



Manhasset Bay Protection Committee

Minutes: November 12, 2020, 7:30pm

Zoom Video Conference

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

Welcome & Introductions

Attendance: Bob Keane (Chairman, Port Washington North), Nora Haagenon (Mayor, Baxter Estates), Kat Coughlin (North Shore Land Alliance), Erin Molyneux (Councilmember Dalimonte’s office), Annie Mendelson (Great Neck), Steve Klyce, Dianne Sheehan (Plandome Heights), Chris Clapp (TNC), Samantha Wilder (intern), Kevin Braun (Town of North Hempstead), Mike Malloy (Baxter Estates), Don Richardson (Plandome), Rebecca Chu (Kensington), Jennifer Wilson-Pines (Manorhaven), Sarah Deonarine (Director)

Discussion & Motion points:

1. Jennifer Wilson-Pines made a motion to approve the meeting transcription by MGR reporting at a cost of \$4.45 per page, not to exceed \$600. Dianne Sheehan seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.
2. Jennifer Wilson-Pines made a motion to adopt the amended minutes of September 17, 2020. Accept the amended version of the minutes Kevin Braun seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.
3. Kevin Braun made a motion to adopt the minutes of October 15, 2020. Don Richardson seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.
4. Dianne Sheehan made a motion to keep the 2021 dues at the same levels as 2020. Nora Haagenon seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried. The dues are:

Total Dues	NC share (45%)	Town share (11%)	Village share (44%)	Per Village
\$53,400.00	\$24,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$23,400.00	\$1,800.00

According to the IMA, passage of the dues starts a 60-day review period during which any member can choose to leave the Committee without having to pay the 2021 dues. This period ends on January 11, 2021. If no one withdraws, the Committee will vote to finalize on 1/21.

Deonarine will send out a letter to all members notifying them of this.

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Please mark your calendars for January 21, 2021; we have to be sure of a quorum, because we will vote on several things, including dues and the IMA.

5. Seabin floating docking system discussion

On November 2, Deonarine sent the following e-mail to member representatives:

“The Seabin rep reached out to me a little while ago to see how our summer went and I informed him of the broken piling and huge setbacks from Covid. Then he responded with the below information and a system that makes the Seabin “self-floating.” The cost is \$1905 + shipping. I looked up the other system he suggested, [SlideMoor](#), and it looks like it may be a little less, but I did not pursue it more.”

After some discussion, the Committee expressed interest in looking into how helpful this would be. In advance of the next meeting, Deonarine will prepare informational sheets about the self-floating system, including a breakdown of all Seabin expenses past, present, and future. Don Richardson also offered to help with getting volunteers.

Updates & Municipal Updates:

- DEC Water quality monitoring – Deonarine submitted quarterly report to Eric Swenson, who combines all the north shore protection committees reports into one. The group hasn’t done a grant extension request yet, but DEC knows it is coming.
- Village of Baxter Estates (Mayor Nora Haagenson) – The State Environmental Bond Act was pulled from the ballot due to financial concerns; the hope is that it will be back next year. This means that the work at Baxter Beach/Shore Road is on hold. Additionally, the bottom cage is slowly crumbling in the gabion wall that Nassau County put in about 30 years ago. Nora Haagenson has spoken to both the County and the sewer district about this.
- Town of N Hempstead (Kevin Braun) – dredging has commenced at Manorhaven boat ramp.

End of Committee business; meeting recording was paused.

Special Presentation: Katherine Coughlin, Water Quality Improvement Coordinator at North Shore Land Alliance (10-15 minutes): *Restore our Bays: Applying Innovative Advanced Nitrogen Reducing Technologies to Long Island Septic Systems*

Christopher Clapp of The Nature Conservancy gave a brief introduction. He explained that over 50% of the nitrogen coming into Manhasset Bay is from cesspools and septic systems. In order to achieve water quality goals, we require a 42-50% reduction in nitrogen. The pathogen (bacteria) problems in the Bay are also co-related with septic loads.

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Katherine Coughlin then started the presentation by giving background on environmental impacts of nitrogen. New York State has given Nassau County \$1 million for a grant program of up to \$10,000 for homeowners to install Innovative Advanced “IA” septic tanks in high priority areas. Suffolk County has tested these systems and shown that they worked out, reducing nitrogen inputs to groundwater by up to 70%. She pointed out that these systems can last more than 40 years (double the life of a traditional system), the service is easy and inexpensive, and they can improve property value (13-19% more).

On average, these systems cost ~\$20K (but it fluctuates on a case-by-case basis). The State grant will pay up to \$10K (up to 50%). If their cesspool fails, homeowners can get expedited approval (almost overnight).

Nassau County is prioritizing areas with short travel times for septic water to reach surface water (the Bay). These are areas that fall in the 0-2 year or the 0-5 year travel time. Deonarine suggested the Plandomes as these Villages fall in those travel times and there are high bacteria counts in that area of the Bay.

Nassau County holds the grant and has contracted with the Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District to administer the grant. Coughlin’s position is funded through a grant from the Long Island Sound Futures Fund. Coughlin will help homeowners with all steps of the process. She will also begin public outreach presentations in next few weeks to build momentum and gauge interest. As such, she is looking for locations to do presentations. Don Richardson expressed interest in having her present at a Village of Plandome board meeting, especially if they decide to add these installations to their code.

Upcoming meetings and events:

- Next meeting: **January 21**, February 25, March 18
- On-going: beach clean-up on your own until the end of the year

Don made a motion to adjourn at 8:49pm

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