



Approved Minutes

MBPC Meeting

May 5, 7:30 P.M., TNH Law Library

Present: Patrice Benneward, Director; Jennifer Wilson-Pines (Manorhaven), Chairperson; Members Jim Davis (Kings Point), Kevin Braun (TNH), Fred Pollack (TNH), Ken Arnold (NC), Mike Prounis (Plandome Manor), Bob Keane (Port Washington North), Shaesta Waheed (Sands Point), Matt Tameris (Plandome); Liaisons Joel Ziev (TNH), Tricia Moslin (Great Neck), David Laurie (GN Pollution Control District), Ruth Tamarin (GN Park District)

The minutes of the meeting held on 1/27 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Patrice Benneward reported that the DEC Bond Act Grant for signage around Manhasset Bay has been successful.

Patrice reported that MBPC submitted an application to the Nassau County Bond Act program for stormwater improvements in Manhasset Valley and Whitney Pond parks.

Patrice set up the display that she prepared highlighting the activities that member municipalities conduct to mitigate stormwater runoff. Patrice reported that she and Bob Keane manned the display at the Great Neck Fair, utilizing a display board borrowed from the NC Soil and Water Conservation Service. Patrice also prepared and distributed a new poop scoop brochure based on a flashier, more expensive piece created by the Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee. She also prepared two other low-cost flyers (one about controlling geese and the other on water-quality-friendly household practices) that were distributed. The display can be used at Harborfest, as well.

Patrice reported that the MBPC Stormwater Report was distributed and asked MBPC members to call it to the attention of the appropriate persons in their municipalities. Ken Arnold reported that he still needs participating letters from several municipalities (Baxter Estates, Kensington, Thomaston, Plandome Heights, Plandome Manor, and Munsey Park) to document their participation in the county's stormwater program. He also reported that Port Washington North and TNH will participate in model ordinance research that the county is preparing. Ken reminded members that municipalities can reference the county stormwater report in their individual municipal stormwater reports. Ken delivered a box of stormwater education materials that the county printed for distribution at Harborfest and other events. Ken reported that the county is holding a poster contest. Information is available on the website.

Shasta Waheed showed a copy of one of her paintings and suggested giving some copies away at HarborFest. It was decided she would make some copies, laminate them, and we would conduct a free raffle.

Patrice reported that Plandome Heights is conducting a home survey of household practices that affect stormwater runoff.

MUNICIPAL REPORTS

Joel Ziev reported that TNH has passed a resolution endorsing the need for state and local control over projects in the Sound, such as the liquid natural gas terminal proposed in waters to the east. The federal government has instituted policies aimed at decreasing local control. Many advocacy groups have already taken a position against the terminal. Most of the gas that would be brought in would apparently be used in NYS. This new fuel represents additional capacity; it does not replace the existing supply. The market would decide where the gas is ultimately used. One reason why a floating LNG terminal appeals to some is that a gas fire accident has less environmental impact than an oil fire accident, largely because gas dissipates well while oil does not. The key issue with regard to the terminal is the industrialization of the sound. There also are significant security concerns because the coast guard is likely to be responsible for security and is not likely to receive additional resources. A final report is expected by September 2006.

Joel reported that water quality testing in the bay should start as planned, possibly on June 1, and continue through September. This year, there will be five sampling locations (up from 2). The samples will be taken one day a week, probably on Tuesday mornings. The county will pick up the samples at the town dock rather than at Tappen Beach, saving a good deal of time and effort for the sampling team. Results are usually available about 3 days after testing. Patrice reminded Joel that a reporter at the Great Neck Record is interested in doing a story and possibly accompanying the sample team. David Lurie reported that the GN pollution control district tested at many locations on one day in Sept, including mud.

Joel reported there are tentative plans for a kayak regatta in August and suggested that there may be a way for MBPC to participate. Matt Tamares said he will explore setting something up involving Plandome.

Kevin Braun reported that TNH has received several grants for major Manhasset Bay projects, including the bay walk and blue way trails. Port Washington North has also received a major Phase II implementation grant.

Jennifer reported that a design report based on the Port Washington visioning process is anticipated shortly and another public meeting may be held in June. Much interest in the waterfront was expressed during visioning meetings.

There was general discussion about activity along East Shore Road in Thomaston, where several members said the Equinox health club is building a facility. Several members and Ruth Tamarin wondered if there is any land in that area that is still owned by the town.

Jim Davis reported on waterfront construction of a single family home in Kings Point just over the Great Neck line. The project includes dry wells, a septic tank with leeching pools, and a swimming pool. Jim reported that most if not all approvals are in. David expressed the pollution control district's concern that the district's bacteria levels may sometimes be elevated due to the new septic system.

OLD BUSINESS

Patrice reported that about half of the members have paid their dues and that she is working on the county claim.

Patrice reported that she continues to work on the program plan for the DEC Bond Act Phase II Implementation Grant. Projects include expanded/redesigned web site; print and/or reprinting literature; bilge sock distribution; pesticide-free workshop for landscapers; home survey; TV spot for TNH channel, PowerPoint presentation; beach cleanup support; changing displays and exhibits, sound garden signage; bilge sock distribution; and a curriculum. We've already purchased a canopy and 150 bilge socks. The canopy can be used to shelter us and our materials

from the sun or rain at outdoor events. 25 bilge socks have been given to Mal. We plan to distribute some at spring events and to deliver most of the remainder to Mal around July 1. Ken said that the county can help out with the pesticide-free component.

Patrice reported that the LISS contract, the grant to produce the portable display that Jake Eisenman has been working on, has finally been executed. Jennifer passed around a rough mock up of the design Jake Eisenman has been working on. Another component of the grant is an essay contest that will be for kids who are 12 years of age, when life preservers are no longer mandatory. The prize will be a tour of the bay with the bay constable and a meal or snacks at the PW Yacht Club for the winner, 3 friends, and a parent or guardian arranged by Mike Prounis. The judges will be three local writers. We'll recruit the entries thru the fall, make the decision in the winter, and award the prize as early in the spring as practical.

Patrice reported on ongoing projects:

Storm Drain Marking—The markers are in, as are all permission forms except the one for TNH. The markers will be distributed shortly. We've received partial reimbursement.

Stannards Brook Testing—We've chosen a subcontractor (EEA of Stony Brook) and are waiting for a go ahead from the state. We've received partial reimbursement.

Data Analysis Project—This grant was successfully renewed. The project plan is ready and waiting for an RFP.

Native Plant Garden—Help is needed to locate a gardener and confirming whether they can work in TNH.

Display/Exhibit, Handout, Activity Ideas/Equipment: We have purchased a canopy that can be used as shelter from the sun and rain. We'll soon have the pop up display, as well as a fabric display board for changing items. Ideas mentioned for changing displays and materials are: a photo exhibit with a "what is this" theme; reprinting the stormwater crossword placemat in both placemat size and floor mat size (and perhaps even selling a placemat-sized version of the crossword and/or any other games that might work); selling a stuffed animal (like Swimbee) and linking the sale with a matching program; locating or designing coloring, maze, connect-the-dot, and other types of activity handouts with water quality themes.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, June 16, TNH.