



Manhasset Bay Protection Committee

DRAFT Minutes: January 16, 2025, 7:30pm
Town Hall, Law Library
220 Plandome Rd, Manhasset

Attendance: Bob Keane (Chairman, Port Washington North), Nora Haagenson (Mayor, Baxter Estates), Maria Branco (Baxter Estates, alternate), Kevin Braun (Town of North Hempstead), Charlie Interrante (Nassau Co), Don Richardson (Deputy Mayor, Plandome), Gary Lewandowski (Flower Hill), Jennifer Wilson-Pines (Manorhaven), Annie Mendelson (Great Neck), Samantha Wilder (Water Quality Coordinator), Grace Punzalan (volunteer), Sarah Deonarine (Director)

Meeting was called to order at 7:35pm with a quorum in attendance.

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

Discussion & Motion points:

1. *Maria Branco made a motion to adopt the minutes of November 21, 2024, as amended.*
Don Richardson seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.
2. *Jennifer Wilson-Pines made a motion to set the 2025 Committee dues at the same level as 2024.* Kevin Braun seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.
Discussion: Total dues to be collected are \$53,400.00, broken down as \$24,000 from Nassau County; \$6,000 from the Town of North Hempstead, and \$1,800 from each Village. Each member municipality now has sixty (60) days to review, comment, or withdraw from the Committee. At the end of the sixty (60) day review period, **on Monday, March 17, 2025**, the dues are established. The dues will be finalized at the Committee's March 20 meeting. If you do not withdraw, your municipality is thereby consenting and will be responsible for the 2025 dues. The Committee also reviewed the [2024 Income and Expenses](#).
3. Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP)¹:
Nora Haagenson made a motion to retroactively have the Committee Chair, Robert Keane, send a letter of support on behalf of the Committee to the NYS Department of State in support of the Committee and Town's extension request for the grant funding the revision of the WQIP. Gary Lewandowski seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Kevin Braun made a motion to continue with the Water Quality Improvement Plan as

¹ This document was prepared with funding provided by the New York State Department of State under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund.

- Sarah Deonarine, Executive Director •
- Email: mbpcExec@gmail.com •
- manhassetbay.net •

originally intended. Don Richardson seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried. Discussion: The Committee and the Town applied for a two-year grant extension, as the grant is set to end on January 31st, but it could take several months to hear back from NYS Department of State (DOS) on their decision. Both the grant coordinator and her supervisor at DOS are supporting the request.

Progress is being made, and the plan is to have the first public meeting in conjunction with Earth Day. The Director also just received the next section from the consultant to review but requested that the Committee only look for glaring errors that would prevent them from voting to send it to public comment, which is the next step. The Committee decided that as the goal is to have the finished plan and there is Committee funding to cover the remaining cost, the project will continue.

4. Maria Branco made a motion to sign-on to the IEC's 2025 Long Island Sound Pathogen Monitoring Network Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) and Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). Jennifer Wilson-Pines seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried. Discussion: Interstate Environmental Commission (IEC) and their partners have a Long Island Sound Study (LISS) grant to create a pathogen monitoring network. A year ago they expanded to include pathogen trackdown work, which would help identify where high bacteria counts are coming from so that we could then target water quality improvement projects. This work will be completed in the Manorhaven Beach/Sheets Creek area. There is no cost to participate.
5. Annie Mendelson moved to apply to the Long Island Sound Study Sustainable and Resilient Communities' Resilience Planning Support Program for a Hydrodynamic Study for Manhasset Bay. Maria Branco seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried. Discussion: This is different from conventional grant programs as Sea Grant, once they select their short list of projects for support, handles the request for proposals and contracts directly with the consultants. Awardees do not receive any actual funding and no match is required, but the consultant will work directly for the awardee.

Updates, Reminders, & Municipal Updates:

- The Annual Report and Interim Progress Certification for the Stormwater Permit (both on the same form) are due to NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) by April 1st. All Committee members are subject to these requirements. The Director is already working on the Committee's contributions to go into all the members' reporting.
- Cleanup of Mill Pond in Port Washington will be in the late morning on Saturday, March 22nd. As this is a tidal wetland, the cleanup must happen in the winter when plants aren't growing, but also when it's not too cold for volunteers, hence the late March date. This idea has been considered by the Committee for a long time to do a cleanup there to get litter out of the wetlands and the Town administration has approved the cleanup.
- Great Neck Water Pollution Control District Tour will happen in May.
- Oyster Gardening meeting on December 10th – tabled until next month
 - Sarah Deonarine, Executive Director •
 - Email: mbpcExec@gmail.com •
 - manhassetbay.net •

- Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan (LINAP) – the LINAP Action Agenda is now with DEC for review
- The Horseshoe Crab Protection Act did not pass, but it will likely be back this year.
- Long Island Sound Study (LISS) Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC²) met in December. LISS now has a LinkedIn account; Bob Keane expressed that he thought the Committee had one as well. **Deonarine will investigate.**
- Nassau S.E.P.T.I.C. grant program³:
 - a. The Nassau Co. Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), who administers the grant program, gave a presentation on the SEPTIC program at a national conference of onsite wastewater professionals in Spokane, WA, which was well received, and others were jealous of the program.
 - b. IEC received money through LISS, which will be split between Nassau and Suffolk counties to support their respective granting programs. Details are still being worked out.
- Shellfish Seeding Grant and Seabin – no update, work will pick up again in the spring.
- Long Island Sound Study Stewardship Program; Water quality report Request for Proposals status – no update

Executive Session:

Kevin Braun made a motion to open an Executive Session. Maria Branco seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Kevin Braun made a motion to raise the Executive Director's salary by \$3 per hour effective February 1st. Nora Haagenon seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Gary Lewandowski made a motion to close the Executive Session. Maria Branco seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Updates, Reminders, & Municipal Updates (continued):

- Jennifer Wilson-Pines updated everyone that a bill allowing dogs on State beaches was vetoed by the Governor.
- Grace Punzalan is organizing a toy drive for children affected by the California wildfires. A couple of high schools and the LI Children's Museum are on board. **If anyone has contacts for places to donate in California and/or local places where a donation box could be placed, please let her know.** Sarah Deonarine has her contact information.

Upcoming meetings and events:

- Next Meeting: February 13
- Upcoming meetings: March 20, April 10, May 15, June 12

Kevin Braun made motion to adjourn at 8:48pm

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

- Sarah Deonarine, Executive Director •
- Email: mbpcExec@gmail.com •
- manhassetbay.net •

MBPC 2024 Income and Expenses

2024 Totals

Starting Balance	\$186,535.45	
Income	\$53,400	
Dues	\$53,400	
WQIP grant from DOS	\$0	On a reimbursement basis
Salary (part-time, contract)	\$31,345	
Supplies	\$1,886	
Office & other supplies	\$1,664	
Tabling event supplies	\$0	
Beach clean-up	\$222	
Website*	\$624	*Web hosting is paid every 5 years.
web hosting, domains, etc	\$516	
web design	\$108	
Projects/Events	\$2,268	
WQ monitoring	\$1,339	
Boat Tour	\$0	
Joint Protection Committee Meeting (one per year)	\$0	
Educational items	\$192	
Seabin	\$145	
Advertising	\$592	
Contractual services	\$35,646	
NPV WQIP Development	\$34,906	Expecting \$33,606 to be reimbursed
Water Quality Coordinator	\$740	
Total Expenditures	\$71,768.48	
Balance	\$168,166.97	

- Sarah Deonarine, Executive Director •
- Email: mbpcExec@gmail.com •
- manhassetbay.net •