



Manhasset Bay Protection Committee

FINAL Minutes: January 16, 2020, 7:30pm

Supervisor’s Conference Room, Town Hall

Attendance: Kevin Braun (Town of North Hempstead), Bob Keane (Chairman, Port Washington North), Nora Haagenon (Mayor, Baxter Estates), Dan Fucci (Nassau Co), Jill Monoson (Thomaston), Mike Ertel (Sands Point), Ray Herbert (Plandome), Mike Malloy (Baxter Estates), Annie Mendelson (Great Neck), Steve Klyce (Pres of Bayview Colony Association), Bruce Bent, Melanie Cassens (Comm for PW WPCD), and Sarah Deonarine (Director)

Meeting was called to order at 7:35pm with a quorum in attendance.

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

Discussion & Motion points:

Kevin Braun made motion to accept the minutes of October 17, 2019. Nora Haagenon seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Kevin made motion to raise the annual dues by 20% and to set them as follows:

Percent increase	Total Dues	NC share (45%)	Town share (11%)	Village share (44%)	Per Village
20%	\$53,400.00	\$24,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$23,400.00	\$1,800.00
Annual increase	\$8,900.00	\$4,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$3,900.00	\$300.00

Ray Herbert seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Passage of the dues starts a 60 day review period (true of every year) during which any member can choose to leave the Committee without having to pay the 2020 dues. This period ends on 3/16. If no one withdraws, the Committee will vote to finalize on 3/19. **Deonarine will send out a letter to all members notifying them of this.**

Army Corps Feasibility Report, notes on Oct 24 public meeting:

- Turnout was huge and, obviously, very anti-gate
- Press conference beforehand was a success
- The alternatives that include a surge gate at the Throgs Neck are less and less likely to occur (they plan to have a Tentatively Selected Plan by next May).
- They are using hydrologic modeling from the 1960s and a North Shore Recon Report from 1993, these are outdated.
- The Army Corps said that in order to update the studies they would need a non-federal partner and it would have to be at the request of elected officials. As Manhasset Bay and Hempstead Harbor are within the scoping area and the NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation is already a non-federal partner, this didn't seem true.
- The best cost-benefit analysis from the Corps' perspective is between alternatives 3b and 4.
 - Sarah Deonarine, Executive Director •
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- They stated that environmental and cultural mitigation would only be within the footprint of the construction, but that is unlikely true as, according to NEPA, all impacts have to be mitigated.
- A study status and update paper was planned for December, but still waiting.
- This highlights that we should be considering our own climate change and storm protections.

Mike Ertel made a motion to retroactively approve the December 2019 comment letter to the Army Corps. Nora Haagenon seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Jill Monoson made a motion to retroactively approve the comment letter sent to the NYS Assembly Minority Task Force Meeting on Water Quality. Mike Molloy seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Timeline for 2021 IMA: Deonarine will send out the 2015 IMA to representatives in advance of next meeting.

Jill Monoson made a motion to hire a Summer 2020 Intern, not to exceed \$3000. Mike Ertel seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried. Deonarine will draft a job description.

Joint Protection Committee meeting discussion: Every year the north shore protection committees hold a joint meeting (usually in May). Planning for that meeting is beginning and we need ideas of what topics interest participants. Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee suggested Nassau Co.'s Septic grant program as a topic. Bob Keane suggested emerging contaminants (such as PFAS). Committee members will brainstorm and bring ideas to the next Committee meeting.

Updates:

- The Baxter Pond educational sign was sheared off at its base. Nassau County currently has it and will hopefully be able to fix it, otherwise the cost of a new base & shipping = \$1,151. The Baxter Pond Foundation also asked about the possibility of partnering on new signs. It was decided that the Committee both ask what the content would be and take an inventory of our current signs.
- Deonarine and Eric Swenson gave a presentation to the League of Women Voters in November about the Army Corps surge gates. It was well received.
- Nassau Septic Replacement Program: the County has \$1 million in state grant funds for property owners to install nitrogen-reducing septic systems (about 100 can be installed).
 - LI Regional Planning Council is providing \$100,000 for administration through Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District (doesn't include engineering costs)
 - TNC received \$175,000 to assist both Nassau & Suffolk with implementing
 - The program is expected to roll out in the Spring.
 - County will have a website to explain the program and to apply.
 - Each homeowner gets up to \$10,000, homeowners have to come up with the additional \$10-15K. In Nassau Co every municipality has its own jurisdiction for septics.
 - Suffolk County has a website that explains the systems: reclaimourwater.info
- Grant updates:
 - Water Quality Improvement Grant – working on a contract with Dept. of State, but it is moving
 - Seabin – meeting next week to start planning for this summer
 - DEC Water quality monitoring – waiting on contract to hire DB and complete the Data Usability Assessment and Quality Assurance Project Plan
- Web & social media – no updates, still waiting on a contract for web design
- “Don't feed the geese” signs – no updates.

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Updated: 5/18/2020

Municipal updates

Village of Baxter Estates (Nora Haagenson): Cameron Engineering completed the feasibility study and the County legislators have copies. The study gives a good idea of what to do.

Village of Plandome (Ray Herbert): At the last board meeting, the Village approved an ever expanding project for stormwater removal at the end of Willets Lane. The project will likely be further revised with engineering study, etc.

Nassau County (Dan Fucci): Nothing new other than the septic grant already discussed.

Port Washington Water Pollution Control District (Melanie Cassens): Sunset Park will be getting a gazebo and other upgrades aimed at helping Alzheimer's patients and caregivers. The District still currently owns the park. The District will be going out to bid for a project to build a whole new biosolids building, which will bring a cost savings.

Town, Thomaston, Great Neck, and Port Washington North didn't have anything to report.

Upcoming meetings and events:

- Next meeting: February 13 (second Thursday)¹
- Winter/spring 2020 meeting dates (third Thursday of the month, except as noted):
3/19 **4/23** (fourth Thursday)² **5/21**³ **6/18**

Kevin Braun made motion to adjourn at 8:47pm. Jill Monoson seconded.

¹ Winter Break 2/16 – 2/22

² Spring Recess 4/9 – 4/18

³ Port Washington School Memorial Day Weekend begins the next day (5/22)

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