



Manhasset Bay Protection Committee

Minutes: September 27, 2018, 7:30pm
Law Library, Town Hall

Attendance: Kevin Braun (Town of North Hempstead), Dianne Sheehan (Plandome Heights), Jill Monoson (Thomaston), Dan Fucci (Nassau Co), Bob Keane (Chairman, Port Washington North), Annie Mendelson (Great Neck), Mike Malloy (Baxter Estates), Kate Hirsch (Flower Hill), Jennifer Wilson-Pines (Manorhaven), Mike Ertel (Sands Point), Sarah Deonarine (Director)

Meeting opened at 7:44pm with a quorum in attendance.

Note: **Action items are highlighted.** **Motions are highlighted in blue.**

Discussion & Motion points:

Volunteer Beach Clean-up is September 29th at 9:30am

Kevin Braun made a motion to accept the Minutes of June 14, 2018, Dianne Sheehan seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Kevin Braun made a motion to apply for funding from Nassau Co Soil and Water Conservation District to purchase a Seabin for Town Dock. Jill Monoson seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried. The Committee discussion included follow-up questions to ask the vendor (i.e., Is there a warranty? Can fish swim away from the device?), but its discussion was in favor of moving forward with the project. A Seabin is a device that attaches to a floating dock and siphons debris at the surface of the water into the bin, trapping it for manual collection. At Town Dock there will be staff present to empty the Seabin and all the necessary parties are onboard with moving forward.

In response to Superstorm Sandy, the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) is proposing surge gates and other alternatives at various locations around New York City. The ACOE did public outreach and meetings to those communities on the inside of the surge gates, but not to those outside the surge gates who would be presumably negatively impacted by them, such as the communities around Manhasset Bay. The Long Island Sound Study Citizens Advisory Committee prepared a letter to the ACOE, requesting an extension to the public comment period. **Annie Mendelsohn made a motion to give the Executive Director permission to sign on to extension-request letter sent to Army Corps of Engineers. Dianne Sheehan seconded.** All were in favor and the motion carried. It is speculated that, if these are built, there will be significant negative environmental impacts even outside of storm surge reflection. Congressman Tom Suozzi's office just announced that the ACOE has agreed to extend the public comment period even further and hold a public hearing in his district, but the date of that hearing has not been forthcoming. **Deonarine will prepare comments and send around the presentation from ACOE** [e-mailed 10/3/2018]

Deonarine submitted written comments and gave oral testimony at a New York State Assembly hearing on Long Island Sound Water Quality held at the Manhasset Public Library on August 27, 2018. **Kate Hirsch made a motion to submit the water quality testimony. Kevin Braun seconded.** All were in favor and the motion carried.

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Newsletter: Kevin Braun made motion to allow the Director to create newsletters with a Committee comment period of one week and then send without formal Committee approval. Dan Fucci seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried. Deonarine said that there were 4 new subscribers in the past month, but has not looked at the numbers in detail. Future newsletter topic suggestions were the beach cleanup and the seabin proposal.

Water quality monitoring and the YSI

- The YSI water quality monitoring instrument has been received, but not until the end of the summer. Photographs of the YSI in use can be found on the Committee's facebook page.
- Deonarine has decided to include 2018 data in the 2016-17 water quality report.
- There were no updates on the Marcellino/DEC grant for water quality monitoring (2017-19) .

Updates:

Summer recap:

- Website updates
 - We have a new web host (Blue Host), one of the best reviewed hosts in the industry. The home page is a little more user friendly, but there is still more work to do
 - Paid \$100 for facebook advertising of our beach clean-up, 3 people said they were going, over 50 people said they're interested.
 - Reposted LISS social media campaign to "ditch single-use plastics" on the Committee's facebook page, which generated a little more traffic.
 - Deonarine still needs to look at numbers to see if our subscriptions have increased.
- Deonarine completed the WQIP application in the State's Consolidated Funding Application System. Deonarine does not expect to hear anything until at least November.
- Deonarine will compile a list of the news articles about Manhasset Bay and the Committee, as there were a lot from over the summer alone.
- The Committee distributed an estimated 200 educational pamphlets in the BID (Port Washington Business Improvement District) goodie bags for transient visitors to Town Dock.

Town waterfront development moratorium: The Town held a public meeting in July at the Port Washington Library – different attendees had different take-aways from that meeting. Eitehr way, the Town is looking for public comments on what should be done, if anything, to the zoning. Town Board was voting that same night to extend the moratorium. As a Committee, our comments would be restricted to being sure that the water quality of the harbor is not detrimented.

Municipal updates

Port Washington North (Bob Keane): Port news magazine had a nice article about the Bay Walk, which is a very successful open space project. Within the Village, construction of TJ Maxx next to Blockbuster is starting.

Nassau County (Dan Fucci): \$20k for 2018 Committee dues has been approved, but still awaiting a signature on the IMA. The IMA has been forwarded to the County attorney and Dan will try to meet with her in the next week in order to get it signed by the legislature. This is very positive movement, as this is the first time in several years that the \$20K has been approved.

Plandome Heights and Flower Hill – no updates

Thomaston (Jill Monoson): The Village just had a public hearing about their moratorium on gas leaf-blowers over the summer. Some people wanted to get rid of the moratorium, other people want to keep it

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permanently siting that the power of the leaf-blowers shoot organics into the air and then into the water, making it an environmental issue. Supposedly electric leaf blowers don't have as much power. The main issues is still likely noise. Port Washington North banned landscapers during weekends.

Great Neck (Annie Mendelson): The Village is doing a corridor study, because developers want to build up the area. A lot of citizens are coming out and voicing their opinions, which is a good thing. They are also still fighting the student parking lot at Great Neck High School, which would replace the soccer field.

Manorhaven (Jennifer Wilson-Pines): The Community Garden next to the water at Manorhaven Preserve was a big success with a lot of people visiting. The Village redid the dog-run area and put in grass (not wood chips). Jennifer Wilson-Pines is trying to get the village and town to talk to remove the Town fence and instead put a gate between the two parks. The Baywalk walkway currently goes right up to the fence and stops. There is an inter-municipal agreement to do this, but it hasn't happened.

Baxter Estates (Mike Malloy): The Village is looking into leaf removal alternatives. Residents used to be able to push leaves into the road for pick-up, but they can't do that anymore due to illegal dumping.

Sands Point (Mike Ertel): There has been a push to have more events at the band shell in Sunset Park.

Town of North Hempstead (Kevin Braun): The Port Washington Water Pollution Control District redid the seawall around Sunset Park and that looks great, but the tidal wetland plantings they did do not. **Deonarine will prepare a letter to their Board about the failed wetland plantings.** The Planning Department is still redesigning Baywalk, which will continue from the Port Washington North section in both directions.

Other updates (Jennifer Wilson-Pines): Dr. Chris Gobler of Stony Brook University is reporting that Manhasset Bay is hypoxic, but he doesn't have the data to back up the claims. There were a lot less Menhaden in the Bay this year, meaning there wasn't the usual fish kill.

Upcoming meetings and events:

- October 11th, November 8th

Kevin Braun made a motion to adjourn at 8:53pm

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