



Manhasset Bay Protection Committee

June 8, 2017, 7:30pm
Law Library, Town Hall

Attendees: Victor Thomas (Town DPW), Kevin Braun (Town of North Hempstead Planning Department), Pasqua Dziadul (Sands Point), Nora Haagenson (Mayor, Baxter Estates), Jill Monoson (Thomaston), Jennifer Wilson-Pines (Manorhaven), Chuck Idol (BE), Shawn Brown (Commissioner Public Safety), Jed Siegel (Plandome Manor), Bob Keane (PWN, chair), Chris Shannon (Councilwoman DeGeorgio's office), Dan Fucci (Nassau County), Ray Herbert (Plandome), Bruce Bent, Kate Hirsch (Flower Hill), Annie Mendelson (Great Neck), Sarah Deonarine (Executive Director)

<<quorum in attendance>>

Note: Action items are in ***bold highlighted, underlined italics.*** Motions are highlighted in blue.

Committee trust fund (Account balance (5/31): \$121,671)

Town Dock FEMA project update from DPW (Victor Thomas): A lot of projects going on:

Manorhaven Beach Town Park, the only public boat launch in the Bay: the Town redid the boat launch, but it is currently a high tide-only facility, so they are doing aquatic sand removal (FEMA term for dredging) to make it accessible to larger boats. Cashin Assoc are taking core samples of the bay bottom to determine what is to be done with the material removed (few thousand cubic yards) – being designed to open up whole inlet behind Sintsink, but will not dredge into North Sheets Creek. FEMA accepts that these sand deposits were from Superstorm Sandy. No other change to the area, just sand removal.

Town Dock: Town will hire a consultant to design and implement ideas with a “visioning” approach similar to that done for North Hempstead Beach Park. The idea is to restore Town Dock into something more interesting and useful (being reimbursed by FEMA). The dock will not be expanded as we cannot fill in sections of the bay (can only go 18” at most – depends on permit).

Around Town Dock: dredging around Town Dock out to the Town mooring fields (Sunset Park/Baxter Estates) – another FEMA project. Just interviewing consultants for that design so larger boats can get in and use the yacht clubs. Not sure if it includes the channel (likely it does not). FEMA approved funding for removal of a certain amount of cubic yards – if the material is more expensive to remove, FEMA will up how much they reimburse.

Discussion & Motion points:

The Committee discussed the annual water quality monitoring program. Jennifer Wilson-Pines made a motion to order calibration solutions necessary for the YSI probe (\$450 cap for the summer) Jed Siegel seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Kevin Braun made a motion that we accept the Executive Summary for the water quality report and any comments as provided until Monday at which point it is considered final. Jed Siegel seconded, all in favor and motion accepted. Deonarine will make sure that the final report has our logo and a list of all the member municipalities.

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Finalized: 9/19/2017

Jennifer Wilson-Pines made motion to adopt the Minutes of April 6, 2017 as written. Pasqua Dziadul seconded. Nora Haagenon abstained as she was not at the meeting. The motion passed.

The Committee discussed the Water Quality Improvement Program grant program just announced by the State and the Committee's aging Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP). This is the first time that the State has offered a 75:25 cost share; for a \$150,000 project we would have to match \$37,500 (25%) and that can be in-kind. Kevin Braun made a motion to apply for up to \$150,000 for a new or updated WQIP. Nora Haagenon seconded. All in favor, none opposed or abstained.

One of the Committee's educational signs (installed circa 2011) was vandalized and needs to be replaced. The sign is in a high visibility spot, right next to the bandshell in Port Washington. Jed Siegel made a motion that we replace the sign with a cap of \$500. Jennifer Wilson-Pines seconded. All were in favor. Sunset Park is owned by the Port Washington Water Pollution Control District, but the Town can get permission to replace the sign.

The Committee discussed hosting an ocean plastics presentation by Ms Erica Cirino at the Manhasset Public Library, but decided that the topic was not closely-enough aligned with our mission to support. Deonarine will maintain contact with the library in the hopes of hosting a more locally focused presentation in the future.

The Committee spent time discussing the aging website and long domain name. Chuck Idol suggested writing a plan of what we want to accomplish (i.e., outreach, what are our goals) and offered to work with Deonarine on this issue. Chuck cautioned against buying expensive software and suggested using free software (Open Source Tools) to update the site temporarily. Chuck offered to help with any updates as there are only 17 pages. Further, Chuck noted that a review of the features <http://www.netfirms.com> has to offer, such as back end "Wordpress" which would support Mobile (Phone) technology, is also merited. Chuck was asked if this is his business and he answered, "Yes, technology is." Jennifer Wilson-Pines made a motion to spend up to \$300 for initial web updates, as a "just in case" authorization of money Deonarine would be able to spend over the summer if needed before the Committee meets again in September, so that website design/updating can move forward unhindered by Committee meeting schedules. Kevin Braun seconded. All were in favor and none opposed.

State Assemblyman Steve Englebright is preparing a letter to Congressman Tom Suozzi in support of a Long Island Sound Summit this fall with a target audience of Mayors, Supervisors, and municipal people and it would be timed to coincide with the federal budget process. Eric Swenson requested that the Committee consider signing on to this letter. The summit may need financial support in the future, but not at this time. Kevin Braun made a motion to sign on to the letter. Jed Siegel seconded. All were in favor.

Updates:

Annual boat tour, Monday, June 19

Fall beach clean-up will be Saturday, September 23 at Manorhaven Beach Town Park

Several people have seen large piles of bread dumped behind Dolphin Bookshop near Baxter Beach to feed the birds, which the Town has legislation against. After a discussion, it was decided that the Committee wants to see both the legal sign and an educational sign go in at that site. Some Committee members have recollection of a "don't feed the geese" educational sign being designed, but never fabricated. Deonarine will look for that "Don't Feed" sign on the laptop and, for the future will discuss revitalizing the Town's goose oiling program.

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There have been no updates from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation on the draft Phase II Stormwater Permit. **Deonarine will ask around to see if anyone has heard anything.**

The Committee's table at Harbor Fest on Sunday, June 4th didn't see many visitors and was packed up at 2pm when it started to rain. However, the Port Washington Library Earth Day event was very well attended (head counts number in the thousands) and well regarded by Deonarine. It is likely that this event won't happen every year, but the Committee will be involved when it does happen.

The cottage at Baxter Pond will get a new roof starting Friday, June 9th thanks to Nassau County Department of Public Works (DPW). The next phase will be grading to help mitigate flooding.

The Town of North Hempstead will be restoring the Mill Pond Miniature Yacht Club Boat House.

Baxter Beach: Mayor Haagenson has had a number of meetings with County officials and with Congressman Tom Suozzi to discuss options for the stabilization of Baxter Beach.

Stannards Brook Phase II construction (which involves invasive plant removal) is about to take place. Nassau County DPW recently did a walk through with their contractor.

Kevin Braun made motion to adjourn at 9:19pm

Upcoming meetings and events:

Boat tour June 19	September 14
Beach clean-up September 23	October 12
	November 9

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