Manhasset Bay Protection Committee

DRAFT Agenda: October 15, 2026, 7:30pm

Village of Plandome Manor

Attendance:

Representatives: Bob Keane (Chairman, Port Washington North), Maria Branco (Baxter Estates), Bruce Bent (Plandome), Nancy Shahverdi (Town of North Hempstead), Mike Ertel (Sands Point), Gary Lewandowski (Flower Hill), Nancy Sherman (Thomaston), Charlie Interrante (Nassau Co), Annie Mendelson (Great Neck)

Others: Samantha Wilder (Water Quality Coordinator), Rachel Titus (LIRPC; rtitus@lirpc.org), Sarah Deonarine (Director)

Meeting was called to order at 7:34pm with a quorum in attendance.

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

Nitrogen Smart Communities Presentation

The meeting opened with a presentation by Rachel Titus of Long Island Regional Planning Council (LIRPC) about Nitrogen Smart Communities. This is a program of LIRPC and NYSDEC and it is funded by the EPA Long Island Sound Partnership. The Town of North Hempstead was one of the first two pilot communities, and they have achieved silver certification. Titus went over the steps involved in program participation and the support that is offered by the program and the technical advisor (a consultant paid for by the Partnership).

LIRPC and NYSDEC consider this an expanded pilot, so they are open to ideas. Perhaps the villages in the watershed could share an advisory committee, take on joint activities, bay-wide outreach, or something else. Perhaps the Manhasset Bay Protection Committee could act as the advisory committee or take on educational components.

Nancy Shahverdi from the Town of North Hempstead said that the technical advisor for the program is very helpful. The Town shared their GIS data with the advisor and the advisor took care of the rest.

The question came up about what a municipality receives in exchange for completing the program, but there is nothing tangible yet. As a follow-up, it was asked if joining this program would help with getting a grant, but, again, there is no guarantee that this would be the case.

Rachel Titus
Program Coordinator
Long Island Regional Planning Council
rtitus@lirpc.org | 516-571-7613

Discussion & Motion points:

1. *Bruce Bent made a motion to adopt the minutes of September 24, 2026. Maria Branco seconded.* All were in favor and the motion carried.

2. *Mike Ertel made a motion to cancel the November 19th Committee meeting in lieu of the virtual public meeting. Bruce Bent seconded.* All were in favor and the motion carried.

3. *Bruce Bent made a motion to purchase an Adobe Acrobat annual software subscription for the Committee at a cost of not more than $240. Maria Branco seconded.* All were in favor and the motion carried.

4. Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP)[1]:

    a. Subcommittee findings and recommendations
        - The subcommittee reviewed NPV[2]'s conflict of interest statement and agrees there is no conflict. The subcommittee recommends NOT including the statement in the WQIP.
        - Leave in S-19, but with clarification in the wording.
        - There are no additions needed to S-18, S-19, or N-10.
        - Monitoring and Tracking: the subcommittee removed a lot of this section because the Committee and municipalities do not have the resources to undertake it. NPV wants to add back in parts that were cut about GIS mapping and MS4 implementation tracking but soften the language. The subcommittee is reviewing their proposed additions but may push back against this.

    b. *Mike Ertel made a motion to delegate responsibility to the subcommittee to review the full draft Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP) and accept it for release to the public in advance of the third public meeting. Annie Mendelson seconded.* The motion passed with one objection.

    c. *Mike Ertel made a motion for the subcommittee to review the public comments, determine what should be presented to Nelson, Pope, and Voorhis (NPV) to include in the final draft, then review NPV's revisions, and then make a recommendation to the full Committee for their January meeting. Gary Lewandowski seconded.* All were in favor and the motion carried.

Committee Updates:

- 2026 Summer Water Quality Sampling Season – Samantha Wilder reported that hypoxia started earlier and lasted longer. This could be weather dependent, but the LIS Partnership will review and make a determination. Last year was best for hypoxia in 40

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

[2] Nelson, Pope, and Voorhis, the consultant developing the WQIP

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years (shorter duration, smaller area affected). This year, Wilder said she started seeing hypoxia in the back bay in June.

- August 23 and October 3 Beach Cleanup reports – Between the two days, 75 volunteers came out and cleaned up 328 lbs. of trash. A total of over 2,000 individual pieces. The Town of North Hempstead also did a large debris cleanup around Manorhaven Beach on October 6th. Nancy Shahverdi said she would attain more information as the Planning Department was not involved in this cleanup.
- Water Quality Report RFP – Thank you to the Town for releasing the RFP. Unfortunately, no proposals were received. Deonarine has reached out to Friends of the Bay and the Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor to find out what they do and begin rethinking the ask.
- Long Island Sound Partnership Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC[3]) – MBPC approved the Director traveling to Washington, D.C. in July with the CAC to educate elected officials. In total, there were 22 participants and they met with all four Senators from NY and CT as well as Reps. Suozzi, LaLota, Gillen, Latimer, and Courtney. Long Island was well represented with HHPC, CSHH, Friends of the Bay, and NC Soil and Water Conservation District having attended.
- North Shore Fertilizer Education – This is another project of LIRPC and NYSDEC that's also funded by the LIS Partnership. They recently released an RFP looking for a contractor to undertake designing a Community Based Social Marketing campaign. The Protection Committees have offered to help once the project is up and running.
- S.E.P.T.I.C. Grants – There have been about 212 systems installed and applications are increasing now that property owners are eligible for up to $35,000 to install nitrogen-reducing septic systems. This is also partially funded by the LIS Partnership. Nancy Shahverdi said she had the latest grant information and would share it with Sarah Deonarine to share with the Committee.
- Federal Shellfish Seeding Grant – The project has been completed with over 6 million spat-on-shell oysters being planted between Manhasset Bay, Hempstead Harbor, and Oyster Bay / Cold Spring Harbor over the past three summers. Congressman Suozzi wants to do a second grant (Phase 2) for $1 million (the last was $300K) that would also include Huntington Harbor (it's also in Suozzi's district) and for 4 or 5 years. Eric Swenson has submitted requests to Congressman Suozzi and Senators Schumer and Gillibrand for this funding.

Municipal Updates:

- Village of Baxter Estates (Maria Branco): There has been a lot of progress on the Baxter Beach shoreline. Hopefully, by mid-December it will be complete. There is a walkway that will be put in that's wider and closer to the shoreline, but there's no beach. Construction can only happen at low-tide, and they lost time due to the nor'easter: they had to stop and protect the site before the nor'easter came in.
- Town of North Hempstead (Nancy Shahverdi): The Town is moving forward with sediment removal from Leeds Pond, which will be paid for by a FEMA grant from Sandy recovery. The Planning Department is doing environmental SEQRA review.
- Town of North Hempstead (Nancy Shahverdi): Construction has started at Town Dock.

[3]MBPC is a member

Upcoming meetings and events:

- Meetings will resume in 2027
- Upcoming events: WQIP Public Meeting on November 19th at 7pm on zoom

Executive Session

Mike Ertel made a motion to go into executive session. Gary Lewandowski seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Mike Ertel made a motion to raise the Executive Director's hourly rate by $5 to $49 effective immediately. Maria Branco seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Mike Ertel made a motion to close the executive session.

Mike Ertel made a motion to adjourn

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MANHASSET BAY PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Nitrogen Smart Communities

Program overview: steps, responsibilities and support



Funding Provided by the Long Island Sound Partnership

Nitrogen Smart Communities is a program of the Long Island Watershed Program.

2023

The program launched with two pilot municipalities.

Town of North Hempstead
Pilot municipality since 2023

Town of Smithtown
Pilot municipality since 2023

They paved the way for others to join.



Expanded pilot program

- **Town of North Hempstead**
- City of Glen Cove
- Town of Smithtown
- Village of Poquott
- Village of Quogue
- Town of East Hampton



Nitrogen Smart Communities

A voluntary program supporting local action and awareness to reduce nitrogen pollution.

Local priorities

Each community identifies its nitrogen sources and selects reduction activities based on its priorities.

Town of North Hempstead

65%

Onsite wastewater

24%

Fertilizer use

Stormwater runoff is also a planning priority.

Bronze, Silver and Gold certification recognize progress through the program.

01 Register

Municipal responsibilities

Adopt the NSC Pledge by municipal resolution.

Appoint a coordinator as the program point of contact.

Available support

An assigned Technical Advisor provides program guidance.

A sample resolution is available.

Submitting Worksheet 1 registers the community in NSC

02 Advisory Committee & outreach

Municipal responsibilities

Form an Advisory Committee or use an existing group.

Hold the first meeting and agree on a shared program objective.

Develop the community outreach plan.

Available support

Advisory Committee Packet with guidance, sample agendas and FAQs.

Outreach plan templates and examples from other communities.

Technical Advisor assistance with meetings and outreach planning.

BRONZE CERTIFICATION

Completion of Steps 1–2

03 Nitrogen source inventory

Municipal responsibilities

Complete the inventory worksheet.

Available support

LIRPC and NYS DEC provide community nitrogen loading data.

The Technical Advisor helps interpret data and complete the worksheet.

SILVER CERTIFICATION

Completion of Steps 1–3

04 Develop a plan

Municipal responsibilities

Review the inventory to identify priority sources and reduction goals.

Choose feasible activities within the municipality's control.

Complete Worksheet 4 with activities, resources and a schedule.

Available support

Activity List organized by nitrogen source and point value.

Advisor assistance with activity selection, resource needs and feasibility.

Educational templates.

Worksheet 4 sets the schedule for the community's nitrogen reduction activities.

05 Execute the plan

Municipal responsibilities

Carry out the activities in the plan.

Document completed activities.

Submit the completed worksheet for points.

Available support

Technical Advisor support for implementation and documentation questions.

Eligible activities completed up to 5 years before the pledge may earn points.

Funding Finder identifies potential funding sources.

GOLD CERTIFICATION

All five steps complete + at least 5 activity points

Benefits to communities

Clean water leadership	Recognition for taking action to protect Long Island's water.
Local economic vitality	Support for tourism and property values through healthier waters.
Community health & safety	Local action that helps protect community health and safety.
Resident engagement	Greater involvement from residents who care about their community's future.
Peer connections	Opportunities to network and share best practices with other communities.

Shared Support

Options for discussion with NSC staff. Confirm shared arrangements and each village's responsibilities.

Shared Advisory Committee

Discuss shared committee support with NSC staff and retain local representation.

Bay-wide outreach

One shared campaign on fertilizer, pet waste and stormwater.

A bay-wide nitrogen picture

Review community inventories together to find shared sources and priorities.

Joint activities

Coordinate projects across municipal lines that benefit the whole bay.

Collaborative funding

Pursue grants together for larger projects.

Peer support

Share templates. Villages retain local coordinators, approvals and records.





How to get started

1

Adopt the NSC Pledge by resolution

A resolution template is available.

2

Appoint an NSC Coordinator

The point of contact for the Technical Advisor and worksheets.

3

Assignment of Technical Advisor

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Questions & contact

Rachel Titus
Long Island Regional Planning Council
rtitus@lirpc.org