



Manhasset Bay Protection Committee

Minutes: January 18, 2024, 7:30pm
Town Hall, Supervisor's Conference Room
220 Plandome Rd, Manhasset

Attendance: Bob Keane (Chairman, Port Washington North), Kevin Braun (Town of North Hempstead), Mike Ertel (Sands Point), Tom Lang (Plandome Manor), Annie Mendelson (Great Neck), John Popeleski (Mayor, Manorhaven), Nora Haagenon (Mayor, Baxter Estates), Maria Branco (Baxter Estates, alternate), Carey Ye (Kensington), Samantha Wilder (Water Quality Coordinator), Chris Eagler (NYSDEC), Sarah Deonarine (Director)

The meeting was called to order at 7:41pm with a quorum in attendance

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

Discussion & Motion points:

1. *Maria Branco made a motion to adopt the minutes of November 16, 2023.* Tom Lang seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.
2. *Mike Ertel made a motion to set the 2024 Committee dues at the same levels.* Maria Branco seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Discussion:

- Total dues to be collected are \$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.
 - 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 Monday, March 18, 2024**, the dues are established. The dues will be finalized at the Committee's March 21st meeting. If you do not withdraw, your municipality is thereby consenting and will be responsible for the 2024 dues.
 - The Committee started 2023 with \$217K and finished with \$186.5K. The major expense was the shellfish density survey.
 - At a previous Committee meeting it was asked whether we could put the Committee's finances into an interest bearing account. Deonarine reviewed the IMA and item 9 says we cannot. The State also doesn't allow taxpayer money to be put it into anything that isn't secured.
 - **Deonarine will send out a letter to all the municipalities. Representatives will also talk with their municipality about the 2024 dues.**
3. A lot of time was spent discussing the new 2024 MS4 Stormwater permit (GP-0-24-001):
 - a. Effective date **January 3, 2024**

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Updated: 3/22/2024

- b. February 20th eNOI is due
 - c. **July 3rd** is the 6-month mark when several things are due
 - d. **There is NO annual report due in 2024**
 - e. Annual Report + Interim Progress Certifications
 - i. Annual reporting period now runs from January 3 to January 2 and Annual Reports are due April 1 (the first one will be due in 2025; there is no report due in June).
 - ii. Interim Progress certifications report periods are:
 - a. January 3 to June 30; due October 1 (**this is the first report due**), and
 - b. July 1 to January 2; due by April 1.
 - f. **Representatives/Members – be sure you’re in touch with whomever does your annual reporting**
4. Projects for the Committee to consider in 2024:
- a. A planning or study project at Manorhaven Beach parking lot. **Deonarine and Braun will meet separately to discuss what was done 10 years ago;** and,
 - b. An educational campaign – Maria Branco and Sarah Deonarine met with a researcher from Stony Brook University about environmental communication. Also on the call was a Manhasset High School student whom Deonarine tasked with developing posts for social media. **Deonarine will sort through the educational requirements of the new MS4 permit, meet with that group again, and then bring it to the Committee for further consideration.** It also came out that Eagle Scouts are looking for projects and several Committee reps are involved with Scouts. The recommendation came out to get scouts involved in educational campaign(s) and then be sure it’s covered by local papers. **Deonarine will reach out to Carey Ye and Mike Ertel separately about involving the scouts.** This item will be kept on the agenda.
5. Winter/Spring 2024 meetings: February 15, March 21, April TBD, May 9, June 13 – the Committee approved of these dates
6. Discussion on Educating the Town Board: At the September 2023 meeting, the Committee discussed having representatives attend the annual March Town Board meeting (March 5th, 2024) to educate the council members about the Committee and the things the Committee does. A subcommittee was formed to plan a syllabus and attend a meeting: Bob Keane, Maria Branco, Tom Lang, Kevin Braun, and Sarah Deonarine.

Updates, Reminders, & Municipal Updates:

- Committee’s Xylem YSI Handheld ProDSS probe: \$794 quote includes maintenance and replacement of DO sensor cap and pH sensor (both of which are at end of life). The Committee previously approved motions to (both on June 8, 2023):
 - a. send the YSI probe for manufacturer maintenance at a cost not to exceed \$1,000
 - b. purchase a new pH sensor for the YSI probe at a cost not to exceed \$650.
 Deonarine will approve Xylem undertaking this maintenance and repair.

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- WQIP¹ -- behind schedule with staff changes at Nelson Pope and Voorhis in addition to earlier impacts from covid, but the project is back up and running.
- Water quality report RFP status – Due to Town staff turnover, the RFP hasn't moved. So, Deonarine is tapping Maria Branco and Sam Wilder to help with data analysis and report preparation.
- Seabin – out for the winter
- Shellfish Seeding Grant – still waiting on final EPA approval
- LISS CAC² -- Branco and Deonarine were involved in testing the forthcoming LIS Resilience Resource Hub. They found it well designed with a lot of important information, however, there were past due deadlines, so it needs some updating.
- Nassau S.E.P.T.I.C. program has reached 100 installs and is still going.

Chris Eagler (NYSDEC) introduced himself at the end of the meeting. He is the new LIS regional coordinator for the State Department of Environmental Conservation in their Division of Water. The position was formerly held by Mary Arnold. His goal is to build and develop municipal partnerships to get water quality projects done. He is available to help connect projects with funding and to provide information.

Upcoming meetings and events:

- January 22nd; 1 – 3pm: DEC virtual meeting about MS4 General Permit
- Next Meeting: February 15th
- February 20th: eNOI due
- Upcoming meetings: March 21, April TBD, May 9, June 13

Mike Ertel made a motion to adjourn at 9:09pm.

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