

Brookhaven Village Association / Brookhaven Hamlet Foundation

Monthly Board Meeting

April 9, 2025

Attendance

- BVA Directors, Officers and Employees present: Dave Anderson, Kevin Glynn, Kris Holmberg, Andrew Komosinski, Andy Lovito, Mike Martens, Kristin Kirk Murphy, Janet Quirk, Julia Villacara, Karin Wagner, Lynda Wagner, Steve Young
- BVA Directors, Officers and Employees excused absence: Chris Bland
- Public Attendance: Missy Mirabelli, Ed Chiofolo, Fred Chiofolo, Judy Chiofolo, Bob Robinson, Stephen Heck, Dina Friedel, Allan Hazard, Valerie Biscardi, Donald Carey-Shaw

Opening Remarks

- President Julia Villacara opened the meeting at 7:35 pm.
The “Raffle Drawing” started the meeting. Kris Holmberg offered that a member of the audience pick the winner. Jeff Johnsen was chosen! A congratulatory call was placed to his home.

Prior Month’s Minutes Reviewed

- March Minutes reviewed: Motion made to accept the Minutes by Kevin Glynn. Seconded by Mike Martens. Motion carried. All in favor.
- Reint Reinhardt’s BNL CAC update was read to the Board by Kristin.

BNL CAC Summary of 13 March 2025 meeting:

1. People from the MTA and Long Island Railroad were in attendance to discuss the plan to move the Yaphank station closer to the lab. The Yaphank station near the Suffolk County offices is the least-used of all LIRR stations, averaging 6 people per day. The plan is to close it and build a new station E. of the Wm Floyd Pkwy and S. of the LIE, which is close to BBL boundaries, but of course on the wrong side of the LIE. The line from Ronkonkoma will be the same—not electrified—so travel to the new station from points W. will still require changing trains at Ronkonkoma. There will be about 50 parking spaces and bus access at the new station. Not sure when this project will be completed.

2. BNL has organized a new directorate, Discovery Technologies, headed by Assoc. Director Gabriella Carini. This will include Instrumentation, Microelectronics, Quantum Information Science and Technology, and Accelerator Science and Technology.

3. Lab Direction Joanne Hewett discussed effects of recent executive orders on BNL. DEI has been eliminated, and a DEI office closed, with some job losses. Only U.S. and DoE flags can be flown. Some words have been changed from website and documentation, e.g., “energy resilience” now instead of “sustainability”. The big accelerator project (Electron-Ion Collider) passed its most recent review and is proceeding. It will use the existing RHIC tunnel—RHIC is on its last run now and will be disassembled. Because the EIC is a growing project with scheduled funding increases, the flat continuing resolution for the budget may delay completion.

4. Update on the tritiated water leak at the AGS: The cooling water has been replaced and will be replaced more regularly to insure that tritium levels do not build up above the drinking water standard limit. More frequent monitoring of the system is in place. Protocol for reporting leaks to top management and regulators has been changed so any leak will trigger a report (as is done, e.g., for even a very small leak of hydraulic fluid)

Treasurer’s Report

Brookhaven Village Association

Income/Expenses

Dues payments: \$3,925.

Squassux fees:

- Winter moorage & 2025 dock fees \$56,771.
- Ramp and gate code fees \$540.
- Raffle \$200 - \$1,650 total.
- Surcharge \$14,064.

Other than usual expenses:

- Craftsman Fence – 3/4 svc call - \$130.50 + \$50 tip to tech.
- Staples – envelopes \$86.03.
- Auto-Matic Repair – Zincs for Ice eaters -\$364.20.
- Brookhaven PO – Stamps - \$192.
- KC Irrigation – Open water system - \$162.94.
- J. Kalant Electric – Service calls for GFIs - \$485.

Brookhaven Hamlet Foundation Treasurer's Report

- Income: Donations: \$60.
- Expenses:
 - Brookhaven PO – Stamps - \$292
 - Printing for Donation solicitation - \$146.95.
- Income: Donations: \$7,860.
- Expenses:
 - Staples – Address Stamp - \$31.53
 - Reimbursement to Alfred Chiofolo for Purple Martin Setup - \$1,305.07.
 - Amazon – Bird Call speaker - \$53.29.

Correspondence

None

Events

- Boys and Girls Club – 6/21/25 – 22nd Annual Beach Ball
- BFD – 5/26/2025 -Invitation to participate in Memorial Day Celebration

Newsletters

- Lighthouse Mission

Donation Solicitations

- None

1st Community Participation/Comment

- **Community Announcements and comments were invited.**
- **Bob Robinson-** offered with the board's permission, to dispose of outdated boat flares if they are left in a container at Squassux. . The Squasux committee will discuss this idea for collection for flair receptacle and report plans back to Board at a later date. Andrew Komosinski offered to contact him about the idea.
- Fred Chiofolo said the new Purple Martin house near gazebo is half installed.

Finance Committee- Kevin Glynn

- Glynn updated that every line item has gone up. Our finances are healthy, but electricity is over \$1,000 every month. Janet cited that ice eaters are the main electricity draw, and usage goes down once off.
- The money previously relied on from the kayak rack income has gone down. There are only 7 people renting rack space from the upcoming season.
- Boat slip payments will generate income- and the erosion project will be a challenge to fund. Discussion followed that maybe we start with Arthur's Creek as a test run for erosion mitigation.

Squassux Landing Committee- *Andrew Komosinski/Andy Lovito*

- Komosinski and Lovito reported contact with U.S. Auxiliary Coast Guard for a free safety checks at marina. June 7th 9-12 (TBC). Rain date the 14th. Going to need a gate code for them. Janet will create one.
- Komosinski asked if there are any decisions the Squassux committee members can make without going to the Board? For example, a boater wants to use the ramp for a few days in March. **The Squassux Committee discussed this and thought it might be ok, but Komosinski said they could not make a decision without coming to the board first. Komosinski would like to have casual power to assert approval to solve problems that he feels are lighter. Julia agreed but feels this was a slippery slope and could lead to issues. If it is violation of rules or policies, then the Squassux Committee needs to bring it to the board for approval. Steve thinks if it is not a consistent use of the ramp/marina, then the board should trust the judgement for these matters that are light, not an aberration of issues. We are invested in operating the marina. To illustrate the slippery slope Julia cited the previous issue of the previous Dockmaster banning residents from the marina for putting in jet skis last year only to be seen helping another resident put jet skis in the following month. Lack of discretion in the past was a good example to illustrate this potential conflict of if you do for one, you must do for all.**
- Another example that connects to this issue is the Fire Station box on the grass at Squassux near FD boat. The box would damage the embankment killing the grass below unless put up on blocks (same situation as last season). Lovito spoke directly to Fire Dept. contact about this and this was an example of the kind of decisions the Dockmaster/ Committee can make with autonomy. This situation did not compromise marina rules, policies or pose any insurance risks. Using the marina and its facilities like the ramp outside of the contractual season does. Steve thinks the Dockmaster should have some autonomy down at the marina. Julia maintains that if it compromised marina rules, policies or is an insurance risk, it warrants discussion with the Board as marina managers.
- Komosinski will have another Squassux committee meeting next month.
- The Squassux 2025 budget needs to be reviewed. Julia requested moving forward, the Committee review and approve every December before the new fiscal year begins.
- 3 additional cameras, bids for the work and a camera plan is needed. Calls to companies need to be made.
- Lovito asked for approval for more stone (1,000 per 20-yard spread.) It will be \$5,000 total for the gravel spread at the marina. **Motion to approve \$5,000 for funds for marina gravel made by Karin Wagner, Seconded by Lynda Wagner. All in favor. Motion passed.**
- Janet asked for the marina opening date update. Lovito responded that by the end of the week, everything should be done. Pilings and dock work are done. Andy thinks it will be ready and said to confirm the opening date on Friday or Saturday. Julia will send out email announcing the opening day and gate code activation. The Board recognized Janet and Lovito for all their attention to necessary details to get the marina filled, opening on time and general functions of the BVA.
- The Purple Martin houses are up. A new call box was ordered and delivered for \$52. Lovito installed.
- Julia asked if there are many slips that need to be filled. Lovito responded that there are a few people who have not paid yet—if they don't reach out by Friday they will lose the slip. A few people are late sending registrations. One person is in medical distress, so he is getting more time. There are 5 slips still open. 2 will be taken soon. 3 left for emergency use.
- Lovito reported that dock work issue needs assistance -\$4,700 was voted on for the estimate that PT gave us. Lovtio suggested putting in another \$2,000 to fund for unforeseen issues that may come up as dock repair is being done - issues that were not noted from the land or from another vantage point. Moving forward with Squassux dockworker, the budget should be padded a little bit to accommodate for issues so they can be addressed right there instead of having to come back. All Board members agreed on padding appropriate to estimate. Lovito said dock work will be less than it was 10 years ago. The infrastructure is now healthier so it should not be as expensive.
- New gate codes mailing cost \$240 - way under the expenditure we previously had with keys.

Quality of Life Committee- Julia Villacara

• **Julia thanked Kris Holmberg and Janet for taking care of the brochures for the cemetery boxes.**

- **Plantings Committee**—2 trees planted this week; a Serviceberry tree at 8 Yaphank Ave. A White Pine at 306 Beaver Dam Road. A 3rd tree on Astor Ave will be planted in mid-May. Homeowner has to select.
- **Julia suggested** that we agree to a budget of \$3,000 for the year so the manager of these projects can just go about the business of securing a location, arranging with the family and nursery to get this done. A successful year includes 3 trees planted in the fall and 3 in the spring. Try to do 6 for the year. Julia reminded all that a resident can inquire about having a tree planted through the website brookhavenhamletfoundation.org. There is an online form to request a tree. **Motion to vote on \$3,000 for tree plantings made by Steve Young. Seconded by Kris Holmberg. All in favor. Motion passed. (We will vote on this every year.)**
- **Julia made a list of potholes and roadside work towards the marina.** She called the requests into the Town of Brookhaven. Crews were out in the week filling these.
- **Steve Young – asked why do we have the strips on the road at the 4-way stop at the end Old Stump Road and Beaver Dam Road?** They are a part of a traffic study to warrant a stop sign the BVA requested within the last two years. Andy Lovito thinks there should be a stop sign down there.
- **April 16th QoL members stuffing eggs-party for the hunt.** Supplies came in at \$383 - slightly under the \$400 budget. Will also be collecting food pantry items to donate at Mary Immaculate Food Pantry.
- **April 19th – the Spring Clean-Up with the library is set.** Interested go to Library to get supplies and breakfast is served after the work is done.
- **April 19th - The H.O.G will host the egg hunt---**2 hunts will occur; one for kids under 7—and the older kids hunt will be in the greater Post-Morrow trail area behind.
- **Also on April 19th --HOG is having the Plantstock event for the purchase of plants for your home.**
- **May 1st Superintendent Santana will host a school budget road show meeting at St. Parish Hall—7 pm.**
- **The Boater Safety Course** at the Brookhaven Library is this Saturday with 18 registrants. No significant amount on waitlist therefore will not warrant a second course of a third from BVA.

Land Use-John Knapp

- Nothing to report.

Nominations Committee- Dave Anderson

- Nominations Committee will meet tomorrow night with potential candidates to fill a seat come June as Chris Bland terms out.
- Julia mentioned Board member Aileen Kokell resigned from Board. Aileen left because of the abusive behavior displayed by public participants last month. Julia said that the atrocious “WWE smackdown” behavior will not be tolerated. It’s a shame to lose an asset to the Board because of this. Aileen would like to return but it is tentative and uncertain that the participants will not continue their attacks. She and Julia will continue to speak about her return. Julia feels that we have a board quorum and is in no rush to fill the seat until Aileen makes her final decision.

By-Laws-Julia Villacara

- Andrew Komosinski asked to revisit the discussion about the Nomination Committee. He would like to clarify the purpose of the nominations committee. In June 2024, Marty Van Lith guided the Board with the bylaws to resolve Andrew and Steve's query regarding the Nominations Committee's role. Marty explained why the Nomination Committee exists, what its purpose is and its process in gaining Board members. This committee makes the recommendation to the board and the board votes to accept the recommended person. Steve Young asked for clearer language in bylaw.
- Missy Mirabelli interjected from the audience outside of Public Participation period that the bylaws committee would not have a meeting because Julia will not hold one. Julia reminded the Board that she stepped into the role of chair last month after Janet stepped down. In the years previous while Julia served as bylaw chair, the process was to add/revise bylaws through emails with each committee member proposing changes / editing.
- Julia asked Steve Young what he needs to be clarified regarding the purpose of the Nomination Committee. Steve said he needs clarification on the process / purpose of the nomination committee. Julia said we will be getting a rolling document together, invite Marty Van Lith again to explain the process, importance and significance of the Nomination Committee again.
- Mike Martens suggested that an email go out advertising an open Board spot. It was explained that the Nominations Committee exists to vet people who are interested in joining the BVA; they recruit (along with all Board members), meet with interested community members and recommend the best candidate to the Board. Julia explained one of the many functions of the Nominations Committee is to seek potential Board members which is also incumbent on all Board members as visible ambassadors in the community to attract potential candidates. Karin asked if this is stated in the bylaws? Steve answered that it is not. Per our bylaws, it is the job of the committee to nominate candidates for election at the annual meeting. This includes officers and any Board Directors beginning a term or continuing a second or third term. The membership votes. If a seat becomes vacated mid-term, it is in the bylaws that the Board shall appoint a person to fill the seat for the remaining term. The Nominations Committee nominated who that person will be. Andrew thinks it should be clearer.
- Julia pointed out that the procedures have been in place for a long time with no confusion prior to last year when an interpretation of the role was interpreted differently by two Board members. Board members thought it was cleared up by Marty Van Lith in last June's meeting. Julia reminded the Board that for years, Christine Schaeffer was solely responsible for recruiting and nominating Board members- many of whom sit with us now - without any conflict or questions from the Board. Over the years, that Committee has grown to five members, and it is not on one person deciding who makes it onto the board. If people are interested, they should make that interest known.
- Mike reiterated that there should be a vote to publicize openings via email. Board members offered that there might not now be enough time. Andrew suggested leaving it as it is and then in the future re-discuss this to solve the lack of understanding that some members have. This is a Nominations Committee discussion to bring back to Board at a later date.

Newsletter- Karin Wagner

- Karin updated the deadline is fast approaching. She still needs: President's letter, Dock Master's report, list of Donors, and more pictures are welcome. She already has a lot of great pictures from Marty and Johnsen family. Marty's historic article is all set. Will need to accommodate the advertisement that goes on back flap, the Boater Safety date in June, and the Boat Slip raffle winner. Karin asked Julia to request on BVA website that people can submit photos for the newsletter.
- Kevin will give any leftover stamps from the previous newsletter mailing to the new Editor.

Virginia Brown Scholarship- Janet Quirk

- Applications were mailed 3/24/2025 with due date of 4/28/2025. Update on Max Yablon: He emailed regarding his deferred award (\$2,000) and wanted to know when to submit the essay. Treasurer replied with a due date of 8/15 and said he would be acknowledged in the fall newsletter.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS-

Squassux Schedule of Operations

Refund policy

Revisit senior discount

Review and approve Squassux 2025 budget

- **Action items- Revisit Squassux Schedule of Operations, Refund policy, Revisit senior discount, review and approve 2025 Squassux budget**
- Kris Holmberg to call Town regarding tree removed from Hulse cemetery and any plans to replant and why It isn't a good idea.

2nd Community Participation/Comment

- **Dina Friedel- *asked about storage for kayaks. Is there a waiting list?*** Janet and Julia cited that the racks are empty so far. The surcharge of \$75 is the reason as to why people are not renting kayak racks. Previous renters expressed their dismay with current pricing and the majority are not returning to rent. Julia offered that we would need to revise that pricing next season. Dina said it may be too much money for people, but she also agrees with the surcharge purpose for fueling the fund-erosion project.
- **Fred Chiofolo- *stated that the election for Trustees last year was rigged, because 2 people he knows did not get on the Board last year. He directed comments at Dave Anderson, Nominations Committee Chair, stating that he should put those two people on the Board.***

- **Meeting adjourned at 9:11 pm**

Respectfully submitted,
Kristin Kirk Murphy
Recording Secretary, Brookhaven Village Association

NEXT BVA BOARD MEETING May 14, 2025

