

Rocky Point Civic Association

General Membership Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 14, 2026 • 7:00 PM • VFW Post 6249, King Rd

Opening

- The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Vice President Thomas Buttacavoli, presiding in the absence of President Jennifer Hald and Treasurer Dean Gandley.
- The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- A moment of silence was observed. A candle in memory of Kathy Weber was lit.

Roll Call

The following officers and trustees were recorded:

Name	Title	Status
Jennifer Hald	President	Excused
Thomas Buttacavoli	Vice President / Acting Secretary	Present
Dean Gandley	Treasurer	Excused
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	Excused

- The presiding officer noted that regular officer reports would be limited given the reduced attendance, but proceeded with the meeting for informational purposes and to hear the scheduled guest presentation.

Approval of Minutes

- A motion was made to waive the reading of the July 6, 2026 meeting minutes and to accept them as recorded.
- Motion seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.
- No meeting was held in August 2026 per the Association's standard summer break.

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer Dean Gandley was absent and excused.
- On behalf of the Treasurer, Vice President Buttacavoli reported a checking account balance of \$8,070.
- A full breakdown, including PayPal and online receipts, will be presented at the October 2026 meeting.

- Members were reminded that 2026 dues may be paid online at RockyPointCivic.com, by cash, or by check. Dues are assessed at the beginning of each calendar year. Members not yet current for 2026 were encouraged to catch up.

Special Guest Presentation

SCPD 7th Precinct Community Oriented Police Enforcement (COPE)

- Officers Anson and Stacie of the Suffolk County Police Department 7th Precinct COPE unit addressed the meeting.

Reporting Crimes: “Facebook Police”

- The officers opened with a discussion of what they termed the “Facebook police” phenomenon: residents reporting incidents to social media platforms rather than to the Police Department.
- Reports posted to Facebook, Ring neighborhood groups, and similar channels are not received by the Police Department. Officers can only respond to, investigate, and analyze crime patterns based on incidents formally reported.
- Residents were strongly encouraged to call 911 (or the non-emergency line for less urgent matters) any time an incident occurs, even if the resident believes it may be minor. Reported incidents feed into the department's crime mapping and real-time crime center systems, which drive resource allocation across the precinct.
- Residents were also encouraged, when they see neighbors posting about incidents online, to remind them to report to the police so that the incident becomes part of the official record.

Recent Crime Activity in Rocky Point

- Only two larceny incidents were reported in Rocky Point over the previous two months, one of which occurred at a local Stop & Shop.
- The officers acknowledged that social media chatter has suggested a much greater level of crime activity than what is reflected in reported incidents, and reiterated the importance of formal reporting.

7th Precinct Year-to-Date Statistics

- Overall crime statistics for the 7th Precinct are down year-to-date across residential burglary, commercial burglary, larceny, and vehicle theft.
- The exception is assault, which increased slightly from 56 incidents year-to-date last year to 59 this year. This increase is not concentrated in Rocky Point.

August 2026 Arrests and Enforcement (Precinct-wide)

- Felony charges: 30 individuals arrested on 58 separate charges.
- Misdemeanor charges: 100 individuals arrested on 130 separate charges.
- Gang-related charges: 3 individuals arrested on 14 charges (all incidents outside the Rocky Point area, primarily to the south).
- DWI charges: 17 individuals arrested on 24 separate charges. Three of these arrests were made on William Floyd Parkway and one on Neapolitan Road.
- Total: 148 individuals arrested on 223 charges precinct-wide in August.

Overdoses and Narcan Administration

- Rocky Point recorded zero overdose incidents this reporting period.
- Precinct-wide, seven Narcan administrations were tracked, comprising three AD cases, three overdoses, and one attempted suicide.

Traffic Enforcement

- The 7th Precinct issued 1,206 tickets in August 2026.

- Of these, 41 were for speeding. Patrol units issued 890 tickets; specialty units issued 312 tickets.
- Approximately 500 tickets were written on Wingfoot Parkway.
- Motor vehicle crashes are down 15% year-over-year, from 271 in August 2025 to 230 in August 2026.

Noteworthy Incident

- A shooting occurred at the TRAX gas station on Neighborhood Road, in which one individual shot another during an altercation. The victim was transported to NYU Langone with non-life-threatening injuries. The shooter, who was undomiciled, was arrested a short time later.

Underage Sales Enforcement

- The COPE unit continues rotational compliance checks on establishments selling alcohol and vape products, using supervised underage buyers.
- Recent results in the broader precinct area: several locations passed compliance, including 520 Montauk Highway (Eastport), a location in Center Moriches, and Mastic Liquors.
- Two locations in East Moriches, both at 476 Montauk Highway, failed compliance: the Wave gas station and the Valero gas station. Both received summonses for unlawful dealing with a child in the first degree.
- Locations near Dunkin' Donuts on Main Street in Rocky Point remain on the COPE unit's radar for future compliance checks.

Illicit Massage Parlor Enforcement

- Following ongoing local complaints, COPE conducted an enforcement action at Evolve Massage, 831 Middle Country Road, Middle Island. Two individuals were arrested for unauthorized practice of a profession and prostitution (misdemeanor). Desk appearance tickets were issued, and the establishment was closed.
- Residents were reminded that concerns about suspicious establishments can be reported to the precinct or anonymously to the tip line at 852-COPS.

ATV, Dirt Bike, and E-Motorcycle Enforcement

- COPE reported approximately six to eight ATV and dirt bike impoundments in the previous month through the Pine Barrens Task Force.
- The Task Force is an interagency operation that includes the Suffolk County Police Department, Suffolk County Parks Department, the Department of Environmental Conservation, the New York State Police, park rangers, and cooperating east end towns.
- Task Force enforcement recently covered the Pine Barrens, Rocky Point trails, and the Rails to Trails corridor.

E-Bike Rules Recap

- Operators must be 16 years of age or older and must wear a helmet.
- Operation is permitted only on roads with a posted speed limit of 35 mph or less. Main roads such as Route 25A, highways, and parkways are excluded.
- Operation is not permitted in Suffolk County parks or on the Rails to Trails.
- The officers emphasized the important distinction between Class 1 pedal-assist e-bikes and higher-powered devices marketed as e-bikes but effectively functioning as e-motorcycles, some of which can travel 60 to 65 miles per hour.
- A significant portion of enforcement effort focuses on educating both operators and parents about applicable rules, particularly regarding devices purchased for underage riders.

Upcoming COPE Events

- Coffee with the Cops: Tuesday afternoon in Center Moriches from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.
- Community Information Night: Wednesday evening at the Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Community Library.

- Annual Coffee with the Cops: Tuesday, October 21 at Water Drinker Brewery. Nominal \$5 admission for adults; young children admitted free.
- Precinct Community Meeting: First Tuesday of every month, expected to be held at the Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Community Library on a going-forward basis. Open to all residents of the precinct.

Question and Answer / Commitment to Continued Engagement

- Members asked whether COPE could provide statistics from the July reporting period, given that the officers had been unable to attend the July civic meeting.
- The officers agreed to send available statistics to Vice President Buttacavoli for distribution and committed to more consistent communication with the Civic Association going forward.
- Vice President Buttacavoli offered to grant COPE access to the Rocky Point Civic Association website to help publish and distribute community safety information.
- The membership expressed sincere gratitude to Officers Hanson and Stacey for attending and for their responsiveness to community concerns.

Discussion: Unannounced Festival on Broadway

- Members raised significant concern regarding a festival event held on Broadway (between King Road and Prince Road) the previous Sunday, which occurred with essentially no advance notice to the community. Members reported that residents were unable to access their own streets and that the intersection closure came as a complete surprise.

Permit Process (as explained by COPE)

- Applicants file a permit application with the Town of Brookhaven.
- The Town reviews the application and forwards it to the Police Department to confirm the department has manpower to cover the event.
- Following Police Department review, the permit returns to the Town for final approval, which also considers insurance and other requirements.
- Advance signage notifying residents of road closures is not currently a required element of the permit.

Board Discussion and Direction

- Members noted the Rocky Point St. Patrick's Day Parade routinely uses highway department road-closure signage and asked why the same standard did not apply to this event.
- The board agreed to formally request that the Town of Brookhaven add advance road-closure signage as a standard requirement for festival and street fair permits within Rocky Point.
- The board acknowledged that additional Winterfest events are anticipated and that this issue is time-sensitive.
- Councilwoman Bonner's office was reported to be aware of the situation and in contact with the Town Clerk regarding process improvements.
- The Civic Association will continue direct communication with Councilwoman Bonner's office and the Town of Brookhaven, rather than communicating with the event organizer or its management company.

Committee Reports

Beautification & Garden Committee

- Committee representatives were present and provided an in-person report.
- The Committee thanked the six community volunteers and ten local businesses who have been watering the planters this season. The planters remain in good condition.
- In October, the summer plant material will be removed and replaced with holiday greens, consistent with prior seasons.

- Planning for 2027 plantings is already underway, with potential emphasis on native species and other refinements.
- The Garden Tour will return in 2027. The Committee will meet on Thursday to select a date and will rely on Association-wide advertising and volunteer gardeners willing to open their properties.
- The Scarecrow Contest will return this fall. The Committee will coordinate with the planter transition to ensure the two projects integrate smoothly.

Farmer's Market / Extended Discussion

- A local vendor addressed the meeting to express concern about the future of the Rocky Point Farmer's Market. Concerns raised included:
 - Insufficient signage and inconsistent advertising
 - Absence of a farm stand, baker, or other core food vendors this season
 - Only a small number of craft vendors participating on any given Sunday
 - Banners purchased in prior seasons have failed and have not been replaced
 - Volunteers reported being told they could not add supplemental signage such as balloons or flags, with no clear reason given
- The board acknowledged the vendor's frustrations and confirmed that no such restriction on supplemental signage originates from the Association. The source of that guidance is unclear and will be investigated.
- The board further acknowledged that current staffing is insufficient to actively manage the market at the level required, with only four board members present at this meeting and multiple ongoing vacancies.
- Discussion was held regarding whether members in good standing (not currently serving on the board) could take on the operational management of the market. It was noted that Virginia, a prior member, had run the market successfully in a similar capacity. Association members are covered under the general liability policy, and additional coverage could be added by rider if needed.
- The Association's website includes a farmer's market scheduling module that was built for the Treasurer's use but has not been utilized by the farmers market committee. Members were encouraged to consider volunteering to help with market coordination, communications, and vendor recruitment.
- Vendor recruitment for the 2027 season must begin no later than January, as most participating farmers commit to their season schedule early in the year.

Old Business

- No additional old business was raised.

New Business

Youth Ambassador Program

- The Youth Ambassador position previously held by Violet is now vacant, as she has graduated and is attending college.
- The Association is recruiting Rocky Point High School students to serve as Youth Ambassadors, acting as liaisons between the high school community and the Civic Association.
- Applications are available at meetings; interested students are asked to attend a meeting to complete an application in person and to confirm their ability to commit to monthly attendance.
- The Association will work with Dr. O'Brien's office and the high school guidance office to distribute program information via the district's virtual backpack.

November 2026 Elections / Nominating Committee Formation

- Vice President Buttacavoli made the official announcement that the Annual Meeting for the election of Officers and Trustees will be held in November 2026.

- Per Article 7 Section B of the Bylaws, in September the President appoints a Nominating Committee to prepare a slate of candidates for presentation at the October meeting. The Vice President serves as Chair of the Committee by bylaw.
- Vice President Buttacavoli confirmed that he will serve as Chair. Sergeant-at-Arms Tina Bogart has also agreed to serve on the Committee.
- Additional Committee members are being actively sought. Members interested in serving on the Nominating Committee, or interested in standing as candidates for the board, were asked to contact the Association at RPCivicAssociation@gmail.com.
- The board issued a formal call to action to the membership. Sustained volunteer involvement is essential to the Association's continued ability to operate its programs, including the Farmer's Market, Beautification Committee, and community communications.

Community Reports

Councilwoman Jane Bonner's Office

- A representative provided the following updates on behalf of Councilwoman Bonner's office:
 - Suffolk County Household Recycling Event: Saturday, September 26, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Rose Caracappa Senior Center. Paper shredding (on-site), cardboard recycling, electronics recycling, and unused medications will be accepted. Liquids and sharps are excluded
 - North Shore Revitalization Workshop: Wednesday, September 30, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Virtual workshop; residents may sign in online to listen and share input
- The representative also noted Councilwoman Bonner's engagement with the unannounced festival issue discussed earlier in the meeting.

Rocky Point Historical Society

- The Historical Society will host its 28th annual tea on Sunday, November 1, at 3:00 PM at the North Shore Beach Clubhouse.
- Tickets are \$40. The event includes a guest speaker, colonial-attire hosts, tea sandwiches, homemade cookies, a string quartet, raffle baskets, and a 50/50 drawing. This year's theme celebrates the Macra 250 commemoration.
- The Historical Society house remains open every Saturday for tours. The exterior is currently being painted, expected to take approximately one month, but tours will continue uninterrupted.

Community Partner Thanksgiving Food Drive

- A community partner is currently preparing for its annual Thanksgiving food drive. Present need includes approximately 1,200 cans of peas, along with other Thanksgiving staples.
- Distributor-level donations are especially useful; residents may also donate directly via a QR code provided by the organization.
- Members with connections to churches, community organizations, or other families were encouraged to spread the word and to contact the organizing officers for coordination.

North Shore Beach Property Owners Association (NSBPOA)

- NSBPOA is launching a raffle with tickets priced at \$50. The prize is a membership. The raffle is open to non-members as well as current members.
- Further details will be publicized through community social channels.

Adjournment

- Members were reminded that the October 2026 meeting will be held on Monday, October 5, 2026 at 7:00 PM, returning to the regular first-Monday schedule.
- A motion to adjourn was made and seconded.
- Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Thomas Buttacavoli

Vice President / Acting Secretary, Rocky Point Civic Association