

Sept. 10th, 2025- CHCA General Meeting:

Attendees:

- Chair/Moderator (James Walker/Michael Regan)
- CHCA board members; Anne Wesp, Mary Werner, Judy White, Pat Coyle, Betsy Cambria, Carol Zwiulich, Bob Berding
- Dr. Catherine Knight (Speaker; Past Co-President; spoke about Student Ambassador Program)
- Student Ambassadors: Paul DiPaolo; Abraham Oonnoony
- David Clemens (Historian/Presenter)
- Bob Berding (Advisory Board Member; presenter)
- Carol Zwiulich (Candidate nights logistics)
- Rob Schwartz (Resident; eagle statue proponent)
- Community members (unnamed)

1. Executive Summary:

- **Finances:** Treasurer's Report noted \$13,345 on hand.
- **Student Ambassadors:** Two juniors—Paul DiPaolo and Abraham Oonnoony—introduced as the 2025–2026 Student Ambassadors; program aims to connect students with civic life.
- **Candidate/Voter Info:** Civic will not host a candidate night; alternatives include Huntington Yacht Club (Oct 9, 7 p.m.) and NAACP at South Huntington Library (Oct 16, 6 p.m.). League of Women Voters not hosting locally per current knowledge.
- **Chalet Property:** Reportedly sold to a developer with intent to maintain hotel use; key unknowns remain (unit count, footprint, compliance). FOIL filed July 28; response pending near statutory window end. Civic to monitor and report.
- **Grace Preserve Cabin Landmarking:** Town Board session on Sept 16 at 6 p.m. re: 1918 cabin at 24 Westbrook Court, Greenlawn; residents encouraged to visit and comment.
- **Mill Pond Walk Initiative:** Phased plan to add interpretive signage, photography, and QR-enabled audio “sound walk” across Heron Park,

Grist Mill Park, and safe segments; coordination with Parks Department, Heckscher Museum, 1653 Foundation, and others; expansion tied to pedestrian safety improvements.

- **Sculpture Proposal:** Donated bronze eagle statue proposed for Heron Park generated mixed views; consensus to evaluate placing (Heron Park, Grist Mill Park, or other) within the broader Mill Pond Walk planning process; no final decision.
- **Historical Context:** Presentation detailed the evolution of Heron Park, Spring Lake hydrology, Mill dam, and the Chalet/ restaurant site— highlighting opportunities to balance feasible commercial use with hydrological/wetland restoration to enhance scenic and environmental value.
- **Meeting Protocols & Community Events:** Reminder of structured public comment and civility.
- **Greenlawn Centerport Pickle Festival** on Saturday the 20th (10:00 AM–4:00 PM).
- **A kickoff coordination meeting for the Mill Pond Walk** initiative on Sept 22 at 10:00 AM encouraged for public input; next general membership meeting Oct 28 at 7:15 PM.
- **Historical Presentation –Speaker David Clemens- Heron Park, Spring Lake, and Chalet/Cavalier Evolution**
- Summary of presentation:
 - Historic maps/photos showed tidal mill operations, road alignments, and post office history (post office building built 1911, operated until 1962) on pilings; the original mill (built 1774) was demolished starting in 1950; subsequent commercial uses.
 - Heron Park evolved on a small parcel where the post office once stood; it features Roberto Besson's “Heron” sculpture (“Hope”).
 - Spring Lake: Spring-fed freshwater body; past dam failure (1885) and rebuild; historic spillway/culvert under Center Shore Road.
 - Development history: Decorative lagoon and water wheel (circa 1934 by Muller); later Cavalier/Chalet expansions added fill, motel rooms, structures; stream diverted into piping; wetlands reduced; water levels lowered (~5 feet).
 - Implications: Loss of wetland function and scenic quality; opportunities for partial hydrological restoration alongside limited,

appropriate commercial development (particularly near the former main restaurant footprint).

CHCA Mill Pond Walk Initiative – Vision, Scope, and Partnerships

Speaker Bob Berding:

- Summary of presentation:
 - Phase 1: Focus on existing safe walkable segments—bridge by the church through Heron Park, Grist Mill Park, and part of Center Shore Road.
 - Phase 2: Expand contingent on roadway/pedestrian safety improvements (1653 Foundation exploring concepts with CHCA).
 - Features: Curated interpretive signage, historical narratives, photography, and a QR-enabled audio “sound walk.”
 - Partnerships: Parks Department (sign fabrication), Heckscher Museum (photo jury/curation and potential sound walk support), Vanderbilt, Greenlawn-Centerport Historical Association, Opera Night LI, Dove/Tour House, Town’s Mr. Hughes (align with town-wide interpretive standards).
 - Principles: Cohesive, site-appropriate placements; avoid piecemeal installs; integrate existing markers.
- Decisions made:
 - Proceed with a phased signage plan on safe segments; integrate sound walk.
 - Explore juried photo contest with Heckscher Museum and partners.
 - Adopt Town interpretive sign/display standards and coordinate with Mr. Hughes.
- Action items/commitments:
 - Parks to produce signs upon receiving images/narratives Compile imagery and narratives for initial signs Continue planning with 1653 Foundation on pedestrian improvements
 - Engage Heckscher and Dove/Tour House on photo contest structure Define station locations and develop scripts/audio; secure rights Set up QR tech and audio hosting

Community Sculpture Proposal-Rob Schwartz – Bronze Eagle

- Summary of discussion points:
 - Proposal: Rob Schwartz proposed installing a donated bronze eagle statue (donated by a local artist) to memorialize the local eagle pair (male lost to avian flu in Dec 2022); preferred siting in Heron Park near the rear bench for visibility and safety.
 - Support: Town of Huntington supportive (according to the speaker) pending community input; engineering drawings prepared; signatures gathered (approx. 700 online; 75 written); proponent to fund base and maintain involvement.

- Advisory perspective: Heron Park was purpose-designed around Bessin's "Heron" sculpture for 360-degree viewing; caution against crowding and altering curatorial intent; recommend evaluating siting within the broader Mill Pond Walk process for consensus.
- Alternatives: Consider Grist Mill Park or other visible sites to honor the eagle while preserving Heron Park's design.
- Community considerations: Visual density in a small parcel; potential politicization; desire for inclusive, consensus-based decision-making.
- Decisions made:
 - No final siting decision; include in Sept 22 kickoff for collaborative evaluation and recommendation before formal Town/County submissions.
- Action items/commitments and assigned owners:
 - Add eagle statue siting to Sept 22 kickoff agenda; invite stakeholders
 - Continue collecting resident input Develop site criteria (visibility, safety, artistic intent, crowding, vandalism risk)

Meeting Protocols, Public Comment, and Community Events

- Public comment structure reaffirmed: sign up, identify name and residence, three-minute limit; emphasis on civility and inclusive discourse.

Next Civic Association general membership meeting: Oct 28 at 7:15 PM in the small meeting room.
- Action items
 1. Ensure public comment sign-up process is available and communicated.
 2. Distribute/collect emails at Sept 22 kickoff to build working group list