

Rocky Point Civic Association

General Membership Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 1, 2026 • 7:00 PM • VFW Post 6249, King Rd

Opening

- The meeting was called to order and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- A moment of silence was observed, dedicated to the memory of Kathy Weber, longtime member and Membership Secretary of the Rocky Point Civic Association, who passed away on Sunday, May 31, 2026.

In Memoriam

Kathleen “Kathy” Weber

Membership Secretary and Chair of the Beautification Committee

- President Jennifer Hald, Councilwoman Jane Bonner, and members of the board reflected on Kathy's tireless service and unwavering commitment to the community.
- Kathy remained actively engaged in the work of the Civic Association until just days before her passing, exchanging texts with fellow board members from the hospital regarding the entrance sign project, planter placements, and other beautification matters.
- Members present shared memories of Kathy, including her leadership of the planter program, her creation of the annual scarecrow decorations, and her decades of dedication to downtown Rocky Point.
- Councilwoman Bonner shared that she had been in contact with Kathy as recently as Tuesday, May 26, 2026 regarding coordination with the Town of Brookhaven Parks Department to relocate several planters.
- A certificate honoring Kathy's service was set aside in her memory and will be presented to her family.

Roll Call

The following officers and trustees were recorded:

Name	Title	Status
Jennifer Hald	President	Present
Thomas Buttacavoli	Vice President / Acting Secretary	Present
Dean Gandlely	Treasurer	Present
Tina Bogart	Sergeant-at-Arms	Present
<i>Kathleen Weber</i>	<i>Membership Secretary</i>	<i>In Memoriam</i>
Leah Buttacavoli	Trustee	Present
Alicia Palifka	Trustee	Present
Quentin Palifka	Trustee	Present

- Quorum was established. The Membership Secretary position is now vacant following the passing of Kathy Weber.

Installation of Officers and Trustees

- Although the board was duly elected in November 2025, formal installation had not yet been performed.
- Brookhaven Town Councilwoman Jane Bonner administered the Oath of Office to all officers and trustees present at this meeting.
- Certificates of office were distributed to each officer and trustee. A certificate for the late Kathy Weber was set aside for presentation to her family.
- The board is now formally sworn in for the 2026 term.

Approval of Minutes

- Approval of the minutes of the May 4, 2026 meeting was not formally addressed at this meeting due to the extended time devoted to remembrances, installation of officers, and the last-minute schedule change surrounding Legislator Lennon's absence.
- The May 4, 2026 minutes will be presented for approval at the July 2026 meeting.

Special Guest

Brookhaven Town Councilwoman Jane Bonner

- Councilwoman Bonner addressed the membership and provided a comprehensive update on programs and events from the Town of Brookhaven, including the following:
 - Brookhaven Comprehensive Land Use Plan: residents encouraged to attend community meetings and submit input via the online link
 - Juneteenth: Saturday, June 20; free event with food; advance registration required
 - Christmas in July toy drive at the Rose Caracappa Senior Center
 - Recycling event (Saturday, May 30): 625 vehicles processed, a record for Council District 2; e-waste, drug take-back, and paper shredding all handled on site
 - PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Run for PTSD at the Joe Kessel monument
 - Summer recreation guide available online: swimming lessons, sports, pickleball, and more
 - Cedar Beach Nature Center: nature walks and programs for children and adults
 - Free summer live music program for youth up to age 20 at Cedar West; alcohol-free with COPE officers on site
 - Teen driver safety programs at Safety Town operated by the Highway Department
 - Free car seat inspections
 - Insurance driving discount programs available
 - Bicycle rodeo teaching children rules of the road
 - Doggy Days of Summer: free adoptions and vaccinations
 - Prom Wishes program providing free prom dresses
 - Free Mystery Bingo for seniors
 - Free mulch and compost available at town locations
 - America 250 "Kirby Kan" giveaway and contest
 - Fun fact: Over the last 25 years, Brookhaven residents have recycled over 1.1 billion pounds of material, the equivalent weight of more than 2,500 Statues of Liberty
- Councilwoman Bonner confirmed that an emergency meeting of the Suffolk County Legislature was in session at the time of the RPCA meeting, awaiting a Home Rule Message from the state to enable a vote on the delayed state budget. This confirmed the reason for Legislator Lennon's absence from the scheduled E-Bikes and E-Scooter Law forum.
- Residents were invited to email or call Councilwoman Bonner's office with any questions or to be added to the monthly newsletter distribution list.

Officers' Reports

Treasurer / Dean Gandley

- Opening balance: \$9,950.72 (including PayPal funds).
- New deposits received from the PO Box: \$690.00 total, including two new memberships.
- Current balance: \$10,640.72.
- Pending disbursements not yet reflected in the balance:
 - \$900.00 for flowers (beautification)
 - \$250.00 for soil (beautification)
 - \$146.00 for tent and weights (Farmer's Market)
- The Civic Association remains in good financial standing.
- Motion made to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Membership Secretary

- Position now vacant following Kathy Weber's passing.
- Acting Secretary Thomas Buttacavoli has taken possession of the membership records maintained by Kathy and is working to consolidate them.
- A full membership report will be provided at the July 2026 meeting.

Website Update

- RockyPointCivic.com continues to be actively developed.
- Members may pay dues online through the website.
- A member sign-in feature is available using Google account authentication.
- The site includes a section for past meeting minutes and a section for community photos and content.
- Members are encouraged to submit photos and other content for publication on the site.
- Development of a full membership portal is ongoing.

Committee Reports

Beautification

- There will be no Garden Tour in 2026 due to scheduling conflicts among key volunteers; the tour is expected to return in 2027.
- Focus for the 2026 season will remain on the planter program and downtown beautification.
- Planters were installed on schedule the week prior to this meeting.
- Eleven merchants along Broadway have committed to watering the planters in front of their establishments, including Broadway Market, Alfie's Flowers, and Studio 45.
- Approximately nine additional planter locations still require volunteer watering along the 25A corridor.
- A resident volunteered to reach out to Nic's regarding the planter near their storefront.
- Community members interested in helping water planters or otherwise supporting the beautification program are encouraged to contact the board.
- A future memorial project honoring Kathy Weber's beautification work is being planned. See New Business below.

Entrance Sign Project

- The entrance sign at the Rocky Point bypass has significantly deteriorated and is no longer legible.
- Kathy Weber, working with member Susan Wilson, secured grant funding for a replacement sign; the project is now approaching final approval.
- The Town of Brookhaven Parks Department will manage construction and installation, subject to New York State Department of Transportation specifications.

- A grant writer within the town's finance department is coordinating with Parks.
- Timeline remains subject to DOT approvals.

Farmer's Market / Dean Gandley

- The 2026 season opened successfully on Sunday, May 31. Vendors and customers reported a strong first day.
- Two new farm vendors joining beginning Sunday, June 7:
 - Anne Marie's Farm Stand (returning)
 - Michael Green's Farm
- Pindar Vineyard returning to sell wine.
- Several additional returning vendors from the 2025 season expected in coming weeks.
- The market is pet-friendly. Residents are encouraged to bring their pets.

VFW Museum

- The VFW Post 6249 Museum, the only veterans museum in Suffolk County, is open on Sundays and located adjacent to the Farmer's Market.
- The museum recently completed an expansion, with new exhibits unveiled at the ribbon cutting.
- Farmer's Market attendees are encouraged to visit the museum during their Sunday visits.

VFW 250th Anniversary Block Party / Joe Cognito

- The block party remains scheduled for Friday, July 4, 2026, rain or shine.
- Permission has been granted to close one block of Broadway; overflow will use the pickleball courts on the green and the Broadway Market area.
- Planning committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 3.
- Confirmed elements include food trucks, kid activities, live music, and vendor booths.
- The proposed event window was 11:00 AM to 9:00 PM; a shorter window was suggested by the board so attendees can also participate in traditional 4th of July fireworks.
- Final schedule and additional details to be shared following the June 3 planning meeting.

Land Use

- The association does not currently have an active Land Use Committee; no matters raised from the floor.

COPE / Public Safety

- No COPE officer present; no report this month.

Old Business

E-Bikes and E-Scooter Law Forum

- Suffolk County Legislator Chad Lennon was unable to attend this meeting as scheduled due to an emergency session of the Suffolk County Legislature.
- The forum will be rescheduled, targeted for the July 2026 meeting.
- Residents who attended specifically for this topic were invited to submit their questions in writing so they can be forwarded to Legislator Lennon's office.
- Trustee Quentin Palifka is the point of contact for questions to be forwarded.

Rocky Point Day Recap

- Rocky Point Day was a great success this year with what attendees described as record attendance.
- Highlights included food trucks, games and activities for children, and a wide variety of vendors.

- The event featured the Impact Awards, recognizing family members, teachers, and school employees nominated by students for their positive influence.
- Broad participation from Rocky Point School District programs, including the cosmetology department (offering complimentary braiding), the wrestling team, cheerleaders, football and baseball, Girl Scout troops, and the lacrosse team.
- Approximately 300 flags were distributed thanks to Estelle and Ace Hardware.

Birthday Smiles Drive

- The drive continues at the Rocky Point School District through the end of the school year.
- Youth Ambassador Violet, who has led the drive for five years, recently graduated and has been accepted to Adelphi University. Congratulations to Violet on this achievement.
- A group of younger Girl Scouts will take over the drive going forward.

New Business

Memorial Tree and Plaque in Honor of Kathy Weber

- Motion made by Trustee Quentin Palifka that the Rocky Point Civic Association purchase a memorial tree and plaque in honor of Kathy Weber, to be planted at a suitable location within the hamlet.
- The Suffolk County Clerk's Office is recording trees planted in celebration of the nation's 250th anniversary; the tree will be recorded in Kathy's honor as part of this program.
- Suggested locations to be investigated include VFW Post 6249 property and other public or nonprofit sites within Rocky Point.
- Motion seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Youth Ambassador Transition

- Violet's departure creates a vacancy in the Youth Ambassador role beginning in the fall.
- The board thanks Violet for her years of dedicated service, her recent art show donation to the Long Island State Veterans Home, and her ongoing role as a bridge between the Civic Association and the Rocky Point Girl Scouts.
- Members are encouraged to identify local youth (family members, neighbors, or students) who may be interested in filling the role.

Community Reports

Historical Society / James

- The Long Island History Hunt is underway across 24 historical sites, including the Hallock Homestead.
- Participants visit sites, take a photo of themselves at each location, and submit entries for prizes; visiting the site is sufficient (a full tour is not required).
- Attendance at the Hallock Homestead has been strong since the program began.
- Flyers and cards were made available at the meeting.
- The Historical Society will participate in the VFW 250th Anniversary Block Party.

North Shore Beach Property Owners Association / Susan

- Susan has returned as Treasurer of the NSBPOA after a twenty-year hiatus and is transitioning the books to QuickBooks.
- Nick is hosting a line dancing event on Friday, July 17 at Southbound. All are welcome.
- Full event listings are now available on the NSBPOA website.

Shoreham Civic Association / Ed King, President

- President Ed King attended the meeting representing the Shoreham Civic Association.

- The Shoreham Civic meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM at the Miller Avenue School.
- Next meeting: Wednesday, June 17.
- Ed reported that Shoreham has no significant issues to report at this time.

Legislator Lennon's Office / Quentin Palifka

- As Legislator Lennon was unable to attend, questions may be directed to Trustee Palifka or emailed directly to Legislator Lennon's office.

Adjournment

- A motion to adjourn was made and seconded.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Thomas Buttacavoli

Vice President / Acting Secretary, Rocky Point Civic Association