



# Manhasset Bay Protection Committee

**Minutes: November 21, 2024, 7:30pm**  
**Town Hall, Law Library**  
220 Plandome Rd, Manhasset

**Attendance:** Charlie Interrante (Nassau Co), Kevin Braun (Town of North Hempstead), Tom Lang (Plandome Manor), Don Richardson (Plandome), Gary Lewandowski (Flower Hill alternate), Jennifer Wilson-Pines (Manorhaven), Annie Mendelson (Great Neck), Maria Branco (Baxter Estates)

Guests: Samantha Wilder (Water Quality Coordinator), William Ross (Supervisor's Office), Lucienne Keyoung, Sarah Deonarine (Director)

**Meeting was called to order at 7:38pm with a quorum in attendance.**

Note: Action items are in **yellow highlight**. *Motions are in italicized underline.*

*This document was prepared with funding provided by the New York State Department of State under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund.*

## **Discussion & Motion points:**

1. *Maria Branco made a motion to adopt the minutes of September 26, 2024.* Tom Lang seconded.
2. Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP)<sup>1</sup> – Over the summer the Committee reviewed the draft Description and Assessment of the Waterbodies/Watershed Resources section and sent back extensive comments to our consultant, Nelson, Pope, and Voorhis (NPV). NPV then sent a list of information still missing and a list of items potentially out of scope. Sarah Deonarine and Kevin Braun were able to address most of it, but had a few items to bring to the full Committee:
  - a. What information is still missing:

### Zoning

The only municipality that we have actual data for is the Town, which will be displayed on the zoning figure. NPV was able to find images for several municipalities online, which we will include in an appendix to the report (this appendix will be referenced in the zoning figure). NPV was not able to locate a publicly available zoning map for:

- Flower Hill
- Kings Point
- ~~Munsey Park~~ (this was provided by a Manhasset architect)
- Plandome Heights
- Roslyn Estates

**Deonarine and Representatives to investigate getting copies of these missing zoning maps. Baxter Beach and Shore Road (Port Washington)**

There are three entities with a stake in the area: Village of Baxter Estates, Town of North

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<sup>1</sup> Funded by grant from NYS Department of State (DOS) under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund

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Hempstead, and Nassau County. The County is doing work to shore up Shore Road, which will not be complete until the middle of next year. The County's only plans have to do with fixing Shore Road.

The Town is working on permitting, the Town had plans to do a shoreline trail that connects Town Dock to the south with Bay Walk Park to the north. The Village just received a NYS grant for up to \$7.7M to do various work at the beach, including a board walk and habitat restoration. The Town and the Village are talking; they will send email communications to Charlie Interrante and he will forward to the appropriate County entity.

**Deonarine will ask NPV to keep a place holder for this project in the WQIP.**

- b. The Committee then discussed three potentially out of scope items that came up in that review. It was decided that these could be added to the "Recommendations" section of the Plan if they could not be completed.
  - c. Regulatory Review section – Deonarine, Braun, and DOS reviewed this section. Deonarine felt there were several items incomplete that were specified in the contract, so the section was sent back to NPV for further work before going to the full Committee for review.
3. Proposed 2025 Meeting Dates (all Thursdays at 7:30pm): January 16, February 13, March 20, April 10, May 15, June 12. These dates are tentative and may change, especially depending on the 2025 Town Board meeting schedule, which won't be decided until December.
  4. Manorhaven Beach outfall sampling project with Interstate Environmental Commission (IEC) – this was tabled until the January meeting.
  5. Long Island Sound Study (LISS) Stewardship Program:  
In 2005/06, the Long Island Sound Stewardship Initiative was formally established by Congress to help protect the diverse plants and animals that live in or near the Sound. Manhasset Bay and Mitchells Creek were one of 33 designated Stewardship areas, but nothing really happened after the sites were designated.

To reinvigorate the program, LISS is developing a stewardship site strategy to provide a framework for the management and use of the stewardship sites while enhancing the collaboration and communication among the managers and partners of the sites. In early 2025, LISS will host a series of meetings to engage other partners and community members in the development of the strategy.

In the meantime, LISS is offering educational signage (examples pictured below) to raise awareness of the program and Manhasset Bay. LISS will handle design and production of the signs and the Committee would be responsible for installation and maintenance of the sign, either indoors or outdoors. Deonarine sees the Committee as coordinator between LISS and partners who would install signs (e.g., Baxter Pond Foundation, SMLI, marinas, etc). The Committee had no objections to taking on this role. Deonarine will keep the Committee apprised of program

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developments.



**Small Metal Sign** (slightly larger than a license plate)



**Large Informational Sign** (minimum 18x24 inches)

- Oyster Gardening meeting on December 10<sup>th</sup> : Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau County (with a grant from the Long Island Sound Study) and the Town of North Hempstead are looking for waterfront property owners on Manhasset Bay to consider oyster gardening. There will be an informational meeting on **Tuesday, December 10th at 7PM** at the Port Washington Public Library. **Tom Lang will attend and represent the Committee**

### **Updates, Reminders, & Municipal Updates:**

- Bob Keane (Chair), Kevin Braun and Sarah Deonarine met with the new Commissioner of Planning. The meeting went well and they were able to provide her with a lot of information.
- Port Washington Water Pollution Control District Tour was a success and enjoyed by all who attended. **Deonarine will set up a tour of the Great Neck Water Pollution Control District next.**
- Land Use Alliance Training (LULA) course – Deonarine participated in the course (also funded by the Long Island Sound Study), but didn't feel she was the right target. The course was on how to use land use laws already in place to achieve environmental goals.
- Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan (LINAP):
  - a. Action Agenda
    - Listening sessions were held this week. This is supposed to be more involved than the original plan (which is nearing 10 years and completion of the initial goals).
    - At the beginning of 2025, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC; the lead agency) will do a management review, then release for public comment.
    - Once the comments have been addressed, DEC will issue the final Action Agenda with the hope that we can start implementing it by the end of 2025.
  - b. LINAP Solute Transport Model Advisory Work Group (the Committee is a member) met in November.
    - United States Geological Survey (USGS) has been contracted to produce a solute (nitrogen) transport model including scenario modeling
    - Then use the scenarios to develop management options
    - USGS has completed developing the models (regional and smaller sections); now they will run scenarios – are there any additional scenarios the Committee is interested in?
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- The Save the Sound Report Card was recently released. Manhasset Bay did not fare well, but our grades are on par with the surrounding bays, harbors, and Sound. We could also use it as a driver to get movement on projects we want to see done, especially in the watershed in the back of the Bay (e.g., sewer expansions, septic upgrades).
- Horseshoe Crab Act – The Committee signed onto a letter urging Governor Hochul to sign the Horseshoe Crab Protection Act into law, but she has not yet. Dr. Jane Goodall also sent a letter to the Governor urging her to sign.
- Shellfish Seeding Grant to the three North Shore embayments. The contract with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County calls for a total of 2 million spat-on-shell oysters per year, but we far exceeded our expectations with nearly 2.8 million spat-on-shell oysters planted. Manhasset Bay received 906.5K this summer. The project will pick up again next summer.
- Long Island Sound Study (LISS) Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC<sup>2</sup>): The last day to submit comments on the Long Island Sound Conservation and Management Plan was Friday, November 22, 2024.
- Propel NY: be aware that there is an underground electric transmission project going into Hempstead Harbor.
- Nassau S.E.P.T.I.C. program<sup>3</sup>: Nassau County Soil & Water Conservation District (NC SWCD; entity who administers the program) received confirmation last month that the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation has executed the contract with Interstate Environmental Commission (IEC) for more septic funds (federal funds from Long Island Sound Study). NC SWCD is currently awaiting a copy of the contract for review. The money will go to Nassau and Suffolk County. IEC announced a position to help with contracting. The contract with DEC is done, but the contract with the counties is not final yet. The program has successfully installed 163 systems to date.
- LISS sponsored Coastal Resiliency Forum at Sands Point Preserve last month and Maria Branco gave an update on the event. Presentations were informative but were given by people who have commercial interests in protecting the shoreline. After lunch, there was a walking tour of demonstration sites around the Preserve. The program went over what technologies are available to protect and make the shoreline more resilient.
- December 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> will be the 3rd Annual Long Island Sound Sustainable and Resilient Communities Workshop, held virtually. Registration is at: [lisresilience.org/annual-workshop/](https://lisresilience.org/annual-workshop/)
- Science Museum of Long Island (Tom Lang): The SMLI pumpkin smash was a huge success. SMLI is in the process of forming a collaboration with Home Depot which will engage veterans in becoming active volunteers on the SMLI property. There are changes planned for the garden given staff illness. This past summer, almost 3,000 lbs of food was produced and donated.
- No update: Hydrodynamic modeling study of Manhasset Bay; Water quality report Request for Proposals status; Eagle Scout educational campaign; Seabin

### **Upcoming meetings and events:**

- Next Meeting: January 16 (tentative; dues vote)
- Upcoming meetings (tentative): February 13, March 20, April 10, May 15, June 12
- Upcoming events: Oyster Gardening Informational Meeting, Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, Port Washington Library

*Kevin Braun made a motion to adjourn at 8:49pm.*

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<sup>2</sup>MBPC is a member

<sup>3</sup> The County's septic system replacement program for residents, small businesses, and non-profits with grants of up to \$20,000. Visit: [nassauswcd.org/SEPTIC](https://nassauswcd.org/SEPTIC)

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