



# Manhasset Bay Protection Committee

## DRAFT Minutes: January 15, 2026, 7:30pm

### Plandome Village Hall

**Attendance:** Bob Keane (Chairman, Port Washington North), Maria Branco (Baxter Estates, alternate), Nora Haagenson (Mayor, Baxter Estates), Kevin Braun (Town of North Hempstead), Mike Ertel (Sands Point), Rich Dunphy (Plandome), Charlie Interrante (Nassau Co), Annie Mendelson (Great Neck), Gary Lewandowski (Flower Hill), Ebi Victory (Kings Point), Tom Lang (Plandome Manor), Joshua Mak (Kensington)

Nancy Shahverdi (Town Commissioner of Planning), Erin Molyneux (Councilmember Dalimonte's office), William Ross (Town of North Hempstead Supervisor's Office), Bruce Bent, 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. Mike Ertel made a motion to adopt the minutes of November 13, 2025. Tom Lang seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.
2. Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP)<sup>1</sup>: At the last meeting a subcommittee was formed to review the WQIP Recommendations and make recommendations to the full Committee. Their recommendations are:
  - a. Postpone the public meeting until the comments and edits can be incorporated and the Committee can review and sign off on the incorporation. The full Committee agreed to this recommendation. Deonarine and Lang will **look for venue available on or around February 25<sup>th</sup> and will cancel the January public meeting.**
  - b. Send the subcommittee's comments and edits to NPV for incorporation. It was noted that there will be additional time for more comments
  - c. Subject to the understanding that additional edits and comments may be added after the public meeting, Mike Ertel made a motion to send the comments to NPV for incorporation in advance of the public meeting, and motion to accept NPV's draft in advance of the public meeting so long as the subcommittee determines that the edits are substantially similar and in line with the edits/comments proposed. Maria Branco seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.
3. Charlie Interante made a motion to set the 2026 Committee dues at the same level as 2025. Maria seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

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

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 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 16, 2026**, the dues are established. The dues will be finalized at the Committee's March meeting. If you do not withdraw, your municipality is thereby consenting and will be responsible for the 2026 dues.

4. The Committee then discussed the annual boat tour for elected officials that had stopped being done. All felt it was a worthwhile trip and that there was a benefit in having everyone together to hear the same information and questions. It was decided that the tour needed to be marketed differently, since it's an educational tour for elected officials who make decisions that affect Manhasset Bay and it will be important to know how WQIP recommendations are linked to the Bay. Other recommendations were to not hold it annually and to have attendees pay for at least a portion of the trip cost. **Deonarine will make sure there is buy-in from mayors and develop a cost estimate. Committee members will consider new names for the event.**
5. Next meeting date, February 12<sup>th</sup>, is Lincoln's birthday and the Town is closed for the holiday. The meeting was moved to Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Updates, Reminders, & Municipal Updates:**

- Maria Branco, Nora Haagenon, Kevin Braun, and Sarah Deonarine attended the NYS DEC Roundtable on NYS Environmental Bond Act Funding for North Shore Municipalities in December. It was not what was expected. It was billed as a time to give our priorities for water quality projects. Attendees thought we were pitching ideas, so that they were on the state radar and were prioritized. It was just an informational session of things we already knew. Deonarine informed the Committee that the Directors of the North Shore Protection Committees are sending Citizens Campaign for the Environment a list of priority projects to be sent to the Governor's office.
- Nassau County (Charlie Interante): the sediment basin upstream of Baxter Pond will be dredged in the next few months. A couple capstones that fell in will also be fixed.
- Horseshoe Crab Update: The Governor signed the Horseshoe Crab Protection Bill into law. Over the next three years it will phase out the fishing of horseshoe crabs for bait and pharmaceutical purposes.
- Long Island Sound Partnership Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC<sup>2</sup>): Not much happened at the last meeting as it was mostly focused on the retirement of the NY Co-Chair after more than 20 years serving in the role.
- Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan (LINAP): The work is continuing on the action agenda.
- Plandome Manor (Tom Lang): Tom Lang indicated that he had spoken with Mayor Donno about Leeds Pond. The Mayor says the County (it may actually be the Town) has budgeted money to dredge Leeds Pond, but it hasn't happened yet. **Kevin Braun will try to get an update from DPW on the project. And Charlie Interante will ask at the County.**
- Bruce Bent expressed concern about the Bay filling in. All agreed that it is a concern, but it is difficult to address. This should be included in the forthcoming WQIP.

#### **Upcoming meetings and events:**

- Next Meeting: February 10<sup>th</sup>
- Upcoming meetings: March 12<sup>th</sup>, April 16<sup>th</sup> (or 23<sup>rd</sup>), May 14<sup>th</sup>, June 4<sup>th</sup> (or 11<sup>th</sup>)

Mike Ertel made a motion to adjourn at 8:53pm.

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<sup>2</sup>MBPC is a member

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• [manhassetbay.net](http://manhassetbay.net) •