

West Islip Association

The Inception of West Islip Association

A meeting of the West Islip Chamber of Commerce on March 13, 2008 was attended by almost 500 West Islip residents. The subject at issue was the proposed construction of a Walgreen's Pharmacy on the grounds of the LaGrange Inn on the northwest corner of Higbie Lane and Montauk Highway in West Islip.

Although the LaGrange Inn had not been designated as an Historical Preservation Site, in the minds and hearts of long-time West Islip residents, it represents what this community was in the history of our country. It is the centerpiece of West Islip. So spoke many on March 13, 2008.

In response to the negative reaction to the plan, Legislator Tom Barraga proposed the formation of the La Grange Task Force to research, develop and

recommend alternative plans for the future of the site where the historic LaGrange Inn is currently located. It was energized by the tremendous support and encouragement of Islip Town Officials including Town of Islip Supervisor Phil Nolan, Town of Islip Planning Board Commissioner Gene Murphy, and Town of Islip Economic and Development Division Director William G. Mannix.

When local groups approached the Task Force with suggestions of other problems which should be addressed, it became evident that a broader consideration was needed.

The West Islip Association was formed to enrich the community to the benefit of its businesses, its visitors and its residents. The Association has still to articulate a set of rules by which to operate and the group is now in the process of doing so.

Mission Statement

The Mission of the West Islip Association is to work with the community, community groups and local officials to ensure that West Islip maintains its character and remains a comfortable place in which to live and work.

Goals

1. To provide a voice for residents to maintain a pleasing atmosphere for the Community
2. To promote the common good and general welfare of the residents of West Islip by means of communication, and the expression of neighborhood goals and opinions to public agencies.
3. To identify and evaluate needs, disseminate information, and take appropriate action to support West Islip interests with the common goal of improving the economic well-being of our community.

INTERESTED PARTIES MAY CONTACT THE WEST ISLIP ASSOCIATION BY SUBMITTING THEIR EMAIL ADDRESSES TO wiasociation@yahoo.com

Next meeting: 1/28/09 at the WI Library at 7:00 PM. Subject: West Islip Youth and the Community.

Progress to Date

Status of Walgreen

The Walgreen Pharmacy proposal has been denied. The owners of the properties of the LaGrange, the Babylon Ford and the Holy Family Ukrainian Catholic Church have been sharing their plans with the group.

Stop and Shop

Stop and Shop presented plans for the Store and Plaza at our October 1st meeting and accepted suggestions made by the West Islip Association. The revised rendering incorporates additional changes suggested by the architect to add to “the colonial theme and is more interesting than the original design.”

The Moose Lodge

The owner of the Moose property has shared his proposal. for the “Moose Building” and will start demolition as soon as the Planning Board approves of the plans.

Everdell Avenue/King Kullen Area

The vandalism/graffiti issue between Everdell Avenue and the King Kullen Shopping Center has been targeted by the Suffolk County Police Department (Third Precinct) COPE Squad. WIA has suggested that King Kullen management should consider employing some type of security for the area.

West Islip Florist

Demolition of the West Islip Florist building should be completed on or about February 2nd.

Higbie Lane

The Pedestrian Crosswalk Sign is in place at the Higbie Bagels site on Higbie Lane, south of the Udall Road - Higbie Lane merge.

The Country Deli

It appears that an attractive complex will eventually replace the Country Deli at Higbie Lane and Hawley Avenue.

West Islip Association Members

Joe DeCarlo, Chairperson
Maria Figalora, Vice Chairperson
Lynn Luttenberger, Vice Chairperson
Irene A. Munno, Secretary
Carolyn Agenjo
Anthony Formica
Stacy Kennedy
Jim Lundie
Bob Manley
Kay Manley
Kathy Montgomery
Maria Pecorale
Patricia Romeo
Helen Schick
Ed Vilim

Situations for Further Discussion

1. The future use of the Dzus property
 2. Restoration of the West Islip Beach property
 3. Traffic congestion problems on Higbie Lane and Montauk Highway
 4. Wholesome after-school activities for the Youth of West Islip
 5. Value of a “see something, say something” attitude on the part of residents who witness questionable activity.
Please call 911 or contact the SCPD COPE Unit at 854-8308 or 854-8390
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