



Manhasset Bay Protection Committee

Minutes: November 8, 2018, 7:30pm

Supervisor's Conference Room, Town Hall

Attendees: Kevin Braun (Town of North Hempstead), Anne Krzyzanowski (Assemblyman D'Urso's office), Bruce Bent, Chris Shannon (Councilwoman De Giorgio's office), Dan Fucci (Nassau Co), Bob Keane (Chairman, Port Washington North), Mike Ertel (Sands Point), Mike Malloy (Baxter Estates), Rebecca, Rebecca Chu (Kensington), Sarah Deonarine (Director)

Meeting was called to order at 7:40pm without a quorum in attendance.

Note: Action items are **highlighted**.

Discussion & Motion points:

Project Matrix: The project matrix, which looks more like a work plan, has been updated to reflect current activity (bright green is current activity). The project matrix is attached to these notes. Important updates from the project matrix discussion are as follows:

- Some, but very limited data was collected this past summer with the new YSI probe, which didn't arrive until August. Deonarine is working with the Town Bay Constables to "work out the kinks" over the winter, so as to hit the ground running next summer.
- NYSDEC hopes to rescind pathogen TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Load) by the end of the year and then release a new draft of the next stormwater Phase II permit in February 2019. This could have regulatory implications for the communities around Manhasset Bay. As such, the need for a second shellfish laboratory on Long Island has come up, only one (the DEC laboratory in East Setauket) is approved to test waters for being clean enough to eat shellfish out of. The Committee will be asked to sign-on; when the letter is finalized, Deonarine will send to the representatives for a tentative approval and then will retroactively approve in January.
- The Protection Committees will be meeting with Nassau County on November 14th to discuss the State Septic System Replacement Grant Program (\$1M).
- During the spring and summer of 2017, many people noted piles of bread in the parking lot behind Dolphin Books left for the geese. The Committee then created informational pamphlets about not feeding geese and the next step was an educational sign. **The recommendation was that we would need to form a subcommittee for this sign design.**

Seabin proposal update: At their October board meeting, the Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District approved the Committee's Seabin proposal. We are now awaiting State approval. Once that is received and Deonarine gets a response from the Company, Deonarine will poll the representatives as to whether or not to move forward with paying the \$2,500 deposit (if Seabin receives this by 12/31, we would receive a \$1,000 discount) and then do a retroactive approval in January.

Web & social media: Last June, the Committee approved a budget of \$2,000 for costs associated with the website and social marketing, of which only \$612 has been spent. Deonarine will move forward with having the website redesigned by Telesites, a local firm. **Deonarine will also send around the Fall Newsletter in word for representative approval by November 16th.**

- Sarah Deonarine, Executive Director •
- Email: mbpcExec@gmail.com •
- www.manhassetbayprotectioncommittee.org •

Updated: 1/15/2019

Town waterfront development moratorium: Deonarine took a first stab at drafting a comment letter for the Committee to react to and edit. It was written from an environmental perspective, but also to give the Town Board more control over variance decisions. **This draft letter was resent to Committee representatives on November 9th with a one-week turn-around for comments.** As an update, the Town is planning to extend the moratorium until July 2019. This will allow for another public meeting, this time with the actual code revisions. Councilwoman DeGiorgio is looking to remove mixed use portions of the code and make it solely commercial, which is in the business improvement district plans. The Town has been looking for specific comments on how to change the code from the municipalities and Protection Committees.

Response from PW Water Pollution Control District about their failed tidal wetland planting: The Superintendent knows that the plantings failed and is awaiting a reply from their contractor about the grass failure.

Nassau Co Bag Bill: The Committee decided not to sign-on to the letter in support of the Bag Bill as this is a controversial and political issue.

Updates:

Army Corps of Engineers Sea Barriers update: The public comment period ended 11/5; notes from the public meeting were circulated. The Army Corps says their draft report will be done this winter, and then they will have another public comment period.

Review of *Sediment Removal & Beneficial Use Feasibility Study of Manhasset Bay (2001)*: The purpose of this study was to start to look at dredging and open up conversation, but the study looked too broadly. There are a few next steps: 1) apply to the State [in July] for funding to do a sediment study, 2) identify the target location for that sediment study, 3) begin conversations with the Town, through the WAC.

Town FEMA-funded dredging project: Councilwoman DeGiorgio just (the day before) met with DPW (Dept of Public Works) asking for updates. Maps of hydrographic survey are complete, but no sampling has been done yet and no permits have been filed. Permits have been filed for the Manorhaven boat ramp project and there was public comment period, which the Councilwoman just found out about yesterday. She stressed to DPW that they should include MBPC. There isn't a timeline yet, but it is still probably a while before Town Dock will be dredged, Town Dock. Councilwoman asked that the engineers make themselves available to the WAC.

Water quality monitoring: No updates on the Marcellino/DEC grant for water quality monitoring (2017-19). Deonarine has gotten all the 2018 bacteria data from Nassau County Department of Health and has entered all secchi¹ and water depths into Excel.

Upcoming meetings and events:

- January 10, February 7, March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13
- EPA webinar on November 29th about LIS Nitrogen

Meeting adjourned at 9:14pm.

¹ A secchi disk is lowered into the water column and observed until it disappears. That depth is an indication of how much *stuff* is in the water.