVA volunteer. Our meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month, open to the public, at the Post Morrow Annex on Bay Road.

John Knapp
BVA President

ANNUAL MEETING
NOTICE

Brookhaven Village Association

WEDNESDAY JUNE 20, 2018 • 7:30 PM

St. James Episcopal Church Hall 260 Beaver Dam Rd. Brookhaven Hamlet
Presentation by Adrienne Esposito from The Citizens Campaign for the Environment with an update on the Brookhaven Landfill

The Squassux Chairman's Report



It is hard to believe it is now April and as I sit in my kitchen, writing this report, I can hear the word, "snow" in an upcoming weather forecast. This winter unfortunately caused a lot of damage to many of the docks and pilings. The four Nor'easters that we experienced caused a delay in the start of the reconstruction process down at Squassux, flooding being the main concern.

After a careful survey of all the damage, we will be replacing at least eighteen finger and tee docks. All new docks will be built using the better construction process we incorporated three years ago. These better built docks survived the winter torment this year, with very little structural damage. This year along with the new docks we will continue to improve our roadway and parking with additional stone. I am looking into purchasing some purple martin birdhouses to help fight the nasty mosquito problem. I believe the flytraps have decreased the green fly population which has made it more pleasant for anybody that likes to stay at our basin. We will continue to improve our electrical system as needed. The security company that has been employed in the past will be here again this year. Although there was a delayed opening this year at Squassux, it should be worth the wait.

We also have several long term concerns which will be gradually addressed and rectified. The two most important issues we will be addressing are the erosion

concerns along the embankments and the rebuilding of our boat ramp. Both of these challenges will take some time and money to deal with, but we at least are starting to get the ball rolling in that direction. As always, please be mindful of your speed with your boat and car. Please lock the gate when security is not on duty. Last but not least, please clean up after your pet. Happy boating!

Respectfully,
Andy Lovito
Squassux Chairman



Thanks again to Boy Scout Troop 4 who helped with the Hamlet Clean Up.

Air Screen Study 2018



Setting up the Air Testing Equipment

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Community-based Air Screen Program

Those of us living in the Hamlet and surrounding communities are familiar with malodors evidenced during certain hours or times of the year by the neighboring town landfill. This spring, the BVA decided it was important to see what we could do about the unpleasant odors and we applied to participate in the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Community-based Air Screen Program to monitor air pollutants.

Our application was accepted and Chris Ciervo from the BVA set out when conditions were right to gather air samples from four locations around the Town Landfill. Wind speed, direction, cloud cover, humidity, time of day and traffic all played a part as to when and where air samples could be collected. Once the samples are analyzed, a detailed final report will be made available that will identify air pollutants and other important useful information.

A similar study was undertaken in 2013 and 2014 by John Knapp, then BVA board director. Air samples were taken at Sunrise Hwy exit # 57, Frank P Long's athletic field, and Sundial Lane in Horizon Village, just west of the Landfill. The Department of Environmental



Conservation's report at the time showed the air samples taken were well below the levels of short term health concerns. Stay tuned for additional information by checking in on the BVA website once it is available.

Chris Ciervo
BVA Secretary

Dock Building at Squassux Landing

Squassux Landing has been owned and operated by the BVA since 1945 when the Post family donated the 13 acre site to the board for the enjoyment of the community. At that time Squassux was simply a place to land a boat and have access to the river. Ferry boats provided service to Fire Island. Once the landing became the property of the BVA the board created a Squassux Committee consisting of board members, all volunteers from the community, to develop and run the landing. In 1954 the board hired William Engelhard as their first dock master. Since then docks have been constructed and maintained by the BVA. The Squassux Committee, which still consists of volunteers, oversees this work.

Our current crew of dock builders includes Walter Martens, his brother Bill Martens and newcomer, Josh Rosenberg. Bill grew up in Brookhaven and graduated from Bellport High School. He originally helped Walt with some bulkhead work in the 1990s. In 2011 he returned to working on the docks on a regular basis. Josh is also a BHS grad and from there attended the New York Maritime Academy, specializing in tugboats. He began doing marine construction in Patchogue at age 15 and currently works full time on tugboats in NY harbor. His schedule of 3 weeks on and 3 weeks off allows him to do dock repairs at Squassux. In his spare time he enjoys boat building, clamming and time on his own boats. After years of tackling the job, Walter has perfected the art and science of dock repair and building at Squassux.



Josh Rosenberg, Bill Martens, Walter Martens

I grew up on Old Stump Rd. and graduated from Bellport High in 1983. Bill Starke purchased Tooker's Boatyard I believe in 1978. About a year later Bill hired me to work in the yard. I painted bottoms and helped haul and launch boats. At that time the larger boats were hauled and launched with the two railways that led up into both sheds. Many of the boats were still wood and needed saw-dust sprinkled underneath them when they went in the water in the spring to prevent them from sinking. Being around Squassux in the Spring, it was a common sight to see all of the docks lifted out of the water from the previous winter. At the time I believe Don Stewart was the dock master at Squassux. He was the one going around and repairing all of the lifted docks and I occasionally would help out.

Around the spring of 1986, Steve Kelly was the dock master. It was a particularly hard winter, and many of the docks were damaged. The "Tee" docks on the southwest end of the ramp canal were damaged beyond repair. Myself, Steve Kelly, and school buddy of mine Donald Knobloch discussed the possibility of building a 240 foot long dock with actual marine pilings. The dock would be built so that instead of 6 thirty foot boats tied parallel to the bank, 20 larger boats could be backed into the dock. It took about a month to complete the new dock. Today, that dock is referred to as the Old Long Dock. From that point on, Donald and I got the job in the spring to put Squassux back together. Back then, Bob Robinson from Robinson's Duck Farm would supply the pilings for all of the stick docks. At that time the poles were either oak or locust.

One particular spring I remember that Squassux wanted to aggressively start replacing aging dock poles, so 150 oak poles were dropped off. The pile was intimidating, but we picked away at it and got them all pumped in. I think there's still a few of them in use today. The work barge we had at the time was an old 28 foot Chris Craft that was cut down, decked over, and had foam bolted to the sides to make it more stable. The crane on it was an old truck frame. The problem with it was that it leaked and you wouldn't realize how much water was in it until you had a heavy piling in the air and the barge wanted to tip over. In 1991, both Donald and myself had had enough of the leaky old work barge. We had been doing the spring work on the river and canals for a few years now so we knew what kind of barge we wanted.

The lumber was purchased and delivered down to Bill's boatyard for the brand new 12 X 24 foot work barge we were to build. Bill launched it for us. She was as strong and solid as could be. I have used it to build many docks, bulkheads and piers from Sayville to the east side of Smith Pt. Bridge. At one time, it was capable



of setting a 35 foot piling. It is the same barge you see me on today even though it's not quite as capable as it used to be. Donald and I continued to take care of the docks every spring until he decided to move out of state. 1993 rolled around. That was when Squassux hired me to build the New Long Dock. That's the big dock in the west canal. I think around the mid 1990's, Bill, his son Adam, and Bryce Schiebel took care of the spring maintenance for a season or two. I had just bought a house that needed

a lot of work so I skipped the spring work. Right after that is when Bill Starke and I teamed up. We did the dock work every season until 2011. That is when Bill and Nin moved to Mass. and when my brother (also Bill) teamed up. Josh started last fall with us on a 190 foot bulkhead over in the E canals.

Walter Martens



BVA Membership Application

Resident membership in the Brookhaven Village Association is open to residents of Brookhaven Hamlet as defined in the BVA bylaws. To become a member, complete this form and send it along with your annual membership fee to

Brookhaven Village Association, P.O. Box 167, Brookhaven, New York 11719

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Checks for Membership should be made out to the Brookhaven Village Association

Member Fee (\$15 annually): \$ _____

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.BROOKHAVENVILLAGEASSOCIATION.ORG

Spring 2018 Dockmaster Report



Residents turn out to help remove the ice eaters

I am sitting in my den watching it snow the day after Easter. The weather has been wintry and uncooperative, and I wonder about Squassux' readiness for opening on time. We had a great deal of damage from two sources. First, we had a flood from a nasty nor'easter after Halloween that surprised everyone. With the nice weather we enjoyed in the fall, most boats were still in the water. The buoyancy of these vessels pulled many docks up several feet and twisted them. Next came the post-Christmas freeze which further damaged our docks. While the ice-eaters struggled to keep up with the frigid conditions, the river froze solid and did damage to all 36 docks there. According to Walter Martens, our dock builder, it has not frozen like in at least a decade. Also, one ice-eater failed allowing the ice to pull up many large poles on the main canal. Altogether, about twenty docks must be replaced and dozens more repaired and straightened. The dock builders have also been delayed by persistent icy weather this winter. The Association was not even able to retrieve the ice-eaters from the canals until March 31st.



Jeff Johnsen and Anders Johnsen volunteered their time

Therefore, I will send out the keys only when the repair work is complete, and the BVA Board and Squassux Committee decides the marina is safe for use by the community. At this time, the majority of docks are unfit for normal boating

operations.

I want to thank our community members who helped pull the ice eaters from the canal, clean them with power washers, and carefully stack them in the shed. These volunteers are Jeff Bland, Jeff and Anders Johnson, John Knapp, Andy Lovito, Chris and Stephen Marshall, Ron Martens, Dennis O'Neil, and Ulli Petri. This endeavor took place the day before Easter Sunday and was organized on short notice due to weather. Kudos to these civic minded helpers who helped their Association.

Once Squassux is finally operational again, the BVA Board and I are asking for everyone's help in maintaining the docks and the marina as safely as possible. While the Squassux committee, dock builder, and I continuously check all the docks for their structural integrity, we ask for your observations as well. If you observe or sense any sort of deficiency with your dock (or any other dock), PLEASE bring that information to my attention, or to the attention of any BVA Board member. Boaters' input will help keep the marina safe. Additionally, if you notice anything else that does not seem right, bring that information to me immediately and I will respond in the best interests of the BVA Board and the community. There is also a "Rules and Regulations" pamphlet that can be read and downloaded in the BVA website at www.brookhavenvillageassociation.org. I would strongly suggest reviewing this information before visiting or boating at Squassux.

Andy Rubin
BVA Dockmaster

Brookhaven Hamlet Foundation

Hamlet residents have been incredibly generous in their financial support of the Brookhaven Hamlet Foundation. Through your generosity we have restored the historic cemeteries, planted trees, spruced up Fireplace Park, funded scholarships to college bound students and stayed active in environmental projects that protect our community and ecosystems. Thank you to the following generous donors who contributed to the Brookhaven Hamlet Foundation this past year.

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Brookhaven Hamlet Foundation

Please consider donating to one of our funds dedicated to projects in the hamlet. Donations to these funds are tax deductible. To donate, please complete this form and send it with your check to:

Brookhaven Hamlet Foundation, PO Box 387, Brookhaven, NY 11719



Common, Surf, and White-winged Scoters (left to right)

Dennis Puleston Environmental Fund \$ _____

BVA Tree Fund \$ _____

Virginia Brown Scholarship Fund \$ _____

Hamlet Historic Fund \$ _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Checks must be made out to the **Brookhaven Hamlet Foundation**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.BROOKHAVENHAMELTFUNDATION.ORG

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Andy Rubin

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Marty Van Lith

FIRE PLACE EDITORS
Ellen Clyne Chris Marshall

The BVA Board meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Post Morrow Annex, 16 Bay Rd. Meetings are open to the public.

WWW.BROOKHAVENVILLAGEASSOCIATION.ORG

Join us for

Sunset Salute

for Out-Going

BVA Board Vice President Ellen Clyne

SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2018

Meet the BVA Board of Directors, visit with friends, neighbors and enjoy a drink and light refreshments

5:00 - 7:00 PM

SQUASSUX LANDING

This event is *free* and open to all residents of Brookhaven Hamlet and members of the Brookhaven Village Association.

NOTE: Please RSVP to brookhavenvillageassociation.org to reserve a space at the party!

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Fire Place

A Community Newsletter from the Brookhaven Village Association

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