



Manhasset Bay Protection Committee

April 14, 2016 Meeting Minutes, 7:30pm
Supervisor's Conference Room, Town Hall

Attendees: Erin Reilly (TNH), Charles Comer (Baxter Estates), Bob Keane (Port Washington North, Chairman), Sarah Deonarine (Executive Director), Dan Fucci (Nassau Co), Chris Shannon (Aide to Councilwoman De Giorgio), Ray Herbert (Plandome), To-on Pang (Thomaston), Kevin Braun (Town of North Hempstead), Tom Rice (TNH waterfront advisor), Pasqua Dziadul (Sands Point), Buddy Vetrone (citizen volunteer).

Note: Action items are in ***bold highlighted, underlined italics***. Motions are highlighted in blue.

Storm drain medallions were distributed as member representatives arrived in the following proportions:

Half order	# medallions requested	#medallions received	#glue tubes
Flower Hill	100	60	5
Plandome	10	10	1
Sands Point	20	20	2
PWN	70	45	4
Baxter Estates	Yes	10	1
TNH	50	35	2
NC	0	0	0
Kensington	10	0	0

A second order will be going in over the summer, ***please check to make sure that you still need your requested medallions and let Deonarine know.***

Meeting opened at 7:35pm with Welcome & Introductions

Committee trust fund/balance update

Reporting period: January 1 - April 11, 2016			
	Expenditures	Deposits	Balance
Beginning balance:			\$118,694.89
2015 dues payment		\$1,500.00	\$120,194.89
LWV Donation		\$100.00	\$120,294.89
Director salary	\$7,805.00		\$112,489.89

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Almetek storm medallions	\$919.00	\$111,570.89
Ending balance:		\$111,570.89
Totals:	\$8,724.00	\$1,600.00

LWV = League of Women Voters (honorary donation)

The Committee reviewed the budget document produced by the Director. It was decided that a regular update would be helpful, so to **add a budget line item to the agenda and perhaps a quarterly budget update**. The Director can spend a maximum of \$75 per transaction without MBPC approval and any such expenses would be captured in the quarterly summary.

Volunteers needed:

Volunteers for Eco Fest (Sunday, May 15th at Clark Botanical Gardens) 12 – 5, with set-up earlier. The event is now Clark Garden Spring Fest and will not be the same as previous years, it will be more of a flower show. **Deonarine to talk to Kimberly Corcoran (community services) to find out more information.**

Volunteers for Harbor Fest (Sunday, June 5th; set-up: 7am; event ends by 4pm) – Deonarine will not be available. Event starts at 10am, but set-up is early, because Town police don't allow cars on the dock after 8am. Parking is an issue, but that early in the morning you can find parking on a side street. No firm volunteers, but Deonarine will register for the event (complete).

Updates:

Fourth annual joint protection committee meeting is May 11th at 6:45pm at the Manhasset Public Library.

MS4 & dues: MBPC's annual contribution to the annual member MS4 reports went out electronically on 4/11. **Let Deonarine know if you did not receive them.** 2016 dues invoices will be going out in the mail next week.

March 10th Long Island Sound Study Citizens Advisory Committee meeting in NYC (MBPC is a member of this advisory committee):

- Few villages were represented at LINAP public meeting; at the CAC meeting the Towns of Oyster Bay and North Hempstead volunteered to help coordinate getting more villages involved.
- The Long Island Sound Study expects to receive the same funding as the year previous (about \$4.5 million); unallocated funds will go to target nitrogen reductions. Friday, **April 15th** – EPA LIS Nitrogen Reduction Strategy meeting; 2 – 3:30pm at Huntington Town Hall.
- The LIS Comprehensive and Conservation Management Plan was completed last year, from that six work groups were formed: Public Involvement and Education, Habitat Restoration, Water Quality Monitoring, Climate Change, TMDL, and Watersheds and Embayments. Deonarine/MBPC is a member of this last group.

TNH Waterfront Advisory Committee (WAC): MBPC is a member of this advisory committee as well and Deonarine has been attending. At Monday night's meeting there was push-back on the decision not to submit final comments on the Army Corps' Dredged Material Management Plan. There seemed to have been a lot of confusion, but what came out of it is that MBPC will be added to the agenda to give

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updates on what we are doing. Deonarine will take that opportunity to make it clear that the two Committees are separate committees with different with different mandates and purposes.

DEC update to Priority Waterbodies List: DEC is doing two things: a biennial update of 303(d) list (waterbodies needing TMDL development – nothing has changed on this list for MB) and update of the descriptions of Manhasset Bay segments on the Water Inventory/Priority Waterbody Listing. Some of these seem to stem from changing their reporting forms, other changes seem to stem from the fact that the data is outdated¹ (over 10 years). It also incorporates changes to the fish consumption advisories. Deonarine is not recommending comment, but some comments/concerns to be aware of:

- Several places they mention that the NYSDEC shellfish unit collects water samples in this area, but this is not true (DEC shellfish, pers. communication).
- Data for Mill Pond is close to outdated (2004), as such, it was upgraded from “stressed – suspected” to “impaired – unconfirmed” for recreation and downgraded from “stressed – suspected” to “stressed – unconfirmed” for aquatic life. Mill Pond is not listed on the 303(d) list, but it says, “Possible impacts/impairments need to be verified in order to justify the listing of this waterbody (2015).”
- Some information for Whitney Pond Park was removed due to outdated data and the section calls for “sampling to verify conditions.”

The Committee discussed these changes and the possibility of making comments to DEC (also just to say, “Keep us in the loop.”). DEC’s process is very confusing, but **if you would like copies of the documents, please e-mail Deonarine.**

Motion points:

Erin Reilley made a motion to adopt the minutes of February 25, 2016; Dan Fucci seconded, all in favor.

Annual boat tour is on Monday, June 13th departing at 6:30pm, returning at 8:30pm (Deonarine not available). This date was chosen based on the tides.

- Water taxi: \$750; Catering from Harbor Deli: Deonarine requested a budget of \$500.
- **Charles Comer made a motion to accept the date and a budget up to, but not exceeding \$1250.** To-on Pang seconded and the motion carried.
- In the invitations that go out, **Deonarine will stress that we want people to go who haven’t been out on the bay before.**
- Currently, we don’t have a sound system (we may be able to borrow one from the Port Washington Library, if they get a new one in time). **Charles Comer may have a karaoke machine.**

A Scope of Work for a new water quality report looking at years 2009 – 2015 has been drafted, but discussion in the sub-committee has come up about doing an RFP instead. The Committee discussed this and made the following points:

- The amount of work involved in going through an RFP is difficult for both us and potential vendors and may not worth it for cost we want. We are not obligated to go with lowest quote, but have to provide justification of the “lowest responsible bidder.”
- There is fear of scrutiny and an RFP would allow for a transparent paper trail
- The sub-committee will ask the Town attorney if we can put ranking criteria in scope of work (Follow-up: his answer was yes) and then decide how best to proceed, draft the final document,

¹ Specific portions that had most, if not all of their information removed due to lack of data: Whitney Pond Park, river and stream tributaries to Manhasset Bay, and Leeds Pond.

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and present to the main Committee in advance of the May 11th joint protection committee meeting.

- A brief business meeting will be held promptly at 6:30pm to vote on moving forward.
- The May 19th MBPC meeting was cancelled.

Application to Long Island Sound Futures Fund for a shellfish survey of the Bay: Erin Reilly gave a synopsis of this project, which would promote water quality, not commercial shellfishing. With grant funding, we would hire a contractor to do SCUBA based grid surveys of shellfish and substrate (e.g., conducive to shellfish seeding, etc) and identify any major issues with substrate (i.e., plastic bags smothering benthic layer). At the end, we'd have a set of recommendations (including what shellfish to use) for what to do next and could then go back to LISFF for implementation money. We would have to be extremely clear that it is not about reintroduction of commercial shellfishing and would propose that the consultant produce two reports, one to be publicly released that does not include information on where shellfish are. Shellfish were removed from MB in early 90s and no one has looked at it since. This would be submitted as a \$60,000 planning grant and we'd have to come up with \$30,000 match (cash and in-kind).

Discussion points:

- MBPC has done lots of education, but nothing substantive.
- Is it appropriate at this time, since we don't have a WQIP? A WQIP would take years and this would result in data that could be used in a WQIP.
- Do we have \$10,000 - \$15,000 cash to provide as match?
- Erin Reilly made the motion to submit the application with cash match up to \$18,000, but trying to keep to \$15,000. Ray Herbert seconded. One abstention.

Deonarine was contacted that day by IEC (Interstate Environmental Commission) about being included on an application they are also submitting to the Long Island Sound Futures Fund. IEC does annual monitoring in Long Island Sound, including three stations in and around Manhasset Bay. Erin Reilly made a motion for the Director to provide them with a letter of support, Dan Fucci seconded. The motion passed.

Municipal Updates (30 minutes)

Nassau County (Dan Fucci): 2016 dues are coming.

Town of North Hempstead Planning Department (Kevin Braun): Karen Reichenbach, the former Committee representative from Flower Hill, passed away from cancer.

Andy DeMartin has left the Town. Shawn Brown is acting Public Safety Commissioner. Tom Rice is working on transition with Shawn and Town and is speaking on behalf of Shawn Brown.

The Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District is looking for new district manager.

Manhasset High School (Buddy Vetrone): Vetrone is starting a club, which would be a branch of MBPC and is looking for collaboration on ideas, etc. The club will start by this spring.

Upcoming meetings/events:

- Tuesday, **May 3rd** -- Latitude 41 Conference on Nitrogen Pollution at Stony Brook University (Hilton). Registration ends April 18th
- Wednesday, **May 11th** -- Joint Protection Committee meeting at the Manhasset Public Library, 6:45pm; **MBPC business meeting promptly at 6:30pm**

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- Friday, **May 13th** -- Long Island Sound Research Conference in Bridgeport CT. Registration is \$60 and ends on May 10th.
- Sunday, **May 15th** – Spring Fest at Clark Botanical Gardens, **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**.
- ~~Thursday, **May 19th**~~ – CANCELLED MBPC meeting
- Friday, **June 3rd** -- Long Island Sound Citizens Summit at Stony Brook University (Student Activities Center). Registration is \$40.
- Sunday, **June 5th** -- Harbor Fest at Port Washington Town Dock, **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**
- Monday, **June 13th** -- Annual Manhasset Bay boat tour.