



Manhasset Bay Protection Committee

Minutes: June 8, 2023, 7:30pm
Town Hall, Supervisor's Conference Room

Attendance: Bob Keane (Chairman, Port Washington North), Charlie Interrante (Nassau Co), Nora Haagenson (Mayor, Baxter Estates), Kevin Braun (Town of North Hempstead), Don Richardson (Plandome), Tom Lang (Plandome Manor), Gary Lewandowski (Flower Hill alternate), Annie Mendelson (Great Neck), Jennifer Wilson-Pines (Manorhaven), Mike Ertel (Sands Point), Erin Molyneux (Councilmember Dalimonte's office), Samantha Wilder (Water Quality Coordinator), Bruce Bent, 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 in italicized underline.*

Discussion & Motion points:

1. *Jennifer Wilson-Pines made a motion to adopt the minutes of May 11, 2023 as corrected.* Don Richardson seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.
2. *Nora Haagenson made a motion to purchase a new pH sensor for the YSI probe at a cost not to exceed \$650.* Tom Lang seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried. Discussion: Water quality monitoring began Monday morning (June 5th) and the pH sensor was giving the wrong readings during the post-monitoring check. Worst case scenario, it needs to be replaced. The Committee had passed a motion to spend up to \$800 for the summer water quality sampling at their February meeting and around \$300 of that budget has been spent.
3. *Nora Haagenson made a motion to solicit a vendor to write an annual water quality report each year for the next three (3) years for data collected by the Committee.* Kevin Braun seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.
4. *Gary Lewandowski made a motion to send the YSI probe for manufacturer maintenance at the end of the summer at a cost not to exceed \$1,000.* Annie Mendelson seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.
5. *Kevin Braun made a motion to increase the cost for the annual boat tour by \$1,000 to a new cost not to exceed of \$4,500.* Mike Ertel seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried. Discussion: the costs for the boat and the food increased, but the Committee still feels this is an important educational and engaging event to keep the municipal members invested in the health of the Bay.

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6. Jennifer Wilson-Pines made a motion to increase the motion of May 11, 2023 for web hosting, codeguard, and weebly renewal by \$191.52 to a new total of \$1,366.68. Don Richardson seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.
Discussion: BlueHost is requiring the renewal of codeguard for five (5) years instead of the previously thought one (1) year at \$47.88/year.
7. Kevin Braun made a motion to purchase oil absorbent materials for the Bay Constables (booms, cloths, etc) at a cost not to exceed \$750. Mike Ertel seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.
8. WQIP¹ Community Outreach Plan: Tom Lang made a motion to accept and finalize the Community and Public Outreach Outline revised draft of June 6th, as edited and barring any major comments received within the next two weeks from the Committee, the Committee will then send to DOS. Nora Haagenson seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.
9. Jennifer Wilson-Pines made a motion to set a do-not-exceed budget of \$500 for advertising over the summer. Mike Ertel seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.
Discussion: This budget will be used to advertise on social media.
10. Gary Lewandowski made a motion that Committee has to review and send comments on the Water quality report for 2016 – 2022 by June 22nd and then it is considered final and goes to the State. Tom Lang seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Updates, Reminders, & Municipal Updates:

- Harbor Fest report: The event seemed better attended than in previous years, though not many elected officials were present. The Committee’s table was almost constantly busy, with the watershed model pulling in people (mainly families).
- “Housing Compact”: The NY Conference of Mayors is trying to form a commission to work on a plan. The Governor wants this done this year and is pushing for zoning to change to multi-family housing.
- Shellfish Density Survey: The survey started the previous Friday and the contractor, Cashin Associates, found a few sites with high densities of clams, some of which were over 22 years old. The end product is a report that will give an idea of the best places to seed oysters.
- Shellfish Seeding Grant: Eric Swenson (Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee) submitted documents to EPA and EPA is reviewing it now.
- LISS CAC²: Kevin Braun and Jennifer Wilson-Pines virtually attended the CAC’s meeting held earlier that day. The meeting was primarily focused on refining the 2015 Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan with reports from working groups and Mark Tedesco (LISS Director). LISS is now getting \$40M per year. The Committee can pursue some of that funding through the LISFF.

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

² Long Island Sound Study’s Citizens Advisory Committee

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- Village of Baxter Estates (Nora Haagenon): Nassau County is replacing the pavers at Baxter Pond.
- Town of North Hempstead (Erin Molyneaux): The Town is starting a shell recycling program. Seatuck recommended the Town partner with a local organization for it, so the Town contacted the Science Museum of Long Island (SMLI) and they found volunteers. Will start with 3 restaurants in the beginning to see how it goes. The idea is that the volunteers will go every week to collect the shells from the restaurants. Then the shells will cure for 6-12 months at SWMA and, afterwards, Cornell Cooperative Extension will reuse them. The program will collect all the shells, no matter the species.
- The Community Chest of Port Washington's annual Kayak Run is on July 22nd – they do this in conjunction with the Town. It takes off from Town Dock and goes all over Manhasset Bay. You can bring your own kayak or rent (with a discount). Registration is on their website.
- Albany Update (Jennifer Wilson-Pines): There is a Bill in the State that would allow dogs on State beaches and lots of groups are opposed to it.
- Town of North Hempstead (Kevin Braun): Kevin Braun will be submitting a permit for a continuation of Bay Walk trail through Baxter Estates. Baxter Beach is eroding and the sidewalk is being undermined – something Nora Haagenon has been working on for a while. Baxter Beach is part of the trail, but is not part of Town's jurisdiction, so Kevin said they could do an IMA between the Town and the Village. In 2012, Kevin Braun received a grant to expand what Port Washington North had done. The Town did a plan and design, but both DOS and DEC said they couldn't do certain elements. Went back to design, now Kevin Braun thinks they're to a place where DEC & DOS will accept it. The Town also has grants for construction.

Upcoming meetings and events:

- Boat tour is on June 28th
- Upcoming meetings: TBD
- Baywalk Beach Clean-up with Kostal Paddle – date TBD

Mike Ertel made motion to adjourn at 8:41pm.

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Updated: 9/13/2023