



Manhasset Bay Protection Committee

Minutes: January 19, 2023, 7:30pm
Port Washington Library, Lapham Room
One Library Dr., Port Washington

Attendance: Bob Keane (Chairman, Port Washington North), Kevin Braun (Town of North Hempstead), Kristina Lobosco (Plandome Heights), Maria Branco (Baxter Estates, alternate), Carey Ye (Kensington), Tom Lang (Plandome Manor), Samantha Wilder (Intern; IEC), Annie Mendelson (Great Neck), Don Richardson (Plandome), Mike Ertel (Sands Point), Mary Arnold (DEC), Sarah Schaefer-Brown (NYSG), Emily Hadzopulos (Seatuck Environmental Association), Councilmember Dalimonte (District 6), Sarah Deonarine (Director)

Meeting was called to order at 7:40pm with a quorum in attendance.

Note: Action items are in **yellow highlight**. *Motions are in italicized underline.*

Discussion & Motion points:

1. *Mike Ertel made a motion to set the 2023 Committee dues at the same levels, making the total dues to be collected \$53,400.00, broken down as \$24,000 from Nassau County; \$6,000 from the Town of North Hempstead, and \$1,800 from each Village.* Don Richardson seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Discussion: Each member municipality now has sixty (60) days to review, comment, or withdraw from the Committee. At the end of the sixty (60) day review period, on March 13, 2023, the dues are established. The dues will be finalized at the Committee's March 16th meeting. If you do not withdraw, your municipality is thereby consenting and will be responsible for the 2023 dues.

2. *Maria Branco made a motion to increase the motion of 11/3/2022 by \$66 to purchase reusable bags and silicone straws as table giveaways for educational events at a cost of \$1,815.99.* Mike Ertel seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.
3. *Maria Branco made a motion to adopt the minutes of November 3, 2022.* Don Richardson seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

- Sarah Deonarine, Executive Director •
- Email: mbpcExec@gmail.com •
- manhassetbay.net •

4. Kevin Braun made a motion to accept the Initial Vision Statement and Watershed Goals for the WQIP¹. Don Richardson seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.
Discussion: this is not final, it is expected that these will change as the WQIP is developed. Other updates:
 - a. NPV has started framing out the public outreach plan
 - b. They have also looked at the list of projects from the 1999 Plan and would like to update that information
5. Mike Ertel made a motion to set the Spring 2023 meeting dates (Thursdays at 7:30pm) as: February 9th, March 16th, April 20th, May 11th, June 8th. All were in favor and the motion carried.
6. DEC²/Marcellino water quality monitoring grant updates: the 2016 – 2021 and 2022 DUARs³ were approved by DEC.

Nassau Co. Culvert Connectivity Project – Emily Hadzopolous from Seatuck Environmental Association gave a presentation on their on-going project. This past summer Seatuck did Phase I of the project and they're moving into Phase II, but there is still time this spring to gather information about culverts they missed. This project is focused on wildlife protection and habitat restoration by focusing on culverts (both tidal and non-tidal) and identifying which need upgrading.

Benefits of “right-sizing” or upgrading culverts – culverts are blocked or too small, keeping animals and water from moving. They want to make culverts more stream-like so they properly move wildlife, water, and sediment (Seatuck is focused on protecting diadromous fish species – those species that migrate up and down stream). Right-sized culverts improve aquatic organism passage, terrestrial organism passage, resiliency to flooding and storm surge, and also lead to repaired and upgraded roads.

Project goals: locate all culverts or stream crossings; assess for condition, size, etc; prioritize for upgrade; integrate their map with TNC's atlas. Locating culverts was very difficult, not all are mapped. An intern used aerial footage and stream lines to identify additional culverts (added 273).

¹ Water Quality Improvement Plan; funded by a grant from NYS Department of State

² NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

³ Data Usability Assessment Report

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They assessed almost 300 culverts May – August 2022. Staff had to physically do the assessments in person. They still have the capacity to do assessments this spring & summer, but they will be moving into Phase II. **Please send list of culverts to Deonarine, who will compile and send to Seatuck.**

Seatuck's next steps: cleaning up data and assessing any culverts that are missed (ideal window of spring – summer 2023). Then they will bring on a GIS consultant this year to integrate this data into the TNC atlas with the goal of having it complete by the end of this year; then they advocate for culvert upgrades.

NYSDEC Success Stories Webinar – Mary Arnold (NYSDEC) gave a brief overview of a new forthcoming webinar that focuses on grant experiences and success stories of municipalities (all over the State). The first one will be on March 1st at 1pm and she will send out a save-the-date. If anyone has any questions before the webinar – send them to Mary Arnold (or to Deonarine and she can forward). Arnold also announced that Sarah Healy is the new DEC LINAP Coordinator.

IEC & LI Sound Pathogen Monitoring Program – Samantha Wilder (IEC/MBPC) gave a brief overview of IEC's monitoring. IEC (Interstate Environmental Commission) has two monitoring programs with sites in Manhasset Bay:

- Long Island Sound Monitoring Program – is a long-term program funded by the Long Island Sound Study that has been in existence for a while. They monitor 22 sites throughout the western Sound and collaborate with CTDEEP⁴. A report goes out at the end of the year.
- Unified Water Study – Started more recently and coordinated by Save the Sound as a way to standardize monitoring procedures across the Sound. They have 11 separate sites in Manhasset Bay. Measurements are taken within 3 hours of sunrise. Save the Sound then handles the data and produces their biannual report card.

IEC also assists in coordinating volunteer pathogen monitoring programs – the volunteers are trained by Wilder. This year, IEC is beginning a Long Island Sound Pathogen Monitoring Network. The first tier is to get groups that don't monitor pathogens currently to start monitoring pathogens this year. Then, in 2024, they will coordinate with other groups across Long Island Sound (such as MBPC) and use the data to target actions to reduce pathogens.

⁴ Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

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Updates, Reminders, & Municipal Updates:

- As a reminder, the MS4 reporting year is ending on March 9th – now is a good time to have your municipality look at last year’s report and make sure you have taken the actions last year’s report outlined.
- Shellfish Seeding Steering Committee – the Committee is working on a workplan that will go into the grant application.
- Army Corps Surge Barriers – ACE is now holding public meetings, but so far none are on Long Island.
- Nassau S.E.P.T.I.C. program – the Committee received a letter thanking us for our support of the program and alerted us that the County did, indeed, match funding and the program will continue.
- LINAP⁵ and WAC⁶ -- no updates
- Village of Great Neck (Annie Mendelson): The Village is looking to compost food waste. The Mayor has even talked about the possibility of allowing chickens.
- Grant Writing Assistance Program (Sarah Shaefer Brown): The program is now open for applications.
- Town of North Hempstead (Councilmember Dalimonte, District 6): The Town is looking to doing two more oyster programs this year and they are working with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk. The Town is going to place another 1 million spat-on-shell oysters in Manhasset Bay. They are also looking into collecting oyster shells (shell recycling program). The Town is also looking for somebody to help take on a project to collect addresses of all the places around Manhasset Bay to target to do oyster cultivation off the dock. Reach out to Councilmember Dalimonte if you or someone you know is interested.

Upcoming meetings and events:

- Upcoming meetings: February 9th, March 16th, April 20th

⁵ Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan – State initiative

⁶ Town’s Waterfront Advisory Committee, MBPC is a member

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November 2022 Update

Manhasset Bay Protection Committee

QAPP and Water Quality Monitoring

NYSDEC¹ approved the Committee's 2016 – 2021 Data Usability Assessment Report (DUAR)! The Committee is now busy completing the water quality reports for 2016 – 2021 and 2022. The Committee's consultant, Dvirka & Bartilucci, is working on the DUAR for the 2022 sampling season. This work is reimbursable by a State DEC grant; to date, the Committee has received over \$30,000 in reimbursements from the grant.

WQIP²

John Ellsworth from Nelson, Pope, and Voorhis attended the November Committee meeting. Meeting minutes can be found on the Committee's [website](#). The Director has begun work on the first payment request from NYSDOS.

WAC³

NYS DEC just recently released and executed their new General Permit, GP-1-22-001, which allows for "refacing" existing bulkheads with corrugated material that results in no more than 8" inch seaward expansion. This will allow the existing bulkhead at Town Dock to remain in place resulting in less demolition work, theoretically less time to complete the work, and provide significant cost savings to the Town (State/FEMA). Town Dock will also be more accessible during construction under this new allowance. Details are still developing.

LINAP⁴

Nassau 9 Element Plan

No updates.

Solute Transport Work Group

The work group met virtually on November 16th and discussed potential nitrogen reduction scenarios to be modeled. This work is funded by the Long Island Sound Study, so it is specific to the LIS watershed.

¹ NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

² NYS Department of State-funded project to develop a Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP) for Manhasset Bay

³ Town of North Hempstead's Waterfront Advisory Committee

⁴ State-funded Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan; MBPC is a Stakeholder

Shellfish Steering Committee

The steering committee's first meeting was November 18th. The steering committee was formed to address an appropriation from Congressperson Suozzi to seed north shore bays. Both Sarah Deonarine and Kevin Braun from the MBPC are serving on this steering committee.

Long Island Sound Study (LISS)

MBPC is a member of the LISS's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and participates on a few LISS work groups.

CAC Meeting

The next CAC quarterly meeting is in December.

Watersheds and Embayments Work Group

The work group met virtually on November 9th. Chet Arnold and Qian "Rachel" Lei-Parent from UConn CLEAR⁵ presented on their new land use tool⁶ that can be used to assess watershed health, but only in CT. The tool can be used to simulate how water quality is impacted by changes in land cover (i.e., adding or subtracting development) and that can be used to inform decision making and planning. The tool is meant to be used to find the acceptable balance between human and natural land uses. There was interest from the NY side to see this expanded into NY.

Equinor & Beacon Wind

<https://beaconwind.com/>

No updates, BUT there could possibly be another cable coming down the Sound, as well. On November 29th, Ørsted met virtually with the same group of Long Island Sound stakeholders about their plan to submit a proposal in response to a NYSERDA⁷ [RFP](#) for more wind energy. The wind energy would come via LIS from existing lease areas near MA and RI. They are still investigating landing locations, but their plan would be to stay all within NY waters in LIS. This is a joint venture between Ørsted and Eversource. Ørsted was the first wind farm owner/operator worldwide (1991), but also in the nation (off RI). Currently they have two projects in NY: South Fork Wind (NY's first offshore wind farm, currently under construction that will be operational end of next year) and Sunrise Wind.

The stakeholder comments were all similar in expressing a concern that these projects wouldn't co-locate or be able to work together. Someone commented that NYSERDA recognized this and that there are limited points of connection and that they do want to limit the number of cables,

⁵ University of Connecticut's Center for Land use Education and Research

⁶ The tool can be accessed here: <https://clear.uconn.edu/2022/10/21/a-new-tool-to-assess-watershed-health-in-ct/>

⁷ NYS Energy Research and Development Authority: established in 1935, it is a NYS public benefit corporation (from Wikipedia)

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but not many details were given on that. This is a developing project and Ørsted has not been awarded the contract – they’re still applying.

Nassau S.E.P.T.I.C. grant program

NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation has approved an additional \$2 million for this program and the County again matched this funding so that the program can continue through 2026.

Nassau County Culvert Connectivity Project

Seatuck will give a presentation of their Phase I findings at the Committee’s January 19, 2023 meeting at the Port Washington Library.

Army Corps’

The US Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) has released their *Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)* for public comment. The Committee intends to submit a comment letter. Their upcoming public meetings are posted to their [website](#).

New DEC MS4 permit

No update.

New DEC Pathogen TMDL

No update, but Manhasset Bay would be one of the last embayments with said TMDL.

2022 Advanced Notice of Proposed Rule Making (ANPRM) – Saline Waters Reclassification⁸

The Committee provided comments.

Seabin

No updates

⁸ <https://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/125679.html>



December 2022 Update

Manhasset Bay Protection Committee

QAPP and Water Quality Monitoring

NYSDEC¹ approved the Committee's 2022 Data Usability Assessment Report (DUAR; now both reports are complete)! This work is reimbursable by a State grant administered by NYSDEC; to date, the Committee has received over \$30,000 in reimbursements from the grant. The Director participated in a call between the Protection Committees and NYSDEC on December 6th to discuss progress on the grant.

Work has begun in earnest on the water quality reports for 2016 – 2021 and 2022. The DUARs have directed what data can and cannot be used and the report covering 2016 – 2021 is taking that into consideration in the analysis. In anticipation of these reports, the Committee has a new page (still under development) for the water quality monitoring program and reports. It can be accessed here:

<https://manhassetbayprotectioncommittee.org/water-quality.html>

WQIP²

Nelson, Pope, and Voorhis incorporated both the Committee's and NYSDOS's comments/edits on the Initial Vision and Watershed Goals. These will be voted on at the Committee's January 19th meeting. The Director completed and submitted the status report and quarterly MWBE report. The Director began working on the project's first payment request from NYSDOS³ in November. The reporting required for the payment request is quite extensive and has rolled over into yet another month, making the anticipated completion date January 31, 2023. It is unknown how long it will take NYSDOS to review the payment request and make the payment. As a reminder, this grant is paid through reimbursement only, so the Committee is required to make payments first and then seek reimbursement with a lag of several months.

Shellfish Steering Committee

The steering committee was formed to address an appropriation from Congressperson Suozzi to seed north shore bays. Both Sarah Deonarine and Kevin Braun from the MBPC are serving on this steering committee. The grant is not yet in hand, but could bring as much as \$100,000 to Manhasset Bay for seeding.

¹ NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

² NYS Department of State-funded project to develop a Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP) for Manhasset Bay

³ NYS Department of State

Long Island Sound Study (LISS)

MBPC is a member of LISS's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and participates on a few LISS work groups.

CAC Meeting

The CAC held their quarterly meeting virtually on December 8, 2022. The CAC took a unanimous vote, which accepted Groton, CT as a new member on the CAC. The CAC discussed the LISS Management Committee and things happening with LISS. There is a plan to rebrand the LISS, because "study" does not indicate how much implementation and other work is actually undertaken. The LISS will also hire new communications staff.

DEC LINAP staff went over a new "Funding Finder" tool available on the LINAP page. There isn't long-term funding to keep it updated, so be sure to check the "current as of" date when using the tool.

The CAC's Policy Sub-committee also gave some updates: the IRS is finally withdrawing the taxation of advanced septic systems grants! It was a long process which required the USDA to first rule that the IA systems are good for soil and water quality. In other good news, the NYS Environmental Bond Act passed with 67% of the vote.

At the time of the meeting, the Restore America's Estuaries conference had just happened and the CAC co-chairs had attended. There was a lot of discussion of the recent (as of the past few years) large influx of federal dollars into important environmental programs (such as LISS and NOAA⁴) and the need to brand this as the new normal for conservation and this is what should have been available all along since there is so much work to be done.

1st Annual LIS Sustainable & Resilient Communities Workshop

The first annual Long Island Sound Bi-State Sustainable and Resilient Communities Workshop was held virtually on Dec. 1, 2022. This was in direct response to the findings of a needs assessment conducted by SRC Extension Professionals. The workshop covered the needs assessment findings and recommendations, the newly released Long Island Sound Resilience Grant Writing Assistance Program, tips for success with Long Island Sound funding opportunities, shoreline planning and implementation, using green infrastructure for stormwater management, sustainable climate planning for relocation, and new sustainability/resilience tools available in both New York and Connecticut. Recordings of the workshop are available on the SRC website: [Sustainable & Resilient Communities Workshop - Long Island Sound Study](#)

Watersheds and Embayments Work Group; Equinor & Beacon Wind

No updates (<https://beaconwind.com/>)

⁴ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association

Dec 2022 Update

Nassau S.E.P.T.I.C. grant program

No updates, but the program has funding through 2026.

Nassau County Culvert Connectivity Project

Seatuck will give a presentation of their Phase I findings at the Committee's January 19, 2023 meeting at the Port Washington Library.

Army Corps'

The US Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) has released their *Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)* for public comment. The Committee intends to submit a comment letter. Their upcoming public meetings are posted to their [website](#). None have been announced for Long Island, but their upcoming meeting in Brooklyn on January 17th will be a hybrid virtual/in-person (there are two sessions).

WAC⁵, LINAP⁶, Seabin, New DEC MS4 permit, New DEC Pathogen TMDL

No updates

⁵ Town of North Hempstead's Waterfront Advisory Committee

⁶ State-funded Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan; MBPC is a Stakeholder