



Manhasset Bay Protection Committee

Minutes: October 11, 2018, 7:30pm

Law Library, Town Hall

Attendance: Kevin Braun (Town of North Hempstead), Jed Siegel (Plandome Manor), Joel Ziev (Residents Forward), Bruce Bent, Dianne Sheehan (Plandome Heights), Jill Monoson (Thomaston), Bob Keane (Chairman, Port Washington North), Dan Fucci (Nassau Co), Carol Frank (Town of North Hempstead), Ray Herbert (Plandome), Anne Krzyzanowski (Assemblyman D'Urso's office), Kate Hirsch (Flower Hill), Mike Malloy (Baxter Estates), Jennifer Wilson-Pines (Manorhaven), Annie Mendelson (Great Neck), Rebecca Chu (Kensington), Sarah Deonarine (Director)

Meeting was called to order at 7:31pm with a quorum in attendance.

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

Discussion & Motion points:

Kevin Braun made a motion to accept the Minutes of September 27, 2018. Dan Fucci seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Kevin Braun made a motion to send the letter to the Board of Commissioners of the PW Water Pollution Control District as written. Dianne Sheehan seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Army Corps of Engineers Sea Barriers comment letter (due by Nov 5): Deonarine walked through the presentation that is available on-line¹. Discussion was lively as there is a fear of what some of the proposed alternatives could mean for the communities of Manhasset Bay and elsewhere outside of the protections. Some of the main concerns voiced were that, if surge gates were to be constructed across Pelham Bay and Throgs Neck, there would be no outlet for water in the western Sound and it would be a major catastrophe for communities in this area (including those around Manhasset Bay). Water travels the path of least resistance, so, when it hits a wall (like the one proposed for Pelham Bay), it will reflect back (into Manhasset Bay). There is already poor tidal flushing in the western Long Island Sound and Manhasset Bay, restricting this flow will only make it worse and negate our efforts to improve water quality. Deonarine then walked through the drafted comment letter and the Committee made edits and suggestions and also made sure that the previously mentioned concerns were covered. Kevin Braun made a motion to allow the Director to send out the letter to ACOE incorporating the edits made and a one week electronic review by Committee members. Jill Monoson seconded.² All were in favor and the motion carried.

There is a tentatively scheduled public hearing on the Army Corps feasibility study on October 23rd, 5 – 7pm, possibly at the Merchant Marine Academy.

¹ <http://www.nan.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Projects-in-New-York/New-York-New-Jersey-Harbor-Tributaries-Focus-Area-Feasibility-Study/>

² A second draft of the letter was sent to member representatives on October 12th for a one-week electronic review.

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Kate Hirsch made a motion to approve the beach clean-up press release for distribution. Ray Herbert seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried. Deonarine will include volunteer pictures as well as the sticker image when sending the press release out and will look into patches for both girl scouts and boy scouts for next year.

Web & social media: In June, the Committee approved a budget of \$2,000 for costs associated with the website and social marketing. As of the meeting, \$612 had been spent on: 5-years of web hosting; website and domain transfer to Bluehost, 1-year of SEO tools, and 4-weeks of Facebook advertising for the beach cleanup. The Committee discussed whether they wanted to pay to have someone redesign website, the general feeling was in favor of this. Deonarine will gather information and report back to the Committee.

Jennifer Wilson-Pines made a motion to accept the proposed 2019 winter/spring meeting dates: January 10, February 7, March 14, April 11, May 9, and June 13. Kate Hirsch seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Seabin update: Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District will meet on October 19th and discuss the proposal. The Town Dept. of Public Works is looking into an electrical hook-up to the kayak launches, but this may not be complete in time for the arrival of the Seabin. Deonarine has an e-mail out to the company about the cost of a solar hook-up.

Smell at low tide: This year there has been a lot of public concern about the smell emanating from the Bay at low tide, particularly in the back of the Bay (member Representatives pointed out that the smell is all over the Bay). The Bay is filling in with sediment and it may be time for the Committee to consider taking a stance on dredging the Bay. Member representatives with institutional knowledge commented that the Committee had sediment core samples done in the 90s of the whole Bay, but we can't dredge the entire Bay, we need to look at discreet areas (and, if under 25,000 cubic yards, there are different, less stringent requirements for sampling). Only the navigation channels and around marinas can really be dredged; the back bay won't be dredged because there is not enough economic incentive. [As a reminder, there is FEMA money to dredge around Town Dock, but that is all.] The crux of the problem is disposal - disposal sites are limited and very expensive. The entire undertaking is years of working through permitting and millions of dollars. It was eventually thought that the Committee could stimulate the idea and do some base work. Deonarine will pull out the previously completed sediment report and start gathering information.

Updates:

Update on MS4 draft permit and TMDL rescission from PEPC meeting: Deonarine attended the Peconic Estuary Protection Committee meeting on October 3rd; all the Protection Committees were represented. The State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) was there to discuss TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Loads) and MS4. About 57 embayments around Long Island were included in pathogen TMDLs that were later found to be erroneous for various reasons, so DEC approached the EPA to have them rescinded. The EPA originally said "No," but has since changed their minds. DEC couldn't give a timeline for when the TMDLs would be rescinded, but it does appear that they will be rescinded. Then DEC will begin a long process of rewriting TMDLs, which may include Manhasset Bay (we are on the 303d list). DEC has contracted with USGS to study the sources of pathogens to determine where loads are coming from (USGS collected data this summer). They chose sites that seemed different enough so that DEC could ascribe relationships to the remaining waterbodies (Hempstead Harbor is the closest to us). The DEC will not release the next MS4 draft permit until after the TMDLs have been rescinded. Target is the beginning of 2019 for the next draft permit, February at the earliest.

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Updated: 1/15/2019

Volunteer beach clean-up recap: 25 dedicated volunteers picked up 200lbs of debris. Based on numbers (not weight), plastic food-related items were the top items picked up.

Water quality monitoring and state grant – no updates

News articles about Manhasset Bay – **Deonarine has compiled a list and will send around.** Eventually, this will be posted to the Committee website.

Town waterfront development moratorium - The moratorium has been extended through to January 1st, 2019. And Councilwoman Dina De Giorgio will extend it further to allow for another public meeting in the spring. The meeting will be similar to the one held in July, but Dina asked at the last Town Board meeting that the actual proposed code be made available at the meeting. No code was proposed at the July public meeting. The Town is actively seeking input, please send comments to pwwaterfront@northhempsteadny.gov and send any questions to Dina's office. The presentation from July can be found on the Town's website at: www.northhempsteadny.gov/waterfront **Deonarine will begin drafting a comment letter from the Committee on what could be potentially problematic for the Bay under different zoning scenarios.**

Municipal updates

Save the Stepping Stones Lighthouse 5k race/walk is this Sunday and starts at Stepping Stones park, goes all through Kings Park and is fundraising for restoring the lighthouse. Town is a partner, as is the Historical Society, City Island Nautical Museum and others.

Upcoming meetings and events:

- Oct 14th – PW plastic bag free day (students will be handing out free reuseable bags outside Stop & Shop)
- Town STOP event on October 20 & 21st
- Shed the meds: Port Washington Water Pollution Control District (WPCD) Oct 13th, Great Neck WPCD October 28th 10:30 – 1:30
- **November 8th – last meeting of the year**
- State of the Science workshop on Wildlife and Offshore Wind Energy Development, November 13-14 in Woodbury.

Kevin Braun made a motion to adjourn at 8:56pm.

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