

The Future of the

Brookville Taxpayers Association, Inc.

As seen from the perspective of the

Village Residents Party

<villageresidents.org>

Background

The Brookville Taxpayers Association, Inc. is (was) a civic association. It was founded in 1958 in the Village of Brookville. From its founding until ceasing operations circa 2009, it served a local, dues-paying membership. Initially, members were drawn from the residents of the Village of Brookville. In the late 1980's, the BTA expanded into the Villages of Upper Brookville and Old Brookville.

The Current Situation

- No members, no viable staff or officers, no functioning board of directors
- No operational activities or annual meetings
- No website
- No way to contact current residents or old members
- No way to access remaining funds
- No income and no way to accept new funds

Issues that are not being addressed

- What local issues are not being addressed because Brookville lacks a functioning civic association?
 - Old Brookville Police Department (OBPD) reorganization
 - Tam O'Shanter development
 - C. W. Post College / Long Island University (LIU) situation and its future prospects
 - Conflict of interest between Post / LIU and VOB government

What is needed in order to revive the BTA?

- Internet infrastructure
- Bulk mail capability
- Financial infrastructure
- New staff and new board of directors

Internet Infrastructure

- Website
- Bulk E-mail (like MailChimp)
- Database - online signup sheet (Airtable)
- Discussion group (like Google Groups)
- Credit card processor (see VRP website's financial page for an example)

Postal Bulk Mail

- Establish an account with a bulk mail service
- Mailing list
 - Village clerk list (tax rolls)
 - Online signup sheet (same as the e-mail database)
 - In-person events / meetings
- Prepare content of mail-piece (management letter, additional articles, dues form, address block, etc.) and choose a format for it (like a 4 page folded flyer self-mailer)

Financial Infrastructure

- New checking account
 - First, determine what documentation is required
 - Obtain the documentation (may be difficult, may take time)
- Credit card processor (like Click and Pledge)
 - Receives funds from donors
 - Deposits funds into the organization's checking account
- Resolve problems with IRS
 - 990's were not filed and BTA's status was revoked
 - Obtain “EIN letter” (needed to open checking account and credit card processor account)

More Financial Issues

- Recover lost checking account
 - Process can take a year, if you do not have the cooperation of the person(s) on the signature card
 - Old custodian of account could be legally liable, appropriate pressure should be brought to bear
 - The matter has already been brought to the attention of the NYS AAG, who requires contact with the BTA board in order to proceed

Personnel

- Need new officers, new board of directors
- **Signup sheet / online database** includes a checkbox for joining staff
- Attract residents to in-person events and meetings to recruit them
- Urge the residents to discuss this with their neighbors and get the neighbors involved

How will this affect the VRP?

- If the BTA is dissolved
 - *Scenario #1* - The VRP could take over some or all of the BTA's functions, such as the Village Social Hour
 - *Scenario #2* - The VRP could continue as is, but it could assist in the formation of a new civic group
- If the BTA is NOT dissolved
 - *Scenario #3* - The VRP would continue as is and cooperation with the BTA would probably be better

Scenario #1

- If the BTA is dissolved and no new civic group is formed
 - The VRP could selectively take over some or all of the BTA's functions (cherry pick), such as the Village Social Hour
 - VRP may or may not claim to be the successor organization
 - VRP could set up an Internet infrastructure that would redirect people who are looking for the BTA (like brookvilletaxpayers.org) to the VRP

Scenario #2

- If the BTA is dissolved and a new civic group is formed to replace it
 - The VRP could continue to operate as it always has
 - The VRP could assist in the formation of a new civic group
 - The VRP could lend its Internet infrastructure to the new civic group during the startup process
 - The new civic group may or may not use the BTA name
 - A new name would not carry the “baggage” of the old one and could signal a new start in relations between the two groups
 - Possibly a moot point, in light of the turnover in residents since the BTA was last active (few may remember the BTA)

Scenario #3

- If the BTA is not dissolved
 - The VRP will continue as is
 - Cooperation with the new leaders of the BTA will probably be better than it was under the previous administration who saw the VRP as an obstacle to their own political ambitions
 - The VRP may still take over some BTA functions, at least temporarily, until the BTA can fully revive itself
 - The VRP has already announced that it will hold the October 2023 Village Social Hour (see VRP website villageresidents.org)

Thank You

- The Village Residents Party can be reached at:
 - staff@villageresidents.org
 - Our website villageresidents.org
- Please feel free to contact us