



Manhasset Bay Protection Committee

Minutes: June 12, 2025, 7:30pm

Town Hall, Law Library

220 Plandome Rd, Manhasset

Attendance: Bob Keane (Chairman, Port Washington North), Kevin Braun (Town of North Hempstead), Tom Lang (Plandome Manor), Maria Branco (Baxter Estates), Jeff Stone (Manorhaven), Karen Lynne Siegel (Thomaston), Charlie Interrante (Nassau Co), Nora Haagenson (Mayor, Baxter Estates), Kristina Lobosco (Plandome Heights), Annie Mendelson (Great Neck),

Others: Samantha Wilder (Water Quality Coordinator), Lucienne Keyoung (volunteer), Isabella Gonzalez (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. *Karen Siegel made a motion to adopt the minutes of April 10, 2025.* Maria Branco seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.
2. *Maria Branco made a motion to set a do-not-exceed budget of \$300 for the remaining 2025 volunteer beach cleanup events.* Karen Siegel seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried. Discussion: This covers purchasing gloves, snacks, patches, trash bags, etc.
3. Shellfish Seeding Grant: *Maria Branco made a motion to set a do-not-exceed budget of \$3,500.00 to hire a boat to plant the summer 2025 oyster seed from the EPA/Suozzi grant.* Karen Siegel seconded. The motion passed with one abstention. **Deonarine will seek quotes from various boat charters.**
4. *Charlie Interrante made a motion to retroactively send a letter in support of the Baxter Beach Shoreline Stabilization Project.* Tom Lang seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.
5. *Nora Haagenson made a motion to set fall meeting dates as: September 11, October 9, and November 13.* Karen Siegel seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.
6. Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP)¹ – The Committee hosted the first public meeting for the WQIP on June 4th at Manhasset Library. 11 members of the general public attended, not including the consultant and Committee member representatives. The Draft Watershed Characterization report, figures, Initial Vision & Goals, June 4th presentation and presentation slides are up on the Committee website

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

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at manhassetbay.net/wqip. There is now a 30d public comment period that ends on July 6th. The survey for the current draft sections and to offer recommendations is at: <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/b6b3fcb0e28c45cf9586d49a746e9427>

7. Deonarine then compared a few paid v. unpaid posts on Facebook and the results (e.g., interactions, link clicks, etc.) of each. The slides are at the end of these minutes.

Updates, Reminders, & Municipal Updates:

- The Committee currently has no open grant applications. Deonarine will continue to seek out grant opportunities for a hydrodynamic modeling study and educational campaigns.
- Long Island Sound Study (LISS) Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC²):
 - a. Friday, June 13th is the last day staff will be in the Stamford, CT Long Island Sound Office, which has operated for decades. Staff will either work from home or report to the EPA Region 2 office in New York City.
 - b. The CAC is drafting a letter to EPA Administrator Zeldin to urge the hiring of a new LISS Director. The former Director, Mark Tedesco, retired at the beginning of April. Representative Suozzi said that it was a priority for him and that he had been assured by the EPA Region 2 Director that the position would be refilled.
 - c. A New York State Bill to increase the individual grant amount for septic replacements to \$25,000 is expected to pass and be signed by the Governor.
 - d. The NYS Horseshoe Crab Protection Act passed the State Assembly and Senate, but now it goes to the Governor, who vetoed it last year. The Committee sent a letter in support of this Bill last year. The CAC Policy Sub-committee will strategize over the summer and share action items in the fall in an effort to get it passed.
 - e. Representatives from the CAC will travel to Washington, D.C. in July to meet with Congressional Representatives in support of the LIS Partnership. Deonarine plans to attend.
 - f. The LISS is celebrating 40 years this summer. Plus, there is a new name (LIS Partnership), logo, website, and social media handles that will start being used the week of June 16th.
 - g. The LIS Partnership will host a 40th Celebration at three different locations around the Sound, including the Waterfront Center in Oyster Bay on August 16th. They are looking for participants. It is likely that the Committee will participate.
 - h. Additionally, they want to host mini events around the Sound. Deonarine plans to brand the August cleanup as a 40th anniversary mini event.
 - i. The outcome of the Stewardship Strategy is to develop a stewardship network with two annual meetings. Manhasset Bay is one of the Stewardship Sites.
- The Committee had a table at Harbor Fest on June 2nd, but it wasn't overly successful. People seemed to be rushed by and there wasn't much traffic, likely due to the weather.
- A handful of Committee Member Representatives took a tour of the Great Neck Water Pollution Control District on May 8th and it was well enjoyed. A major takeaway was that the District has a digester where they collect grease, they get paid to take it, and it generates energy for the plant. Another takeaway, was that both Manhasset Bay Water Pollution Control Districts have extra capacity, so encouraging hook-ups should be a priority in addition to the SEPTIC replacement program.

²MBPC is a member

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- Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan (LINAP), Water quality report Request for Proposals status – no updates
- Seabin – Capris Marina says it will be in the water this June.
- Oyster gardening starts in July and runs until mid-September. Additionally, the Science Museum of Long Island is the location for shell recycling drop-off. Then it will be transferred elsewhere to sit for a full year to make sure any pathogens have died.
- Nassau’s S.E.P.T.I.C. Grant Program – According to Eric Swenson, the Nassau and Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation Districts (“District”) have secured a federal source of funding from the Interstate Environmental Commission (“IEC”) to match the appropriations to the County from the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation. This new funding (\$3.7 million) will be in effect through January 2028. The IEC funding is federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill funding provided to the Long Island Sound Study to NYS Department of Environmental Conservation which contracted with IEC to manage these funds. Since this new funding only applies to those properties within the Long Island Sound Watershed, there are a few unsewered areas outside the watershed and the District is looking to secure funds from the County to cover these areas.

Upcoming meetings and events:

- Next Meeting: September 11th
- Upcoming events:
 - Summer Manorhaven Beach Cleanup with Kostal Paddle
 - September International Coastal Cleanup – September 21st

Maria Branco made motion to adjourn at 8:28pm.