

Centerport Harbor Civic Association  
General Membership Meeting, March 26, 2024

**Present:** Anne Wesp, Bob Berding, Betsy Cambria, Bob Lopez, George Pullis, **Mike** Regan, Jim Walker, Judy White, and Carol Zwiulich

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Treasurer's Report: CHCA has a balance of \$10,210.43. Betsy Cambria thanked many members as **many** have increased their annual contribution beyond the basic annual membership fee.

- Members were encouraged to **pay** their dues, if they have not already done so, and members were encouraged to bring friends/neighbors to future CHCA meetings.

**Guest Speakers:**

Dr. J. Rasweiler (introduced by Jim Walker) (Retired Medical School Professor; Cornell-trained reproductive physiologist; Serves on Town of Southold Deer Management Committee and is a member of the North Fork Deer Management Alliance)

- Dr. Rasweiler addressed the membership regarding the severe increase in herbivores which have no predators. There is an imbalance. In 2013, Dr. Rasweiler organized a study of the deer population on the North Fork of Long Island.
- The deer have decimated the understory of our local forests, resulting in a great loss of many native plants and animals. The LI environment is one of the worst places in the world for hosting the tick population. The deer act as a *vector*, hosting infected tick borne diseases. Many of the preventative measures ("deticking" devices) taken by locals have not been effective. Ticks can be picked up easily by walking on non-protected land. Organic oils are less harmful than but they pose a problem to the environment. Dr. Rasweiler said the most effective *way* to kill ticks is to use Permethrin and tick repellent. Dr. Rasweiler gave a thorough overview, lecture and PowerPoint. *Of* the plight of the surge of the deer population and of the detrimental tick problem the deer have created. Dr. Rasweiler noted that culling the herd is the only way to control the deer population at this point.

Elizabeth **Wayland-Morgan** (introduced by Betsy) (Executive Director of the Vanderbilt Museum),

Ms. Wayland-Morgan gave an overview of the history of the Vanderbilt family and of the Vanderbilt Museum. During her lecture, Ms. Wayland-Morgan used the Vanderbilt Museum's website to illustrate many of her points.

- Overview of the current initiatives: the Bell Tower. There are three phases to this project. The first phase has been completed.
- The restoration *of* the cobblestones. This project will take about *two* years.
- Planetarium: there are new, upgraded seats.
- New HVAC system for the Mansion and for the Hall of Fishes.
- Ms. Wayland-Morgan noted that she met with the County Executive, Mr. Romaine. Mr. Romaine confirmed that the Department of Public Works will oversee the restoration of the waterfront property at the Vanderbilt.
- Ms. Wayland-Morgan cited that the museum engages in public opportunities via paid jobs, volunteer positions, partnerships with LI libraries and museums. Natural history and astronomy programs are available for schools.
- Water infiltration is an ongoing problem. Restoration is ongoing.
- Wendy Klemperer is a metal artist whose works (33 of them) are now displayed on the grounds of the Vanderbilt. Increased signage regarding sculptures will be completed by late spring.
- Outreach is offered to schools in need. A portable dome *was* recently purchased by the Planetarium for off site presentations. It will allow students from different schools to experience "The Night Sky" presentations at their local schools.
- Eclipse: On April 5, 2024, there is *a* live program, taught by astronomers, to instruct people how to see the April 8th eclipse. A limited supply *of* glasses for safe eclipse viewing can be purchased now at the Planetarium.

- The contribution from the Centerport Garden Club to restore the Rose Garden, after its blight, is very much appreciated by the Vanderbilt Museum.

Annual **Spring** Clean-Up (Mary Werner and Mike Reagan),

- Saturday, April 13, 2024 (9c30am-12c00pm). The clean-up will start at Heron Park.
- Mary Werner noted that all volunteers will be supplied with garbage bags.
- The membership **was** reminded to come dressed appropriately.

Update on Activities with **the** Town (Anne Wesp)

Anne Wesp provided a summary of her and several CHCA board members' meetings with Huntington Town board members.

Ms.Wesp noted that CHCA expressed to the Town that CHCA wants to be included in the process of having a say in the development of the defunct Jellyfish. At the suggestion of the Town board members, Ms.Wesp and several CHCA board members will be having a meeting this week of CHCA and Johnny Heil, the developer of Jellyfish.

Tribute *to* Gloria Wertheimer (Anne Wesp) Gloria Wertheimer and her husband, Stan, are responsible for the creation of Grist Mill Park, Heron Park, Hope, the Heron statue.

- Anne Wesp provided a heart warming review of the late Gloria Wertheimer's many accomplishments and achievements which have benefited the Centerport community.
- Specifically noted was Ms.Wertheimer's pivotal role in the establishment of Grist Mill Park; Heron Park: the installation of "Hopen, the Heron statue in Heron Park; and the Alvernia Park on Prospect Road; and the Centerport Firehouse Station #2, as an alternative to a proposed Seven/Eleven, located on the north-east corner of 25A *and* Little Neck Road.
- Stan Wertheimer played on his bugle, "Somewhere My Love", *as* a tribute to Gloria.

**Nut General Membership Meeting:**

- Tuesday, April 30th, 2024, at Harborfields Library in the Large Meeting Room at 7:00 pm