



Manhasset Bay Protection Committee January 21, 2016 Meeting Minutes Supervisor's Conference Room, Town Hall

Attendees: Mal Nathan (Town Bay Constable), Bob Keane (Port Washington North, Chairman), Ray Herbert (Plandome), Erin Reilley (TNH), Annie Mendelson (Great Neck), To-on Pang (Thomaston), Jennifer Wilson-Pines (representative from Legislator Delia DeRiggi Whitton's office), Brian Herrington (Flower Hill), Buddy Vetrone (citizen volunteer), Sarah Deonarine (Executive Director), Commissioner DeMartin.

The meeting opened at 7:40 with introductions. The Committee contact spreadsheet was passed around for edits.

New Business:

Update from B. Vetrone who is attempting to approach Plandome Field & Marine HOA/marina (sunfish club) about distributing bilge socks to boat owners and installing dog waste bins.

- He attended two meetings, both of which were contentious for reasons unrelated to his mission.
- At the second meeting, the group took an interest, but didn't make a decision.
- R. Herbert expects the next meeting will be less contentious and he may make some headway.
- Side note: If Plandome F&M is a not-for-profit, they can purchase bilge socks tax exempt at wholesale prices for distribution (or sale) to their membership.

Review and Adoption of the Minutes of November 19, 2015 (5 minutes) – tabled for quorum.

Winter/spring 2016 meeting dates:

- The newly proposed dates (Feb 25, April 14, May 19 (skip March)) will be used for now, but perhaps consider including a March date.
- The idea was floated to make the meeting earlier, so the **February 25th meeting will be held at 7pm** to see how it works.

Discussion was had about an RFP¹ for a new water quality report looking at years 2009 – 2015, though the Director is still collecting information. Some of the discussion points were:

- Reach out to the other Protection Committees and investigate whether as a group we could get consultants to collectively bid on doing all our water quality reports.
- Additional data that should be included in a report: historical weather data and IEC² (now housed within NEIWPC³) data points within the Bay – they have three locations and collect a lot more parameters.

¹ RFP – Request for Proposals

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- We might not need an RFP if we're seeking professional services under \$20,000 – **check with Mike Kelly (Town attorney)**.
- Once this first water quality report is complete, we should continue to have them done on a regular schedule, though, likely not every year.
- **Commissioner DeMartin will talk to Frank Prisciandaro about retrieving our pre-2009 data which is on a retired Town server. If that proves unfruitful, Deonarine will reach out to Lablite** (the contractor who digitized the data in 2008 and did our last report).

Subsequent to that discussion, we also discussed two groups that have reached out to Deonarine to collaborate on our water quality monitoring program. Ivana Hidalgo is working independently to get a project called the Sound Shore Initiative moving. The project objectives are to: regionally (Westchester County to Manhasset Bay) compile and manage data and build capacity of the existing water quality monitoring programs. She has teamed up with Dr. Michael Piasecki from the City University of New York, but has not found a fiscal agent or grant to support the work. The likely commitment would be minimal on the part of the Director and we are not at any point committed to anything. Deonarine agreed to help her as long as the Committee supported it.

The second request, and the longer discussion, was from Save the Sound, who is a part of Connecticut Fund for the Environment. They were looking both to collaborate on our water quality monitoring and get input on a Long Island Sound report card (through an upcoming meeting). Deonarine informed them that the water quality monitoring collaboration is something our Committee is not interested in at this time and the Committee agreed, therefore Deonarine will continue with this stance. Post-meeting follow-up: both Eric Swenson (HHPC) and Paul DeOrsay (Friends of the Bay) were approached to participate in the meeting about a Long Island Sound report card. Swenson thinks it would be advantageous for us all to be involved in this meeting and push with one voice for pathogen monitoring, consistency, and achievable goals. It appears that this may be part of a larger, Long Island Sound-wide conversation that will likely develop over the next few months. Deonarine will keep the Committee apprised on the report card.

Other business

- The Nassau Co Soil and Water Conservation District is holding their annual tree and shrub sale, however, this year they will not be selling butterfly bush (not native) and the sale is only open to municipalities and non-profits [planning to place large orders](#).
- Deonarine received the LIS Futures Fund reviewer notes on our application last year for clean boater education. There were lots of good comments, though we didn't get the grant. The two constructive comments were that they wanted educational materials to be LIS-centric and also wanted evaluations of boaters pre- and post-project to show a change in behavior. There was no indication of whether or not the project would get funded this year if we addressed these concerns, Deonarine will follow up with Lynn Dwyer of NFWF. Erin Reilley also wants to float the idea to her of the possibility of funding a shellfish survey in the Bay to identify what is present and where we could target for restoration. It would likely be a SCUBA survey. The cost estimate from Cashin Associates was \$50,000, but we could also use one of the Universities.

MS4/Stormwater permit changes: DEC has agreed to come to Long Island and hold meetings in each county about the three things that are happening: the new MS4 general permit for New York State which requires semi-annual reporting for municipalities in designated watersheds (this affects Hempstead Harbor municipalities), DEC will be releasing another new permit in November, and EPA will be making

² IEC – Interstate Environmental Commission

³ NEIWPCC – New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission

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a final rule in November in response to a 2005 remand rule, which will eventually affect the State's general permit. No details on these meetings have yet been given, but they will likely happen before the beginning of the reporting season in March.

Old Business (20 min):

Inter-municipal Agreement (IMA) status:

- Villages are signing; Deonarine has not heard back anything negative.
- Paperwork is moving in Nassau County (thanks to Dan Fucci hand-delivering it), but that process may take a few months. But it is happening.
- Once executed, Deonarine has drafted an article (MBPC-only and MBPC/HHPC with Eric Swenson) that can go in newsletters or press releases about the Committee, the signing of the IMA, and what we do.

CESSPOOL update (*the following is augmented by notes from a meeting the CESSPOOL project partners had the next day*): Last year the project partners contracted with Peconic Green Growth (PGG) to complete our outreach portion of the multi-phase project, but the project partners are unhappy with the outreach products we have received from PGG. The project partners are moving ahead and still plan to roll out the educational campaign (with brochures) this spring. This campaign will be the topic of the joint PC meeting this spring (which may include a live cesspool inspection demonstration).

- PCs met with Nassau Co executives (Deputy Co Executive, Commissioners of Public Works and Health, and others) on 12/17 with a wish list of how to address issues with onsite systems. The County is reviewing; Deonarine will share with the Committee.
- In December, *Newsday* published an editorial praising work that is being done to deal with this issue, but made no mention of the north shore. The PCs followed-up with a "letter to the editor" attempting to draw attention to us. *Newsday* published that the previous week.

The educational signs are being ordered and we're (Deonarine and Braun) planning for a spring delivery and installment.

The vendor for the storm drain markers wants payment before processing our order, so Deonarine is continuing to work with them

Update on LI Nitrogen Action Plan: there is \$5 million from the state to develop a LI Nitrogen Action Plan. An advisory committee is being formed and will be headed by DEC and LI Regional Planning Council. The three north shore PCs will participate on this advisory committee (estimated 2 – 4 meetings per year). There are three scoping meetings in February: two in Suffolk, one in Nassau County. The Nassau Co. meeting will be on Wednesday, February 3rd, 1-3pm at Hofstra University. *Since the MBPC meeting, an agenda (http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/linapscopemtnagagenda.pdf) and a conceptual draft (http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/linapcdfs.pdf) have been released.*

Last August (2015), the US Army Corps of Engineers released their draft Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) and Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for two open water dredged material dumping sites in Long Island Sound. MBPC offered comments, but no stance one way or the other. ACE finalized their DMMP and the EPA made a ruling in December that the two sites could remain open. There was a lot of opposition to the plan, since it did not meet the goals that were set in 2005 to reduce open water dumping (the DMMP actually allows for an increase in dumping over the next 30 years) and it seemed to only benefit areas in CT, there was little to no mention of Manhasset Bay. There is a resolution being circulated to municipalities in NYS asking them to support the ACE final plan. **Deonarine will go back to the DMMP to double-check what it says about Manhasset Bay.**

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Municipal Updates

Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton's office (District 11, Jennifer Wilson-Pines): The Microbead-Free Waters Act has been signed into law on the Federal Level, banning microbeads in personal care products by 2017 and trumping work that was being done by Nassau County. Senator Gillibrand's office just issued a press release stating that the Long Island Sound reauthorization and stewardship program has moved forward. This is the federal legislation that supports the Long Island Sound Study.

Next Thursday night, January 28th at 7:30pm, Amy Mandelbaum, Long Island Sound Outreach Coordinator at NY Sea Grant and Joel Ziev will be giving a presentation at the Port Washington Library about the Long Island Sound Study and the new Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. This is part one of a three-part series on Long Island Sound being presented by the Nautical Council.

Flower Hill (Brian Herrington): The Village was thankful to Deonarine for attending the Village meeting. The Village is very supportive of Erin Reilley's work to do shared procurement of stormwater management services (see update below). Herrington suggested an essay writing contest or something similar for schools around Earth Day to get the word out about MBPC. A past director did something similar with maps. There was a suggestion to use the Sound Waters when it comes to MB (for the Port Washington school district) in the spring. ***Deonarine will begin drafting something.***

Town of North Hempstead Bay Constable (Mal Nathan): Mal will be helping Hempstead Harbor with some of their water quality sampling this year. In Manhasset Bay, the bay constables collect water samples (analyzed by the County Department of Health), air temperature, water temperature, etc.

Town of North Hempstead Sustainability Office (Erin Reilley): The Town is moving ahead on its shared procurement project, but Village involvement depends on whether a given Village is attempting to be compliant with the stormwater permit. Villages want to save money on reporting, but there has been some push-back. Hopefully to help this cause, in December the Town received both of the grants they applied for from NYS, including one for \$330,000 to get 20 villages up to speed on mapping (includes surveying drainage).

No updates from Port Washington North, Plandome, Great Neck, or Thomaston.

Next Meeting Date: 7pm, February 25th at Town Hall, exact location TBD

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