



Manhasset Bay Protection Committee

Minutes: September 24, 2026, 7:30pm

Village of Great Neck

767 Middle Neck Rd, Great Neck, NY 11024

Attendance: Bob Keane (Chairman, Port Washington North), Nancy Shahverdi (Town of North Hempstead, Commissioner of Planning), Charles Comer (Baxter Estates), Charlie Interrante (Nassau Co), Gary Lewandowski (Flower Hill), Nancy Sherman (Thomaston), Rich Dunphy (Plandome), Jeff Stone (Manorhaven), Annie Mendelson (Great Neck)

Samantha Wilder (Water Quality Coordinator), Janet Riger, Sarah Deonarine (Director)

Meeting was called to order at 7:38pm with a quorum in attendance.

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

Discussion & Motion points:

- 1) *Charles Comer made a motion to adopt the minutes of June 9, 2026. Jeff Stone seconded.* All were in favor and the motion carried.
- 2) *Rich Dunphy made a motion to retroactively sign-on to the [LI Groundwater Rebalance 2050 campaign and letter to the Governor](#). Jeff Stone seconded.* All were in favor and the motion carried. Discussion was about the program and other ideas on how to save groundwater with the onus being on municipal officials to make changes.
- 3) *Gary Lewandowski made a motion to retroactively send a letter to Commissioner Amanda Lefton (NYSDEC), Secretary Michelle L. Phillips (NYS Public Service Commission), and Col. Eric Swenson (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) about protecting Hempstead Harbor from environmental impacts of the Propel NY Energy Project.* Charles Comer seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.
- 4) Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP)¹:
 - a) This grant ends January 31st with no opportunity to extend it.
 - b) The Committee extensively discussed Recommendation S-19: Wildwood Village Parkland Actions.
 - i) The concern from the Representative from Thomaston was expressed that including this recommendation gave the appearance that the Committee was supporting the "parkland alienation" happening in Kings Point. The Committee has discussed this

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 •

recommendation before (at the March 2026 meeting) and decided to leave it because it's a standard request for managing stormwater.

- ii) The concern from the Representative from Thomaston was that by Nelson, Pope, and Voorhees (NPV) including this recommendation while also working on the parkland project for Kings Point Village there was potentially a conflict-of-interest. The Committee wanted some reassurance that this was not the case. Getting a statement from NPV disclosing that these two projects were happening simultaneously, and that there was no conflict was requested.
 - iii) The concern from the Representative from Thomaston was that, because of NPV's involvement with the parkland project, items may be missing from S-19 as well as N-10 (Kings Point Park Habitat Restoration) and S-18 (Kings Point Watershed Stormwater Abatement). Is there anything else that can be added here to make it more comprehensive?
 - iv) Deonarine will reach out to NPV about these points.
 - v) Removing the above three recommendations was discussed as a possibility, but it was decided that it shouldn't be removed before hearing from the Village of Kings Point. Deonarine will reach out to the representative from Kings Point.
- c) Incorporating edits to the Implementation Strategy and Recommendations sections
- i) NPV had incorporated Committee edits to the Implementation Strategy when more edits were received. Additionally, in editing the Strategy, it brought up more changes needed in the Recommendations section. These new edits need to be incorporated.
 - ii) The next step is for NPV to incorporate all the edits into the Implementation Strategy, Recommendations, and Monitoring and Tracking sections and then compile all the chapters into the draft WQIP.
 - iii) Subject to the understanding that additional edits and comments may be added after the public meeting and seeing that the subcommittee determined that the edits to the Implementation Strategy are substantially similar and in line with the edits/comments proposed, and that the new edits/comments to the Implementation Strategy and Recommendations Section should be incorporated, Charles Comer made a motion to accept NPV's draft Implementation Strategy and Recommendations Section. Jeff Stone seconded. The motion passed with one opposed.
- d) NPV sent a new and extensive Monitoring and Tracking section after the Committee had reviewed the Implementation Strategy. Deonarine made cuts to the section, which the subcommittee reviewed and approved. There was some brief discussion about the Implementation Team proposed in the section, but it was decided to leave it as is. Deonarine asked if Committee members would be able to report on progress made each year. Representatives suggested that it be less rigid and more of a check-in every year. This edit was added to the section.
- e) Charles Comer made a motion to send the edits to the Tracking and Monitoring section to Nelson, Pope, and Voorhees for incorporation and to combine the review of those

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

incorporations with the review of the full Draft Watershed Management Plan. Gary Lewandowski seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried. Discussion: NPV will send the draft WQIP with those edits still in track changes. The Committee and DOS will review at the same time.

- f) A motion to release the draft Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP) to the public was tabled.
- g) *Charlie Interrante made a motion to hold the third and final public meeting for the WQIP virtually on Thursday, November 19th, 2026, and allowing for a 30-day public review period after the public meeting. Rich Dunphy seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried. Discussion: the two dates proposed were Wednesday, November 18th or Thursday, November 19th at 7pm on Zoom. November 19th is a scheduled Committee meeting; it wasn't decided if that meeting would be rescheduled or simply canceled.*
- 5) *Nancy Sherman made a motion to retroactively approve the cost of the Director attending a trip to Washington, D.C. with members of the Long Island Sound Partnership Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC²) for a cost of \$333.50 plus Director time. Nancy Shahverdi seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried. Discussion: all the 2026 member dues payments have been received and the Committee ended August with a balance of almost \$198K. The Committee also just received reimbursement from NYSDOS for WQIP development. There are no further disbursements expected for the WQIP before the end of the contract.*

Updates, Reminders, & Municipal Updates:

- Tabled

Upcoming meetings and events:

- The Committee's next meeting is October 15th in Manhasset at the Plandome Manor Village Hall. We will have a presentation by Rachel Titus from Long Island Regional Planning Council (LIRPC) about Nitrogen Smart Communities. Gary Lewandowski, Maria Branco, and Sarah Deonarine had recently met with representatives from LIRPC, NYSDEC, and Sea Grant about the program.
- Upcoming events:
 - Volunteer cleanup at Bay Walk Park, October 3rd at 10am
 - WQIP Public Meeting on November 19th at 7pm (virtual)

Charles Comer made a motion to adjourn at 9:26pm

²MBPC is a member

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