

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Treasurer's Report: CHCA has a balance of \$7,883.41 in its accounts.

Introductions: Student Ambassadors: Michael Caccamo
Joshua Krief (not present)

October Speaker on Heart Health: Dr. Anatasios Manaris, electro-cardiologist, Mount Sinai Hospital

Vote on By-Laws: Changes on fundraising and annual meetings and reports were approved.

Update on Jellyfish: It appears that part of Jellyfish is located on Town property. CHCA is further investigating this situation.

Candidate Night: US Congressional (Dem) District 1

**Nick Lalota (Republican/incumbent; Stephanie Bontempi (Republican Legislator/incumbent) represented Nick Lalota)
John Avlon (Democrat/candidate)**

Ms. Bontempi read a statement on behalf of Mr. Lalota. She provided the CHCA membership with Mr. Lalota's website: <https://www.nicklalot.com> if they have any questions.

NY State Senate District 2

Mario Mattera (Republican/incumbent) Craig Herskowitz (Democrat/candidate)

NY State Assembly District 12

Keith Brown (Republican/incumbent)

- **Gun Violence Mr. Avlon:** supports the need to work together for gun safety and backs the matter of finding common ground to create and enforce better laws.
- **Drunk Driving: Mr. Avlon:** notes that we are experiencing a federal crisis in our communities due to drugs. Mr. Avlon cited that the laws need to be more strict regarding accountability.
- **Immigration Policies: Mr. Avlon:** supports having a comprehensive immigration policy and in tightening border security.
- **SALT (State and Local Taxes) Deductions: Mr. Avlon** declared that the revocation of the SALT Deductions had a disproportionate, negative impact on Long Island residents. Mr. Avlon is in favor of reinstating the SALT tax.
- **Roe v. Wade: Mr. Avlon:** noted that the control of abortion, IBF, and contraceptives is a violation of personal freedom. Mr. Avlon supports the concept of reproductive rights belonging to the individual, not the government.

- **Proposal 1-NYS Equal Rights Amendment**
Mr. Herskowitz: Supports the amendment. He supports codifying equal rights and abortion.
Mr. Matera: Does not support the amendment. He noted that males should not participate in female sports and that abortion rights are lenient.
- **MTA and Congestion Pricing:**
Mr. Matera does not support congestion pricing. He noted that MTA money could be used more wisely.
Mr. Hirshkowitz: noted that the public should consider taking public transportation and that there is room for improvement for the MTA.

Drunk Driving and Roadways:

- **Mr. Hirszkowitz** cited that there needs to be better education to make the public aware of the ramifications of drunk driving.
- **Mr. Matera:** noted that cannabis is a problem. There are presently no devices to detect cannabis. He cited that the police would benefit from more advanced technology to help them with their jobs regarding this matter. Mr. Matera noted that the effectiveness of cashless bail could possibly be improved by reviewing and revamping the existing law.

- **Garbage Removal/Ash: Is there a plan; what is the DEC doing?**

Mr. Matera: indicated that by the year 2025, the Brookhaven landfill will be filled to capacity.

Pennsylvania and Ohio could possibly remove our garbage. There is a property which can be used as a transfer station located in Yaphank, across the street from Brookhaven Labs. This transfer station is very important. Mr. Matera does not support this proposal. He noted that this would cause many garbage trucks to be on the roadways, posing a very troublesome traffic situation.

Mr. Herszkowitz: cited that we need to find ways to remove ash. It is a health concern. Mr. Hirszkowitz noted the importance of transparency with the public regarding this matter.

- **Suffolk Water Restoration Act.**

Mr. Brown: noted that 25% of Suffolk County is sewerred. A .8 of a cent would be incorporated into Suffolk County sales tax which would fund money for sewers.

- **Drunk Driving:**

Mr. Brown: cited that police officers encounter difficulties prosecuting people who are high on drugs. Mr. Brown noted that this matter needs to be corrected.

- **Do you think Vice President Harris' economic policies are good?**

Mr. Avlon: noted that Vice President Harris is right for supporting small businesses and rebuilding the middle class.

- **Congressman Lalota voted to support the war without listening to constituents.**

Mr. Avlon declared that it's the job of the representative to listen. Mr. Avlon noted that Mr. Lalota doesn't hold open Town Hall meetings.

- **Inflation:**

Mr. Matera noted that inflation is "skyrocketing"; he noted that \$4.2 billion have been spent on immigration.

Mr. Hershkowitz: provided an overview of his professional work experience. He cited that water quality has diminished.

- **Education:**

Mr. Matera: cited diminished student enrollment and the "cost" of \$400,000 per school bus. He suggested that he would like to invest in HVAC systems in schools. He noted that BOCES is important for trades and declared that he is pro-education.

Mr. Hershkowitz: noted the importance of prioritizing our schools.

Next General Membership Meeting: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 at Harborfields Library at 7:00pm in the Large Meeting Room.

