

MINUTES

MEETING ON GLEN COVE CREEK DISCHARGES

April 12, 2007
Glen Cove City Hall
10:00 am to 12:00 noon

ATTENDEES:

Hon. Ralph V. Suozzi, Mayor
Cara Longworth, Glen Cove CDA and IDA
Tony Conetta, Dvirka & Bartilucci (for Glen Cove)
Kelly Morris, Glen Cove Mayor's Office
Mike Salentino, Glen Cove DPW
Tim Kelly, Nassau County DPW
Carol DiPaolo, Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor
Eric Swenson, Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee
Danielle Oglesby, Glen Cove CDA
Tony Leung, NYS DEC
Eileen Keenan, NY Sea Grant / NEMO Program

DISCUSSION:

Mayor Suozzi welcomed the attendees and set the tone by stating that "we're here to solve the problem" and thanked all for coming. The attendees then introduced themselves.

Eric Swenson then explained that the Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee was created to assist in situations like this – that the purpose of the Committee is to bring various government bodies together to address problems and share solutions to improve the water quality in the harbor.

Carol DiPaolo gave a history of the problem. She explained that in 1999, she expanded the monitoring program by adding a station by the sewage treatment plant (STP) outfall. During sampling at this station toward the end of the 2004 monitoring season, she began noticing the flows and finding high bacteria levels. She looked at what had changed, and it turned out that a set of floating docks was installed in the vicinity of this and two other discharge pipes. With the floating docks, it was now possible to access this area. Another reason why these pipes were not discovered earlier is the fact that they are only exposed at low tide. There are three pipes in this area:

Pipe # 1 – a 60" outfall pipe owned by Nassau County, from which a flow is frequently noted and which is visible even under water, because the flow out of the pipe is a different color (grayish) from the creek water. The underwater flow from the pipe is often strong enough to disturb the surface of the creek water. Pipe # 1 runs under the property of the Steamboat Landing restaurant at the west end of the metal bulkhead. Note that the restaurant is reportedly closed from October through May.

Pipe # 2 - a 15" outfall pipe, through which a flow of some sort of sludge had been noted on one occasion as well as occasional flows under pressure with a pump of some sort being heard. A medium flow of water from the pipe is frequently noted. Pipe # 2 runs under the fence line between the STP and the restaurant.

Pipe # 3 – the STP discharge pipe. Pipe # 3 is under the STP property.

After the health department did an analysis of samples taken from Pipes 1 and 2 and found high levels of bacteria, Carol, after consulting with John Jacobs, established regular monitoring stations at these pipes, along with two additional sampling stations toward the head of the creek, which helped to rule out the high bacteria coming from higher up in the creek.

Tony Conetta reported that Severn Trent has performed dye testing at the STP bathroom and locker facilities and that these did not show up in these discharge pipes. Severn Trent also did some flow measurements at Pipe # 2 and found that it normally discharges at the rate of 1.5 gallons per minute. They have also reviewed the plans for the plant and found that the floor drains at the STP are not connected to the outfall pipe.

He stated that he is more concerned with some discharges occurring on the north side of the creek though a 12" outfall (Pipe # 6) and a 24" outfall (Pipe # 8). On several occasions, a heavy and turbid flow was noted from Pipe # 8. Originally it was thought that the flow was attributed to a broken water main, but it continued after the water main was repaired.

Back to the discussion of the pipes on the south side, Tony pointed out that they have found extensive raccoon droppings in some catch basins which could contribute to coliform bacteria levels. They intend to hang "brightener pads" in the pipe during a dry period which after becoming saturated would be exposed to ultraviolet light. This could help determine if the bacteria in the discharge are of human or animal origin.

Carol agreed to provide Tony Conetta with information on the date that she observed the sludge coming from Pipe # 2 so that Tony can compare it to operational records at the STP.

Tim Kelly asked if Severn Trent could perform TV surveillance in the lines to determine if there are any connections which do not show up on the plans. Tony responded that this equipment would need to be rented and that it could cost in excess of \$ 5,000.00.

Mayor Suozzi suggested monitoring the outfall pipe for a day to see what times of day the discharge surges. Tim suggested that a flow meter and possibly an ISCO sampler could be installed to monitor this and collect samples automatically. Again, it was pointed out that these devices would need to be rented.

Tony suggested that the Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee through one of its members might want to apply for a grant to develop harbor-wide illicit discharge detection and elimination protocols and to purchase the necessary equipment including TV camera surveillance system, a flow meter, bleaching pads and dye. These could then be used by each of the member municipalities. The grant should also include training in the use of this equipment. It was pointed out that this was not being suggested specifically for the problems in the creek but more for future problems.

Tim stated that both the County Health Department and the City would each have jurisdiction to perform dye testing at the restaurant. Carol pointed out that the health department had agreed to perform dye testing of the restaurant but that it has not been scheduled to date. It was agreed that the Mayor would write to the Health Department requesting that this be scheduled. As a fallback, the City would do the testing itself.

Tony Conetta suggested that another alternative would be to plug the pipe and see where it backs up. This would only be done during dry weather and the owners of nearby structures would be put on notice.

Another suggestion might be to connect this discharge pipe back to the STP so that its discharge is treated.

It was agreed that the use of TV surveillance would only be tried after other measures are tried first.

The discussion then turned to other possible contributors to these and other problems in the area including:

- Glen Cove solid waste transfer station
- Glen Cove DPW yard
- Rason Asphalt plant
- Doxey site
- Marina pump out station

Tony Conetta pointed out that there was a hole in the roof at the transfer station and that a lot of bird deposits could be contributing to coliform levels. It is unclear as to where their parking lot drains end up. Eric pointed out that Oyster Bay has had a lot of success in keeping birds out of its transfer station by stringing wires on poles above the facility. The wires apparently interfere with the birds' sonar and they are afraid to fly through them.

On the DPW site, it does not appear to be connected to these discharge pipes but the city will look into its practices there including truck washing. It was suggested that a truck wash could be incorporated into the STP so that the wash water would then go through the treatment plant.

It was pointed out that Rason Asphalt has a sump pump that pumps out its storm drains which apparently are clogged. Tony Conetta stated that while sump pumps that pump water out of basements (due to high water table, etc) are permissible under state regulations) but that pumping water that they generate is not permissible and he believed that the facility falls under the Phase I stormwater requirements. Tony Leung stated that this discharge may be a tidal wetlands issue. Danielle offered to provide information about this site to Tony Leung and he will look into whether DEC has jurisdiction to assist in this matter.

Carol mentioned that soil had been piled up to the edge of the bulkhead in areas on both the north and south sides of the creek, including on the Doxey site and near the Nassau County DPW site and that this has washed into the creek. Cara mentioned that the City's IDA has recently taken over this site through eminent domain and that the

dredging in the creek has now been completed so that the sediment issue may have been resolved.

Tony Conetta asked if either of the two marinas have pumpout stations, and Eric responded that he believed that Jude Thaddeus had one but that Brewer's did not. He agreed to double check and advise if this was the case. NOTE: it was the other way around. Brewer's Marina has a pumpout station that is reportedly connected to the STP. Tony suggested that this be checked to make sure that the contractor did not inadvertently connect the pumpout to the stormwater line instead.

Carol then asked about the status of the studies that were being conducted on both sides of the creek. Tony Conetta explained that the south side study is nearly complete but noted that it addresses what is currently there and does not deal with illicit discharges. Sidney B. Bowne and Cameron Engineering are doing mapping. Tony will advise us when the study is completed. On the north side, they are currently awaiting water and sediment sampling results. Because the lines were frozen until the end of February, it was not possible to collect samples until recently. There are boulders in the line that need to be removed but these cannot be addressed until the sampling results come back and it is determined to be safe to do so.

It was agreed that Carol will continue to monitor the same stations and that Tony Conetta will look into obtaining a 15' extension pole sampler for Carol in order to assist in collection of samples on the north side of the creek. Alternatively, it may be possible to obtain one through the health department.

Eileen Keenan asked if Dvirka and Bartilucci is overseeing the City's overall illicit discharge detection program. Tony Conetta explained that the city has prepared an illicit discharge ordinance which is currently being reviewed and that approximately a dozen forms have been developed to be used in detection and inspections.

It was agreed that we would meet again on June 7th at 10:30 am at the same location unless the source is identified sooner, in which case, we will reconvene at that time.