



Manhasset Bay Protection Committee

Minutes: September 11, 2025, 7:30pm
Town Hall, Law Library

Attendance: Bob Keane (Chairman, Port Washington North), Nora Haagenson (Mayor, Baxter Estates), Maria Branco (Baxter Estates, alternate), Kevin Braun (Town of North Hempstead), Tom Lang (Plandome Manor), Jeff Stone (Manorhaven), Annie Mendelson (Great Neck), Gary Lewandowski (Flower Hill), Don Richardson (Deputy Mayor, Plandome), Mike Ertel (Sands Point)

Guests: Nancy Shahverdi (Town Commissioner of Planning), Janet Riger, Art Brickman, Lucienne Keyoung (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.*

This will be Representative Don Richardson's last meeting. Kevin Braun thanked him for his years of service on the Committee and beyond in the community.

Discussion & Motion points:

1. *Maria Branco made a motion to adopt the minutes of June 12, 2025.* Don Richardson seconded. The motion passed with one abstention.
2. *Maria Branco made a motion to send a letter as well as to sign-on to a shared letter by Citizens Campaign for the Environment, pending non-substantial issues after Committee's electronic review, to Governor Hochul urging her to sign the Horseshoe Crab Protection Act into law.* Don Richardson seconded. The motion passed with one abstention.
3. Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP)¹:
 - a. *Mike Ertel made a motion to finalize the Vision and Goals.* Nora Haagenson seconded. The motion passed with one abstention.
 - b. No draft recommendations were available yet, but NPV, the Committee's consultant, had provided the following updates on the recommendations section: Recommendations are being organized into seven distinct categories, each identified by a unique letter code for easy reference. The expected delivery for committee review for each category is below:
 - B-#: General Bay-Wide Recommendations: *Early October*

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 •

- S-#: Stormwater Management: Early October for general recommendations, end of October for site-specific recommendations
 - M-#: Municipal Facilities: *End of September*
 - W-#: Wastewater Management: *End of September*
 - N-#: Natural Resource Management: Early October for general recommendations, end of October for site-specific recommendations
 - R-#: Water Quality Research & Monitoring: *End of September*
 - P-#: Watershed Planning, Management & Outreach: *End of September*
- c. NPV also asked if the Committee knew the owner of the parcel between Plandome Park Pond and Leeds Pond. The Committee noted that the property has municipal building (sheds) and a service road. The property may be owned by the Village of Plandome with a separate entity (i.e., Nassau County) owning the waterway(s). **Deonarine will reach out to the Village of Plandome.**
- d. NPV asked if it would be feasible to request the committee provide addresses for DPW yards throughout the watershed, and confirm whether there is salt storage/fueling at each. The Committee was amenable to the request.
4. *Mike Ertel made a motion to form a subcommittee made up of Maria Branco, Kevin Braun, Bob Keane, and Annie Mendelson to review the 2023 water quality report and RFP proposals.* Maria Brandco seconded. The motion passed with one abstention.
5. The Committee discussed various meeting locations in order to move Committee meetings around the watershed. There was support for holding the meetings at the libraries or village halls.

Updates, Reminders, & Municipal Updates:

- Deonarine noted that all the 2025 dues have been paid and one of the two payment requests that were submitted to the Department of State for the WQIP grant. The Committee is still awaiting one more payment from DOS. The Committee's account balance was \$188,700.
- The Committee co-hosted a beach cleanup with Kostal Paddle in August and had 39 volunteers remove 150lb of trash, which was mainly light weight plastics with a few large items (like a truck tire)
- The Committee participated in the Long Island Sound Study/Partnership's 40th Anniversary Celebration in Oyster Bay
- The Director went to Washington DC with the Partnership's Citizens Advisory Committee to meet with elected officials to discuss the importance of funding clean water and infrastructure projects.
- The Committee received the shellfish delivery from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk for year 2 of the Suozzi/EPA grant

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

- Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan (LINAP) – DEC is still doing their internal review of the Action Agenda
- Village of Plandome (Don Richardson): The Manhasset Bay Yacht Club has been a part of the Town’s oyster gardening program for the past two years
- Village of Manorhaven (Jeff Stone): The Village is working with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau to do some ribbed mussel restoration.
- Deonarine has submitted a request to the Town to release a Request for Proposals to hire a consultant to write water quality reports. The Seabin is in the water at Capris, though there are still kinks being worked out.
- Village of Baxter Estates (Nora Haagenson): Baxter Pond cleanup will be on September 20th with a nature walk after. Permits have been submitted for their proposed shoreline work.

Upcoming meetings and events:

- Next Meeting: October 9
- Upcoming events:
 - September 21st International Coastal Cleanup at Whitney Pond Park at 10am

Executive Session

Mike Ertel made a motion to go into executive session at 8:37pm. Gary Lewandowski seconded.

Mike Ertel made a motion to raise Samantha Wilder’s hourly rate to \$30 effective October 1st.

Nora Haagenson seconded. The motion passed with one abstention.

Gary Lewandowski made a motion to leave executive session. Seconded by Mike Ertel.

Mike Ertel made motion to adjourn at 8:47pm