



Manhasset Bay Protection Committee

Minutes: November 16, 2023, 7:30pm
Great Neck Library, Station Branch

Attendance: Bob Keane (Chairman, Port Washington North), Kevin Braun (Town of North Hempstead), John Popeleski, (Mayor, Manorhaven), Vincent Costa (Manorhaven), Nora Haagenson (Mayor, Baxter Estates), Tom Lang (Plandome Manor), Charlie Interrante (Nassau Co), Mike Ertel (Sands Point), Ebi Victory (Kings Point), Annie Mendelson (Great Neck), Maria Branco (Baxter Estates, alternate), Carey Ye (Kensington), Samantha Wilder (Water Quality Coordinator), Bruce Bent, Sarah Deonarine (Director)

Meeting was called to order at 7:37pm with a quorum in attendance.

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

Discussion & Motion points:

1. *Ebi Victory made a motion to adopt the minutes of October 12, 2023.* Tom Lang seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.
2. Review and discussion of the WQIP¹ draft outline and Community Questionnaire from NPV.
 - a. The Committee reviewed the draft public questionnaire/survey, the purpose of which is to “gauge support, interest, and knowledge on the plan and water quality issues. The results of this could help to fund future projects and keep stakeholders engaged in overall bay stewardship.” It would be sent out after the “e-blast” announcing the public meeting sometime in the new year. It will also be used to prioritize projects and to get an idea of what the public thinks the biggest problem is. We may also be able to use it to target educational programs.
 - b. The Committee also reviewed the outline, which Deonarine had already prepared comments on by comparing it to what is required by the contract with DOS.
 - c. NPV said the first chapter will be ready for review in January (and then we’d schedule the first public meeting)
 - d. The Committee finally received the first reimbursement from DOS, which took 11 months to receive from when the payment request was first submitted. Even with that deposit, the Committee’s account is being drawn down every month after peaking in June. The Committee finished October with \$207K, but it will continue to be drawn on with upcoming expenditures.

¹ Water Quality Improvement Plan; funded by a grant from the NYS Department of State (DOS) under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund

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3. Shellfish Survey – Deonarine stated that Cashin Associates incorporated almost all of the Committee’s edits and comments on the draft. She is reviewing it one final time and asked a few others to look it over before sending it back to Cashin. The report gives maps and key points to consider in targeting areas for restoration. Again, it was very exciting to see that the Bay is and can support healthy clam populations.
4. Update on Shellfish Seeding Grant – The north shore protection committees are still awaiting the final grant award from EPA. But they did receive three proposals in response to the RFP looking for shellfish seed suppliers. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk was the only one who could provide spat-on-shell oyster seed. They also scored the highest. Each bay/harbor will receive a third of the seed available per year over the next three years (assuming the grant comes in on time).
5. Report on the outcomes of social media advertising (pushed vs. paid) – Deonarine went over the interest and responses received on social media of the past three newsletters that were posted. Ultimately, the best result is to both pay for advertising while having everyone share the post among their networks.
6. January meeting – The Town Board will not have their 2024 meeting schedule until sometime in December. **Deonarine will query the representatives for the best Thursday to meet in January.**

Updates, Reminders, & Municipal Updates:

- Marcellino/DEC grant award for water quality monitoring – officially closed
- Water quality report RFP status and Seabin – no updates
- Manorhaven Beach – group met on 10/17, but not many updates; Deonarine started going back through the 1999 WQIP as a means of prioritizing and will present a project idea at the January meeting.
- LISS CAC² -- The day before, Sarah Schaefer-Brown had organized a LISS climate resilience meeting at Manorhaven Park. It was well attended and participants seemed to get a lot out of it. Deonarine presented on a few Committee updates at the meeting.
- Nassau S.E.P.T.I.C. program has reached 100 installs. Newsday had an article on this program that came out the day of the meeting.

Upcoming meetings and events:

- Upcoming meetings: TBD

Mike Ertel made a motion to adjourn at 8:53pm.

This document was prepared with funding provided by the New York State Department of State under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund.



² Long Island Sound Study’s Citizens Advisory Committee, MBPC is a member

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