

### Introduction

This status report is intended to provide the SIJNY membership with an update of where we are in the process at this time as well as a current view on the projected timeline for this process.

Please note that the timeline is a subjective “guesstimate” at this time as it is very difficult to predict exact timelines, which are subject to variables outside of our control.

### **Current Project Updates**

All original documents pertaining to our application have been submitted to the Town of Oyster Bay.

We have been working with the Town in addressing some of the questions/concerns they have raised over the past few months. Some of the major topics of concern have been highlighted below:

### **Attendance Statistics/Parking Requirements**

The Town has requested us to document the yearly attendance schedule for our community. They are particularly interested in the days with maximum attendance and would like to view a yearly forecast over a 3-year cycle to establish traffic patterns and parking requirements with some degree of predictability

While this is easy to provide for communities of other faiths (Jewish, Christian) because their major holidays occur around the same time every year, it has created a significant challenge for us because the Town needs to understand the Islamic Calendar and how the usage of our proposed Center (and the resulting parking needs) will vary from year to year in terms of (i) when the high parking usage days will occur, and (ii) how our plans account for these needs (through availability of offsite parking).

We are working with our engineering firm to address these issues clearly to help them clearly communicate our requirements. We have also advised them that our current Center in Woodside will remain in place so that every one of our members will not be attending the Long Island Center on a regular basis. This should alleviate some of the Town’s concerns with respect to parking and attendance. Census and attendance numbers have also recently been revised (relative to our original submission) to allay the Town’s concerns.

The primary open issue at this point is the estimated parking requirements based on our peak needs which occur less than 15 days a year. We have identified a number of offsite parking locations for usage on peak attendance days (from which a shuttle service can be operated).

These locations are near the proposed Center and, based on preliminary discussions, we expect to get to reasonable economic terms if we are required to use them.

Ultimately, and depending on what days are required, we believe that the neighboring school may also be a good option for additional parking. However, our attorney has advised us that it would give the school unnecessary leverage in our approval process if we approached them at this time.

While this issue has prolonged the process, we are told by our advisors that this is largely due to the complications surrounding our calendar as opposed to any fundamental issues.

### **Archaeological Issue**

In April 2009, the Town of Oyster Bay had requested a Stage I archaeological review of the site of our proposed Center, which was completed in May 2009 by David Bernstein of The Institute for Long Island Archaeology of SUNY at Stony Brook.

The initial report study has indicated that this site has “archaeological research potential” for eligibility for the National Register of Historic places on the basis that the Hicks-Seaman House located on this property was occupied by the Hicks and Seaman families during a “historically significant period”. A Stage 2 archaeological evaluation has been recommended to further assess the eligibility of this site for the National Register. In the event that this is determined to be eligible and the house has to be demolished, we will have to work with the Town of Oyster Bay’s Landmarks Preservation Commission to produce a permanent documentary record of the Hicks-Seaman House site. The Phase 2 archaeological report is necessary due to the fact that our site is in an overlay protected area. Whether we choose to develop the property or not, it is still a requirement. Further it will increase the value of the property regardless of how we choose to develop the property.

Our attorney (Kevin Walsh) and engineering firm (Cameron Engineering) have advised that this may simply be an additional procedural roadblock thrown into the process by the Town and is unlikely to ultimately prevent us from receiving approval to build our Center.

### **Other**

The NPC is leveraging Dr Shakir Mukhi’s relationship with the office of Tom Suozzi to help push forward the approval process. While Mr. Suozzi has limited influence in the Town of Oyster Bay (which is Republican-controlled), he has promised to assist us with advice, guidance and the assistance of his personal connections to at least get a fair and timely hearing from the Town. In the event Mr. Suozzi loses the current Nassau County election (currently held up as votes get recounted), he may have more time to help us!

We are also attempting to establish contact with a Town of Oyster Bay Councillor through our attorney after submission of the additional outstanding offsite parking-related information.

### **Funding**

As of November 5, 2009, the account balance for the new project was \$640,211.57. Based on questions raised by donors outside of New York in the past, it is critical that the NPC is able to demonstrate a strong degree of support and financial commitment for the project locally.

The NPC is urging the community to continue donations towards this noble cause. Even if you cannot donate financially, we would like to hear any ideas you might have to help raise funds for this project. No act is too little in helping build a new home for SIJNY. We will need significant

additional funds as we move into the next phase, hopefully in 2010, inshallah. The NPC is very hopeful that ALL members of our community will participate in any way that they can in this important and noble cause.

With Salaams & Duas

Sajjad Ladha  
New Project Chairman