**September 1, 2021**

**Report of the Ossining Village Historian**

**RE: Honorary Street naming application for Barbara Klapkowski,**

**Submitted by Donna Hannan**

My research into the contributions made to the village by Barbara Klapkowski was conducted by consulting the following sources: Telephone interview with the applicant and friend Donna Hannan; Online memorial posted on the Patch.com; Telephone interviews with Assemblywoman Sandra Galef (August 31, 2021); Joseph G. Clarke, former Planning Board Chair (August 31, 2021); and written statements from William Hanauer, former Mayor – Village of Ossining and Joseph Clarke.

**RESIDENCY IN OSSINING**:  Barbara Klapkowksi lived in Ossining for 59 years. She and her husband Joseph moved to Ossining in 1962 and raised three sons, Joseph Jr, Richard, and John at their home on Beach Road.  She remained a resident of Ossining until her passing in 2021.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND VILLAGE CONTRIBUTION:**Barbara Klapkowski was a dedicated member of the Ossining Community for 59 years.  She held the roles of a concerned and active citizen, parent, church member, and dedicated civil servant.

She was extremely active in the lives of her children in the community as they navigated the Ossining School District and their participation in Boy Scout Troop 49.  She was a long time, active member of St. Augustine’s Church where she was known for her incredible work with organizing the most profitable fundraiser for the church: the White Elephant Sale.

As a concerned citizen, she attended many public board meetings. In fact, she attended so many planning board meetings it was suggested that she volunteer to serve on the board. Barbara answered the call, thus began her 30 dedicated years of service on the Village of Ossining Planning and Architectural Review Board.  Ten of those years as served as Chair, overseeing the review of more than 1,500 applications with a meticulous eye for detail.  She asked questions, challenged applications, visited sites, and furthered her education by taking courses that would increase her knowledge of the field. In 30 years of service, she missed one meeting and was present for all additional “special meetings”. Barbara was an active force on the board and the community. She was an advocate for the progression of the Village, but with concern for the history of the Village. She always encouraged development with that caveat.  Her attention to detail and commitment to doing the “best thing” for the village was unparalleled.

On Sunday mornings, she would have breakfast at the Highland Diner and engage in conversations with residents about their sentiments on the Village. She would take the results of these conversations into account when doing her work for the Village.

Barbara is admired for her tenacity, her attention to detail, and her deep reverence for the Ossining community. Hailed by many as being one of the hardest working volunteers ever seen in the Village.

**OSSINING PROJECTS**

·       Contributor to the Significant Sites and Structures Guide catalog

·      Instrumental in developing and ensuring access to Crawbuckie Nature Preserve

**AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS**

·   2009 Nomination: “Distinguished Citizen Planner Award: Barbara for this distinction after 20 years of serving on the Ossining Planning Board

**AFFILIATIONS/ORGANIZATIONS**

·      Member of the Columbiettes: an organization of Catholic women dedicated to Patronesses, Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Theresa the Little Flower, and St. Joan of Arc are comprised of affiliated Auxiliaries of the Knights of Columbus Councils.

·      Member of the Ossining Boat & Canoe Club

·      Ossining Historical Society – Past Corresponding Secretary

·      Ossining Women’s Club Junior

**SIGNAGE HISTORY OF PROPOSED STREET**

The applicant request **Beach Road** to have the honorary the street name **"Barbara Klapkowski’s Way”.**Currently, there is no honorary street signage at the location.