



Approved Minutes • Board Meeting • June 16, 2005 North Hempstead Town Hall

M A N H A S S E T B A Y P R O T E C T I O N C O M M I T T E E

Patrice Benneward, Director • Town of North Hempstead • 210 Plandome Road • Manhasset, New York 11030
Phone: 516-869-7835 • Fax: 516-869-7798 • Email: director@manhassetbayprotectioncommittee.org

Attending: Fred Pollack (TNH), Kevin Braun (TNH), Patrice Benneward (Director), Jennifer Wilson-Pines (Chair / Manorhaven), Mike Prounis (Vice Chair / Plandome), Matt Tameres (Plandome Manor), Bob Keane (Port Washington North), Tricia Moslin (resident, Great Neck).

The minutes of May 5, 2005, were adopted.

New Business

HarborFest Follow Up: Kevin Braun thanked Patrice Benneward for preparing the display that was used at Harborfest and at the Great Neck Fair in May and for manning it at both events. Patrice reported that the free raffle for laminated copies of Shaesta Waheed's oil painting "The Way We Were," drew many Harborfest visitors to the MBPC display and lots of complimentary comments on the painting and other material. It was a very long day and was a little much for one person to handle though. Next year we'll need at least two people to be responsible for the MBPC area. It was agreed that laminated copies of the painting will be sent to raffle winners, as well as member mayors, as a means of letting the mayors know what we've been up to.

LI Sound Stewardship: Jennifer Wilson-Pines reported that this is a federal program mounted by the Long Island Sound Study, which is preparing a list of "anchor" sites. Anchor sites will be eligible for certain federal funds that are likely to soon be designated. Manhasset Bay is on the list but Hempstead Harbor is not. There was general agreement that there is a great deal of synergy between MB and HH and that omitting HH is not good for the area. MBPC will write a letter to LISS expressing its enthusiasm for inclusion on the proposed list and requesting that HH also be included. There is a meeting at North Hempstead Town Hall on the June 21st. Jennifer plans to attend.

Native Garden Maintenance: Patrice reported that we received a check for 75% of the DiNapoli member item funds, which will be used for maintaining the garden. A landscaper is on board. He got there once just before Memorial Day and will come back soon to do some more pruning, put down some more mulch, and put replace a new covering toward the front of the garden on the eastern side. Jennifer and the landscaper will try to meet to do a walk through and to discuss the possibility of some additional inexpensive plantings and other ideas. The Port Washington Business Improvement District, Chamber of Commerce, and the Sewer District are pleased that some maintenance is being done but have expressed a desire for a more intensive program. Representatives from these groups will be invited to the next meeting to discuss the matter.

Stannards Brook Grant: MBPC has provided support materials, as well as a letter of support, for a county grant to fund improvements at Stannards Brook. Jennifer reported that the water district, the owner of land immediately adjacent to the county parcel, has stated in writing that it has no objection to improvements on its property and will consider public access. Various members reported that the brook drains into the bay by Inspiration Wharf and that the outfall is probably underwater at high tide.

2005 Water Quality Testing Kick Off—Joel Ziev sends word that water testing in the bay is underway. Patrice reported that a Carol Frank, a reporter for the Great Neck Record, is interested in accompanying

the crew and doing a story. TNH is working with the county to develop a guide that will be used to interpret data. The Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor has received grant to continue water testing in HH. Results of first test in MB were very good (i.e, met swimmable standards). There has not been a comparison between the two harbors.

Signage Planning: We can start working on locations, photos, etc, in anticipation of getting the contract for the state signage grant from DOS. There isn't much public access on the GN side. Waldbaum's is still in potential litigation and there may be clean up issues. Think about taking pix if you are out and about. Fred Pollack mentioned that the TNH photographer might be able to take some photos. Patrice will get together a suggested list.

Old Business

2004-2005 Storm Water Reports Follow Up: Please let Patrice know what was useful, what was not, etc. Please let Patrice know who the stormwater contact for your municipality is if you have not. We still need contacts from Thomaston, Baxter Estates, Kensington, Plandome Manor.

Stannards Brook: Patrice reported she had a conference with the state and the consultant regarding the water testing project in Stannards Brook. We're ready to sign the letter of agreement and go. We're just awaiting confirmation from the state that the letter reflects the conversation that we had during the conference call.

Storm Drain Marking: Patrice reported that all the markers have been delivered; please be sure to let her know how it goes and to see that the summary forms are returned; if your village needs more or hasn't received any and wants to, there is some money to purchase some more; let Patrice know as soon as you can. If you could take pictures of the activity and get them to Patrice, that would be great. We'll use in things like displays, press releases, and so on.

LISS Display and Contest: Patrice and Jennifer reported that Jake Eisenman is working on the final stages of the big pop up display that we are getting through the Long Island Sound Study Small Grant Program. We have to do a contest in connection with the grant. It will be for 12-year-olds, since that's the age at which life jackets aren't mandatory. The prize will be a tour of the bay with the TNH bay constable, as was reported last time, and refreshments at one of the yacht clubs arranged by Mike. Jennifer has arranged for 3 local authors to be judges. Would love some help creating the contest guidelines and rules if anyone is interested. The display needs to be purchased and paid for by September.

DEC Phase II Implementation Program Plan: Patrice reported that she met at Stony Brook with Tony Leung, the DEC contact for this grant. Tony very much liked our approach and had some good tips for the paperwork. The program plan is nearly ready. One of the items is a curriculum, which she was very puzzled about how to do on the limited budget available. But this is part of why HarborFest is so great. The science coordinator for the Port Washington Middle School was there, saw the map that was up (that is displayed here) and asked if she could get something similar. It's a variation of what we had at the last HarborFest, but it's laminated and has a little more label copy. The county has agreed to provide several maps for the middle schools in PW and GN. We'll have them laminated, along with some text that we create, put this together with a packet of stormwater material that the county has also provided—and presto, a very low cost and useful curriculum. And accomplishing this in a cost effective manner will leave more money to direct toward other projects, like a pesticide-free event, PowerPoint equipment and program, displays, bilge sock distribution, etc.

Home Survey: Plandome Heights has received about 40 responses to their stormwater survey, which employed MBPC materials. Patrice will coordinate them as part of the above DEC Phase II implementation grant.

Dues Status: We've received dues from about half of the member municipalities.

Data Analysis Project: Waiting for Patrice to do an RFP.

Private Fundraising: There was a discussion about hosting a fund raising event in the spring to raise money for remote, real-time water monitoring equipment and native plant garden needs. Perhaps the essay contest winners could be announced at the event. Patrice will get information about the garden and water monitoring equipment of Mike Prounis.

Municipal Reports:

Some representatives wondered if MBPC should do a press release about the red tide, which has been notable largely because of the weather, to reassure people that although red tide characteristics are visually unappealing but not a health threat. It was suggested that this might be a good topic to bring to the attention of Carol Frank.

Some representatives noted the activity in Thomaston, where an Equinox gym is under construction. TNH will be keeping an eye on stormwater containment measures.

Next meeting date is Thursday, September 8th, location to be announced.