



Manhasset Bay Protection Committee

Minutes: September 26, 2024, 7:30pm
Town Hall, Law Library
220 Plandome Rd, Manhasset

Attendance: Bob Keane (Chairperson, Port Washington North), Kevin Braun (Town of North Hempstead), Charlie Interrante (Nassau Co), Tom Lang (Plandome Manor), Maria Branco (Baxter Estates), Gary Lewandowski (Flower Hill alternate), Kristina Lobosco (Plandome Heights), Joshua Mak (Kensington), Annie Mendelson (Great Neck), Mike Ertel (Sands Point), Nancy Shah Verdi (Town Commissioner of Planning), Grace Punzalan (volunteer), Sarah Deonarine (Director)

Meeting was called to order at 7:37pm with a quorum in attendance.

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

The meeting opened at 7:37pm with introductions, including Nancy Shah Verdi who is the new Commissioner of the Town Planning Department.

Discussion & Motion points:

Deonarine noted that all dues have been received and the current account balance is \$213K.

Maria Branco made a motion to adopt the minutes of June 13, 2024. Tom Lang seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried. The minutes include those from Nelson, Pope, and Voorhis (NPV) regarding their presentation at the beginning of the meeting.

Maria Branco made a motion to retroactively sign on to a letter in support of the NYS Horseshoe Crab Act. Kevin Braun seconded. The motion carried with one abstention.

The Committee then discussed the possibility of having a Hydrodynamic Modeling Study of Manhasset Bay done. This would be a study of how water (and pollutants) moves within the Bay and it could help inform where the Committee does watershed projects as well as shellfish restoration locations. Additionally, the other North Shore embayments have done this. The first Water Quality Improvement Plan for Manhasset Bay (1999) references studies done in the 1970s and 80s, but there is nothing more recent. It was decided that **Deonarine would start investigating, developing a scope, and plan to seek a grant.**

Deonarine then asked the Committee if a login should be required for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) educational products that the Committee makes or compiles. It was decided not to, since this is public information.

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The Committee then discussed the upcoming tour of the Port Washington Water Pollution Control District. Based on a head count, it was decided that the tour would be on Sunday, October 20th at 9:30am.

Deonarine gave an update on Sheets Creek and Interstate Environmental Commission (IEC) testing. As a reminder, IEC and their two partners have a Long Island Sound Study grant to create a pathogen monitoring network. This was year 2 and they were expanding into pathogen track down work. In March, MBPC voted to sign-on to the project Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) and Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), however, it has not been put onto the Town Board agenda, so the project did not move forward as planned. Last week, an article came out in the Patch about a supposed smell in Sheets Creek, but the details were unclear in the article and no information became available from other sources (e.g., who reported the smell).

Updates, Reminders, & Municipal Updates:

- Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP¹) for Manhasset Bay: Deonarine received the Regulatory Analysis Section from Nelson, Pope, and Voorhis (NPV). Once she has reviewed it, it will go to the entire Committee. Deonarine and Braun are working on a two-year extension request as well as a Budget Amendment, although it isn't changing the budget at all (needed to change a title and match from one category to another).
- 2024 Water Quality Monitoring season is complete, though not all the bacteria data has been received yet. What has been received is posted and it is the lowest Deonarine has seen. The report covering the 2023 data is in progress and will go to Committee review in the next few months.
- Seabin: the missing part was delivered to Capri Marina, but it is still not up and running due to staff shortages at Capri Marina.
- Shellfish Seeding Grant:
 - a. On July 16th, Manhasset Bay received over 900k spat-on-shell oysters. It was a tough day of bringing the animals to their designated locations – Deonarine and Braun both assisted. Representative Suozzi attended the planting.
 - b. On that same day, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau received spat-on-shell oysters for their new oyster gardening program. Tom Lang went twice to help and spoke about the experience. Metal cages are held closed with bungee cords and held off a dock. Each cage has hundreds of shells with tiny oysters on them. Every two weeks, everything is pulled and cleaned. Samples are taken (at least 20) and growth is monitored, measured, and recorded by cage. The whole program was about 14 weeks and there will be a new study next spring.
- Beach clean-ups: The Committee hosted two beach cleanups: one on August 3rd with Kostal Paddle who offered volunteers free kayak rentals to pick-up trash. The second was on September 21st, the International Coastal Cleanup. Both were well attended, and a lot of trash was collected, both big and small. Maria Branco noted that she collected a lot of things that fall off of boats, as well as food packaging and beverage containers likely from picnicking around the waterfront.

¹Funded by the New York State Department of State under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund

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- Pop-up banner & summer tabling events: The Committee has a new pop-up banner to be used at events, however it wasn't ordered in time for ScienceStock at Science Museum of Long Island – which was also well attended.
- Long Island Sound Study (LISS) Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC²): The main focus of everything LISS right now is the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) revision. This is their version of a Water Quality Improvement Plan. Public comment period is open until November 22nd. The draft CCMP and information about commenting can be found at <https://longislandsoundstudy.net/about/ccmp-revision-updates/>
- LI Nitrogen Action Agenda: This came out of Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan (LINAP). NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has around 37 partners working on an action agenda. Eric Swenson and Charlie Interrante have been attending, at times, weekly 2-hour meetings to try and get this done by the end of the year. Swenson is representing the Protection Committees, Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor, Friends of the Bay, and the Setauket Harbor Task Force. Once the draft Action Agenda is done, DEC will undertake a management review of the revised draft. During the second quarter of 2025, DEC will release the draft for public comments. The idea being that a year from now, DEC will issue the final Action Agenda and the Implementation Team will meet to start the implementation process.
- Nassau S.E.P.T.I.C. program³: Long Island Sound Study (federal) funding for the Nassau SEPTIC program was approved, but it is funneled through Interstate Environmental Commission (IEC) and that process is still in the works.
- Water quality report Request for Proposals (RFP): **Braun will find out who the new Procurement Director is;**
- Eagle Scout educational campaign: There haven't been any updates from the Eagle Scout Deonarine was working with. Mike Ertel works with Troop 7 and they can get involved in volunteer opportunities. Braun advised that, if one of them has an Eagle Scout project idea, to reach out to Deonarine;
- Meeting with the Supervisor about the Committee: the new Commissioner in the Dept of Planning may be able to help
- The Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit Interim certifications for first half of the year are due in October. Deonarine sent a small document about what MBPC did in the first half of the year to all the municipal members.
- Town of North Hempstead (Kevin Braun): Braun is hoping to do a cleanup at Mill Pond in the winter (probably March) with the Committee. There's a lot of trash in and around the pond and the winter is a good time, since the plants are dormant.

²MBPC is a member

³ 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

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Upcoming meetings and events:

- Next Meeting: October 17 (ended up being cancelled)
- Upcoming meetings: November 21
- Upcoming events:
 - October Port Washington Water Pollution Control District Tour, Oct 20th
 - Pharmaceutical take-back events:
 - Saturday, October 26th 10am – 1pm at Port Washington Water District
 - Sunday, October 27th 10:30am to 1:30pm at Great Neck Water Pollution Control District
 - Town Stop event, Saturday October 13th 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at North Hempstead Beach Park North Lot
 - LISS Resiliency Forum on October 28th at Sands Point Preserve

Mike Ertel made motion to adjourn at 9pm

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