



Manhasset Bay Protection Committee

Minutes: February 13, 2025, 7:30pm

Town Hall, Law Library

220 Plandome Rd, Manhasset

Attendance: Bob Keane (Chairman, Port Washington North), Nora Haagenon (Mayor, Baxter Estates), Tom Lang (Plandome Manor), Maria Branco (Baxter Estates, alternate), Charlie Interrante (Nassau Co), Kristina Lobosco (Plandome Heights), Ebi Victory (Kings Point), Annie Mendelson (Great Neck), Joshua Mak (Kensington), Mike Ertel (Sands Point), Nancy Shahverdi (Town Commissioner of Planning), William Ross (Town of North Hempstead Supervisor's Office), Lucienne Keyoung (volunteer), Samantha Wilder (Water Quality Coordinator), Sarah Deonarine (Director)

Meeting was called to order at 7:42pm with a quorum in attendance.

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

Discussion & Motion points:

Maria Branco made a motion to adopt the minutes of January 16, 2025. Bob Keane seconded.

All were in favor and the motion carried.

Mike Ertel made a motion to retroactively send a letter of support for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County's Marine Debris Interception and Education Program. Maria Branco seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Maria Branco made a motion for the Director to sign on to a letter of support to maintain federal funding for the Sea Grant Program. Tom Lang seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried. Discussion: The national Sea Grant Program is at risk of losing Federal funding and is reaching out to partners to sign-on to a letter of support for continued Federal funding. The Committee agreed the program is important and has added value to improving water quality.

Mike Ertel made a motion to announce a public meeting and send out the first draft section of the Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP)¹ to public comment barring any substantive revisions. Maria Branco seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried. Discussion: Deonarine went over updates on the status of the project: the request for a Budget Amendment, which was made to utilize more in-kind time as match, was approved; there has been no official word on the request for a two-year extension, but the unofficial word was that it looks promising; Department of State sent back comments and expressed that a lot of their original comments had not been addressed – Deonarine will follow up on this. Deonarine will also send the latest draft to

¹ This project 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 •

Committee member representatives for review and comment. In an effort to keep the project moving, she asked that representatives keep edits and comments to things that are more pressing.

The Committee then discussed the new requirements of the MS4² permit and how the Protection Committees can help. **Deonarine will reach out to all the Committee members about this.**

Updates, Reminders, & Municipal Updates:

- Long Island Sound Study (LISS) Stewardship Program: LISS will be hosting a series of public meetings to finalize the Stewardship Strategy (Manhasset Bay is one of the 33 Stewardship Sites). The idea is that participants would attend all three meetings as they will build off of each other. However, if you are unable to attend one of the meetings, they still encourage participation in the others.
 - a. Meeting 1: **March 18, from 11:00AM –1:00PM** (unveil the stewardship strategy and get feedback)
 - b. Meeting 2: **April 24, from 11:00AM –1:00PM** (focus on the feedback received and the changes made)
 - c. Meeting 3: **June 4, from 11:00AM –1:00PM** (the final strategy and next steps going forward)

In addition to these meetings, there will be a 60-day public comment period from March 10 to May 9. **Deonarine will distribute the information when it comes out.**

- Long Island Sound Study (LISS) Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC³): This year is the 40th anniversary of the Long Island Sound Study. There will be events over the summer, a new name and logo, and the release of the revised Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP; for which the Committee reviewed and gave comments).
- Oyster Gardening meeting on December 10th (Tom Lang): The first season of oyster gardening at Town Dock was successful with a lot of turnout. Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Nassau and the Town of North Hempstead wanted to expand the project and so they reached out to those with docks who had previously offered to help. Energy and enthusiasm at the meeting was high. This year, they will start earlier (in June; last year was July) and end mid – September. The third week of September the oysters will be released into Manhasset Bay. For oyster gardening, oysters are kept in cages that are hung by ropes and clamps from the dock. It doesn't require any electricity. Residents Forward and CCE will organize and coordinate training and supervision of cages being cleaned, data collected, etc. every other week. Manhasset Bay Estates (Tom's group) has a dock out for the summer and they will purchase and maintain two cages at their dock for the first season (they missed the cut off for grants) as a trial run. If you're interested, reach out to Residents Forward or CCE. Tom also offered to be the go between. It is a two+ hour commitment every other week.

² Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System General Permit for stormwater discharges. The permit is issued by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and all the Committee members are subject to the permit requirements.

³MBPC is a member

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

- Shellfish Seeding Grant: this is a project funded by a Federal appropriations grant through the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and, as such, it could be revoked. The current plan is to continue with more seeding happening this summer in the three North Shore embayments, but that could change.
- Interstate Environmental Commission (IEC) Manorhaven Beach outfall sampling project (Nancy Shahverdi): This is on the March Town Board agenda.
- LISS Sustainable and Resilient Communities' Resilience Planning Support Program: The application for a hydrodynamic study was submitted last week.
- Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan (LINAP); Nassau S.E.P.T.I.C. program⁴; Water quality report Request for Proposals status; Seabin: no updates

Upcoming meetings and events:

- Next Meeting: March 20th – it's important to have a representative at the meeting as the Committee will be voting to finalize the 2025 dues.
- Upcoming meetings: April 10, May 15, June 12
- Upcoming events:
 - Mill Pond, Port Washington Cleanup on Saturday, March 22nd at 11am
 - Great Neck Water Pollution Control District Tour –May

Mike Ertel made a motion to adjourn at 8:30pm.

⁴ 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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