



# Manhasset Bay Protection Committee

## February 25, 2016 Meeting Minutes

### Supervisor's Conference Room, Town Hall

**Attendees:** Pasqua Dziadul (Sands Point), Brian Herrington (Flower Hill), Dianne Sheehan (Plandome Heights), Ray Herbert (Plandome), Erin Reilley (TNH), Meagan McCarty (Aide to Councilwoman De Giorgio), Annie Mendelson (Great Neck), Jennifer Wilson-Pines (representative from Legislator Delia DeRiggi Whitton's office), Nora Haagenson (Mayor, Baxter Estates), Chrissy Kiernan (Clerk-Treasurer, Baxter Estates), Dan Fucci (Nassau Co), Kevin Braun (Town of North Hempstead), To-on Pang (Thomaston), Sarah Deonarine (Executive Director), Bob Keane (Port Washington North, Chairman).

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

Meeting opened at 7:05pm with Welcome & Introductions

#### **Municipal Updates**

Sands Point (Pasqua Dziadul): No updates other than lingering outages from the previous night's storm.

Flower Hill (Brian Herrington): no updates

Plandome (Ray Herbert): The Village received a grant from Senator Martins to expand a parking lot across from country club (area known as Swindell Park), but there are wetlands. Studies of the area will have to be done and the future of the project is uncertain.

Town of North Hempstead Sustainability Office (Erin Reilley): Town Board just approved the FEMA-funded recontouring of two ponds (Whitney and Manhasset Valley).

Great Neck (Anne Mendelson): Senator Jack Martins is looking for \$250,000 for LED lighting in the Village. They have begun replacing some of the lighting, which will reduce electric costs.

Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton's office (District 11, Jennifer Wilson-Pines): The sewer feasibility study which does include parts of Port Washington on Manhasset Bay is moving ahead. Approval for that was a little behind the main study for Hempstead Harbor. Baxter Estates, Secor Dr area, and others will be incorporated to see if they are viable for sewerage.

Manorhaven (Jennifer Wilson-Pines): Still experiencing power outages.

Baxter Estates (Nora Haagenson): The storm caused very little damage for residents, but a tree fell on Village Hall and wrecked the Portico. There is some progress on the Baxter House (Central Dr & Shore Rd), but not a lot to report: public hearing on 3/30 with owner and attorney. The owner did put a tarp on the house, but, with the winds last night, a lot blew off and she has agreed to repair it. The windows were also covered and we're not sure why (may encourage mold).

- Sarah Deonarine, Director • c/o Town of North Hempstead Parking District
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Our efforts would not be possible without the assistance of the NYS Dept. of State, the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, the Long Island Sound Study, and NY Sea Grant.

Nassau County (Dan Fucci): The attorney approved IMA language and the “request to initiate.” MBPC should receive County dues by the summer, not sure when signatures will be done, but that will be easy.

Town of North Hempstead Planning Department (Kevin Braun): As a matter of clarification: Manorhaven is 100% sewerred; sewer maps are wrong. It was sewerred between 1952-1956.

Town Board meeting had a large bonding approval on Tuesday night. One bond is to alleviate flooding on Plandome Rd by Leeds Pond (won't be done right away), but the Town still needs to get all the permits. Town has also submitted permit applications for Bay Walk trail.

Plandome Heights (Dianne Sheehan): Lynne Aloia (the current representative) is stepping down after four years. Dianne Sheehan is up for election to take her place and will take over as representative (if victorious).

Thomaston (To-on Pang): no updates

### **Motion points:**

Minutes: Brian Herrington made a motion to approve the minutes of November 19, 2015 and January 21, 2016. Erin Reilley seconded. Motion carried.

### Meeting dates and times:

- Erin Reilley made a motion to accept the proposed spring 2016 meeting dates (March 24<sup>1</sup>, April 14, May 19), Dan Fucci seconded. All were in favor.
- It was decided to stay with the 7:30pm start time.
- Discussion occurred regarding our current meeting convention (the Third Thursday of the month) and the fall 2016 meeting schedule. Brian Herrington made a motion to try the Second Thursday of the month and to set the proposed dates (9/8, 10/13, 11/10) as tentative for the fall. Nora Haagenson seconded and the motion carried.

Tablecloth: Currently, the Committee has no bold identifying banner to use during “tabling events” (e.g., Harbor Fest). Some discussion was had regarding purchasing a table cloth with our logo to have during events. Consensus was that the group wanted to go with Absolutely Custom/Sport Decals (based on the recommendation by Eric Swenson) and they want a blue table cloth with the logo printed on white. Brian Herrington made a motion for the director to purchase the table cloth, not to exceed \$200. Nora Haagenson seconded and the motion carried.

LINAP: The Director submitted comments, on behalf of the Committee, to DEC on the LI Nitrogen Action Plan (LINAP) draft scoping document. The comments were submitted after being e-mailed to the Committee for review and some edits were received back and incorporated. Brian Herrington made a motion to approve the submitted comments, Erin Reilley seconded. All were in favor.

Brian Herrington mentioned that TNC and RAE (Restore America's Estuaries) are working on a multi-state conference in May to discuss with EPA and state agencies such things as the LINAP and what EPA is doing in LIS and also bring municipalities together to share ideas.

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<sup>1</sup> Note that this is Holy Thursday, the day before Good Friday.

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Erin Reilley brought up that there is an EPA webinar tomorrow (February 26<sup>th</sup>) on Long Island Sound nitrogen 12 – 1pm.

CESSPOOL: The CESSPOOL project is in its final stage, the public education campaign. The project will put out a brochure, post card, website, and home owner record-keeping folder. But there is very little project money left to print the folder and distribution still remains a question. Some of the discussion points follow, but it was decided not to purchase any folders for the Committee's use, but instead to focus on the brochures and the website:

- Deonarine suggested that these folders could be given to homeowners by their realtors. Pasqua Dzidul, whom is also a real estate agent, explained that it could scare some potential buyers away.
- Erin Reilley did say that the Town is working on a post card to new homeowners and that we could put a bullet point on it about septs and cesspools.
- The Town Ecological Commission has tried something similar before, but it was too costly with no way to distribute. Instead, they decided to put all the information on a website.
- Some Villages participate in Code Red, an emergency communication service that has an app for people who register as well as a non-emergency function to blast out community news. After the CESSPOOL website goes live, we can use that to communicate.
- The Villages that still do new homeowner welcome packets or groups could include brochures in their welcome packets or other handouts.
- The Committee recommended that pdfs of the folder be put on the website and drive people to it.

TNC Nitrogen Modeling: TNC is finalizing their nitrogen modeling and subsequent report for the north shore embayments of Nassau County and asked for a quote from the Committee to go out with their press release. The Committee offered: *The Manhasset Bay Protection Committee appreciates TNC's efforts to bring the water quality concerns of the north shore of Nassau County to the forefront and for providing scientific data to help drive decision making.*

#### Updates:

Water Quality report: The Director reached out to three different consulting agencies and came up with a price range of \$4,000 – 10,000 to develop a water quality report looking at years 2009 – 2015. This would fall under personal services and we would only need to get three quotes to proceed. The Town was able to locate the Lablite data (WQ data pre-2009), but needs a password to access it. There was discussion about the report and whether to incorporate lablite data (discussion points follow). ***It was decided to proceed with drafting a scope without incorporating the Lablite data and a sub-committee was formed to do this (Bob Keane, Brian Herrington, Erin Reilley).***

- On pursuing an RFP: We don't have a QAPP and getting a grant money would complicate this.
- Need transparency in the budget so we can keep track of the budget. ***Deonarine will prepare a budget for next meeting.***
- Should MBPC produce this report? Yes, we should do it because water quality should be tracked.
- We will keep Lablite data separate from this report and perhaps incorporate in a Phase 2.

The curb medallions and sign orders are all moving ahead.

DMMP: The Committee then discussed the LIS Dredged Material Management Plan and comment period on EPA's Proposed Amendments to Restrictions on Use of Dredged Material Disposal Sites in LIS. Last fall, the Committee offered comments and suggestions on the Army Corps of Engineers' draft plan, but didn't take a stance for or against it. The Committee will continue on this tack.

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MS4: The Committee also discussed upcoming MS4 regulatory changes, both from the State DEC and from the USEPA:

- Due to a court ruling, DEC has increased the reporting requirements for municipalities in a TMDL watershed (Hempstead Harbor is one, but Manhasset Bay is not). That comment period was last summer/fall.
- EPA currently has an open comment period on potential changes to the MS4 program from a 2005 remand rule. EPA's proposal would revise the small MS4 regulations to ensure that the permitting authority (NYSDEC) determines the adequacy of Best Management Practices (BMPs) and other requirements as well as providing public notice and the opportunity to request a public hearing on the requirements for each MS4. EPA is soliciting comments on three approaches under consideration. Comments may be submitted to EPA until March 21, 2016.
- NYSDEC just announced changes to their Erosion and Sediment Control Standards (Blue Book). Written comments are due by COB March 25<sup>th</sup>.
- NYSDEC has to revise the Phase II general permit by November of this year, so another comment period will be forthcoming for that.

Brian Herrington made a motion to adjourn at 8:54pm.

**Upcoming Meetings:** March 24, April 14, May 19, September 8, October 13, November 10 at 7:30pm

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