

West River Homeowners Assoc., Inc.



Thank you for your dedicated membership and support!



Set your Clocks
Back 1 hour

Nov. 5, 2017

Happy Holidays from your WRHOA Board of Directors!

Dinner Meeting: West River Homeowners Assoc. celebrated their 33rd anniversary. The event took place on Sunday October 1/17 at the Beaver Island Clubhouse Restaurant with a dinner followed by our annual members meeting. Our Guest speaker of the evening was Joseph G. Makowski ESQ. At the dinner meeting it was disclosed that there is still NO mention or proposed document regarding the Maintenance of the Trail. Additional meeting notes on pg. 2.

Does it make sense to spend over \$2.M to close down a much needed and used parkway and “repurpose” it for a “limited” multi use trail for this 4 season region? The citizens have spoken, the Counsel had voted, yet for some reason we are still fighting a battle to keep the Parkway Open.

We have voiced many times over to build a path as intended and outlined the original 2014 signed contract or to build it in an alternative safer place: In the median as alternative option was also in favor. Both options do KEEP THE PARKWAY OPEN FOR VEHICLE TRAFFIC. So why is this FIGHT?

The six big questions should be asked. Who, what, where, when, why & how: Some basic questions are listed below, but most can elaborate or come up with plenty of other questioning for elected officials of NY State.

Who is going to maintain it?

Will NY State Parks maintain it, will they outsource the service or will the West river residence have to maintain it (as we do already: cutting grass, clean up trash & flower planting).

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If they build it, will they come?

What portion of the trail will be maintained? Will the entire length be maintained? Will the pavement surface be renewed regularly, will trash receptacles be provided throughout the 8 miles and be picked up regularly/weekly basis, will the grass be kept trim and tidy, will more trees be planted and dead branches be removed from existing, will there be more flower beds to attract nature's creatures, will the signs be bright & legible, will snow be removed from the pavement surface?

Where will the maintenance money come from? Once they spend the \$2.8M for the “Capitol Project”, what long term funding or accounts will be responsible for paying the Maintenance portions?

When is the official closure?

Why do they want to close the Parkway off to vehicle traffic, when it seems the maintenance aspect of it, as currently exists, is minimal cost. NY State only cuts the grass on average 2 times per year, they don't remove snow, nor have they improved the pavement surface & curbs. They have failed to fill in the deep ruts and holes in the median and around drainage grates. The WR residences that could afford to do so cut the grass (most of it), regularly. They help Security issues by reporting suspicious activity. The WRHOA picks up trash and plants the flowers, while 1500 daily commuters still benefit to get home, to work or to their off island destination safely and on time.

So, **WHY** would NY State want to spend more money on maintaining a seasonal trail, than they do for a Parkway for Vehicles?

How long will it be maintained for? Will maintenance be year round regular basis or seasonally? Will it be maintained for 1 year, 5 years 10 years, forever or never?

2017 WRHOA Board of Directors- President - Frank Greco 773-1170

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| John Vogel 773-7324 | Michelle Chasse 775-1807 | Sharon Watkinson 773-6113 |
| June Crawford 775-9391 | Michele Ninacs 308-7900 | Sandy Nelson 773-3930 |
| Laura Prusinski 775-0005 | Richard Garlapow 773-2623 | Reg Schopp 773-1029 |
| Marilyn Mazza 773-9282 | Rose Bugman 773-1862 | |

Dinner Meeting: Err on the side of caution as not to disclose strategy too much. Attorney Joe talked about his steps he has taken and spoke to and continue to speak to NY State officials towards the battle of keeping the parkway open. He was asked many good and hard questions but could not elaborate much in case of leaks. It still remains the proposal of NY State to close the parkway in the spring of 2018. Joe indicated in many cases the fight can still be won, even on the first day of construction. However we do not want it to get that far. We have to act quickly as indicated by ATTY Joe.

NY State Assemblyman Angelo Morinello also attended our dinner and encouraged each member and Grand Island Citizens of how very important it is that we send individual letters **NOW**, to NY State Officials with comments/concerns regarding the proposal of the Parkway closure. Head officials must hear the true voice of each Grand Island citizen of Keeping the Parkway open to Vehicle traffic thus still in favour to build multi use trail as intended in the 2014 contract. Petition letters do not work well. Individual and personalized letters from the people will get more recognition and time spent reading them. **Start sending your letters now.** Make copies of your personalized letter and send to each of the Officials indicated below:

Chris Jacobs – 60th District NY State Senate jacobs@nysenate.gov
 DISTRICT OFFICE: 65 Court Street Mahoney State Office Building, Rm 213 Buffalo, NY 14202
 Phone: 716-854-8705
 ALBANY OFFICE: Legislative Office Building Room 947Albany, NY 12247 Phone: 518 455-3240

Angelo J. Morinello - 145th District NY State Assemblyman morinelloa@nyassembly.gov
 DISTRICT OFFICE: 800 MAIN STREET, SUITE 2C, NIAGARA FALLS, NY 14301
 716-282-6062
 ALBANY OFFICE: LOB 721 ALBANY, NY 12248
 518-455-5284

Mark Thomas- NY State Parks Director
 NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ALBANY NY, 12238

Andrew Cuomo- NY State Governor
 The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
 Governor Of New York State
 NY State Capitol Building
 ALBANY, NY 12224



During this controversy the Town Supervisor has brought forward his adamant force to close the parkway. This has many Grand Island citizens divided as a community. The WRHOA had to campaign for donations from members and abroad. The funding is used to **FIGHT** this battle to keep the Parkway Open. We had to hire an Attorney. We had to hire security guards on multiple occasions to protect our members meetings because of indication that the Town Supervisor would possibly crash our private event. Donations also assisted in the purchase of a thousand or so parkway signs, reams of paper, ink and stamps for Parkway petitions that were mailed out to the NY State Officials.

REMINDER TO VOTE! 2 of our Town Board councilmen that were part of the original Bike Path contract and have supported the fight to keep the parkway open, are expiring their term this year end. Get out and meet your new Nominees for Town Counsel. Participate to ask questions on all topics that may concern you and your neighborhood environment.

Don't forget to exercise your right to vote. Election Day is: Tuesday November 7, 2017

Membership Renewal



Thank you for your loyalty and participation with the Association. It is members like you that make this association a long term success. It's approaching the time of year to **RENEW** your membership. Memberships expire on December 31st. Please find renewal form enclosed. Please submit payment along with your Board of Directors vote before Dec. 31, 2017.

2018 West River Homeowners Association Board of Director Nominees

The candidates for the following year (2018) are listed below for your consideration for election for a three year term that will end Dec. 31, 2020. The Ballot form is enclosed. Please submit your vote along with your renewal payment by December 31, 2017.

- Rose Bugman
- Richard Garlapow
- John Vogel
- Collen Martin
- Other

Renewal and Ballot forms page 5 and 6

If they build it will they come?

“If you build it, will they come” is a Myth.

You might start to ask: If you build it, will they stay?

If you build it, will they use it?

If you build it, will you maintain it?

The Artist renderings can convince anyone on how lovely it will look.

But reality is...How will this impact others?

Here is a proposed glimpse based on concerns we have heard and put them on paper.



Cyclist
towing his
boat to
the
marina



Cyclist
towing his
kayak to
the river



Duck
hunters
cycling
out their
catch of
the day



Cyclist
hauling
his trailer
to the
camp
resort



Hunters
pulling
their gear
to get to
the river

West River Homeowners Assoc., Inc.

Frank Greco, President
3073 West River Rd.
Grand Island, NY 14072
(716) 773-1170



2018 BALLOT for Directors for WRHOA Board

The Board of Directors of the West River Homeowners Association has twelve members. The terms of office are for three years and are staggered so that four directors are elected each year.

The candidates for the following year (2018) are listed below for your consideration for election for a three year term that ends on Dec 31, 2020. Please vote for only four names. Space is provided if you wish to add a write-in vote.

- **YOU MUST BE A MEMBER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE.** If your name and address are listed on the Membership Roster, you are a paid member for **2017** and eligible to vote. If you are not listed as a paid member, consider joining the WRHOA by attaching your check (made payable to WRHOA) to the ballot. Return your ballot by December 31st (either print & mail or email names) by sending the ballot to:

Frank Greco, President of WRHOA
3073 West River Road
Grand Island, NY 14072
westriverhomeowners@gmail.com

2018 Board of Directors Nominees: Please vote (check✓) only four

- _____ Collen Martin
- _____ Rose Bugman
- _____ Richard Garlapow
- _____ John Vogel
- _____ Write-in (name & address) _____
- _____ Write-in (name & address) _____
- _____ Write-in (name & address) _____

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2018 Member Registration & Renewal WRHOA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/NEW MEMBER MAIL BACK FORM

Dear West River Area Homeowner:

If your membership has either expired or you have never joined our Association, please fill out the membership form below and mail back to address on form. **NOTE: Membership expires on December 31st.**

A paid membership entitles you to be a voting member of WRHOA. You will receive four newsletters per year, be invited to a summer activity and a fall dinner meeting. Membership assists you in getting to know your neighbors and sustaining a sense of pride, cooperation, and safety along the West River. You will have the full cooperation of the organization and its 12-member board of directors to address individual concerns or problems that may arise. Our concerns are many and include West River dock permits, river bank brush clearing, parkway grass cutting and trash pickup, overlook maintenance, auto speed control, snowmobile activities, duck hunters, bikers, rollerbladers, picnickers, horseback riders, and walkers using the parkway. Living here is a great investment and a great way of life. Join us in keeping residents of the West River and its immediate neighborhoods safe and comfortable. Join us! Our annual dues are \$10 per family per year or \$25 for a three year membership. If you have never joined or are a new resident, we invite you to join free-of-charge for one year.

Membership questions? Email: reg@raru.com

Membership Form WEST RIVER HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

"Promote and protect the welfare and interests of West River homeowners"

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments/Suggestions: _____

Date: _____ Member since _____

I am a NEW member and I understand the first one year membership is free.

I am enclosing my check for \$10 for one year membership.

OR

I am enclosing my check for \$25 for three year membership

Make check payable to West River Homeowners Association, Inc. and mail to:

Reg Schopp
WRHOA Membership Chairperson
1029 West River Road
Grand Island, NY 14072