

# HEMPSTEAD HARBOR PROTECTION COMMITTEE

## FINAL MEETING MINUTES

Sea Cliff Village Hall

January 6, 2016

NOTE: **ACTION ITEMS ARE IN BOLD HIGHLIGHTED UNDERLINED ITALICS.** MOTIONS ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN BLUE

**Attendees:** Tom Powell (Chair – Sea Cliff); Eric Swenson (Executive Director); Abby Kurlender (Roslyn Harbor); Catherine Chester (Sands Point); Dan Fucci (Nassau County); Tab Hauser (Glen Cove); and Jennifer Wilson Pines (representing Nassau County Legislator Delia DeRiggi Whitton)

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:10 pm.

### Review and Approval of Draft Minutes of Meeting of November 18, 2015

Tab Hauser moved to approve the minutes of the November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015 meeting minutes. Catherine Chester seconded the motion. The Committee unanimously approved them.

### Administrative Matters

**Member Dues** – Eric reported that he had reviewed the Committee’s current financial status and expected revenue and expenses for the coming year and felt confident with maintaining the 2016 member dues at the same rates as for 2015. He also stated that he and Tom Powell had met with Carol DiPaolo and Fuss & O’Neill (who assists with the annual water-quality monitoring report) and that the costs to carry out the 2016/17 monitoring program could be carried out at the same rate as the 2015/16 program (\$65,000.00) which was reflected in the dues proposal (see attached chart). Abby Kurlender moved to set the 2016 proposed dues levels at the same rates as 2015. Dan Fucci seconded the motion. The Committee unanimously approved the motion. Eric reminded members that the 2016 dues must be proposed at the January meeting and adopted at the March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting and therefore, attendance at this meeting is important. Eric will send out notices of proposed dues to each municipal member. The notices will also contain an updated and detailed summary of the Committee’s activities and accomplishments. Further, Eric mentioned that he would be available to speak before any Village Board or other governing body if they have any questions or wish to be updated on the Committee’s activities.

**Washington DC Trip** - Eric stated that the Long Island Sound Study Citizen’s Advisory Committee is once again planning an advocacy trip to Washington DC, most likely in April, and requested authorization to spend up to \$750.00 for travel expenses. He noted that this was the same level of authorization approved for last year but it ended up only costing around \$250.00. Airfares are very unpredictable. Tab Hauser mentioned that

sometimes Amtrak offers very competitive rates. Eric stated that he has looked at that option in the past and would do so again. Catherine Chester moved to authorize the expenditure of up to \$750.00 on travel expenses to Washington DC. Tab Hauser seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

**Verizon WiFi Plan Change** – Eric mentioned that he has had problems staying within the WiFi data allowances for the laptop which he uses for his HHPC work. The current package costs about \$50.00 per month and provides up to 4 GB of data usage. Recently while reviewing a stormwater video, he used 3 GB of that in just 30 minutes. This has forced him to delay work on some projects until he is home and able to connect to his personal router at home. He looked into the costs for upgrading the plan and for an additional \$20.00 per month (plus taxes), he can double his allowance to 8 GB. He then asked the Committee to approve this expense. Abby Kurlender made a motion to approve an upgrade to 8 GB per month on the current Verizon plan. Dan Fucci seconded the motion and all approved.

**Representation on the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan Advisory Committee** – Eric mentioned that he has learned that the three protection committees will be asked to serve on the advisory committee for the State's Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan. This would entail two to four meetings per year. The plan is being developed by a committee headed by the NYS DEC and the L.I. Regional Planning Council with \$5 million in funding. Eric has suggested that some of this funding be used to expand the current Hempstead Harbor sewer feasibility study to the entire un-sewered area of Nassau County.

**Federal Law Prohibiting Microbeads** – Eric mentioned that President Obama has signed into law the Microbead-Free Waters Act of 2015. The act will phase out the use of microbeads in 2017 and prohibit sales of products containing them in 2018.

**New York State Funding of Wastewater and Drinking Water Infrastructure** – Eric mentioned that the L.I. Sound Study CAC and at least 28 environmental groups in New York State have initiated a campaign to get Governor Cuomo to include \$800 million in the State's 2016 /2017 budget for wastewater and drinking water infrastructure needs. This would be in addition to the \$175 million in proposed funding for this year and next year for wastewater infrastructure and the proposed increase in the Environmental Protection Fund to \$300 million in this year's fiscal budget (which will also have additional funds for wastewater). Eric has drafted a letter for municipalities to send and *will e-mail the draft letter to municipal representatives for them to pass onto their elected officials unless Eric is advised to go directly to those elected officials. Tom Powell asked and Eric agreed to send it directly to Mayor Kennedy.*

**Article on Protection Committees for Municipal Newsletters** – Eric mentioned that he and Sarah Deonarine (Executive Director of the Manhasset Bay Protection Committee) put together a short article that can be placed in Village, Town, or City newsletters explaining to residents what the Protection Committee is and what they do. *Eric will e-mail the article to municipal representatives.*

## **Scudder's Pond**

Eric reported that Allied Biological has performed its treatment of the Phragmites in the main pond (second annual treatment) and those in the rear pond (for the first time). The treatment of the rear pond was funded by the Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Eric also noted that the contract with Galvin Brothers (who performed the remediation at the pond) provides for two more years of treatment on the main pond. Since the additional work on the rear pond can most likely be “piggybacked” onto the work on the main pond like this year, this should allow us to continue receiving a substantial discount on the cost for treating the rear pond.

## **Long Island Sound Study CAC**

Eric mentioned that the CAC met on December 10<sup>th</sup> and that the highlight of the meeting was a report by Jamie Vaudrey of the University of Connecticut on the results of her nitrogen input modeling of 100 embayments along Long Island Sound. Eric's summary of that meeting is attached to, and made a part of these minutes.

## **Water Quality and Monitoring Program**

Eric noted that Carol DiPaolo was sick and unable to attend but did send him an update on the monitoring program. She is continuing the winter monitoring continues with weekly sample collection.

The November 30<sup>th</sup> report of a massive fish kill in Glen Cove Creek that was featured on News12 and CBS TV news seems to have been totally fabricated. She spoke with John Testa from Glen Cove Harbor Patrol, and he said he had people out all day that day looking for dead fish and didn't see more the dozen or so that she saw on the dock with still huge schools of live bunker at the surface throughout the creek—as she had reported. She intends to contact the CBS reporter at some point and try to understand where their information came from.

She stated that the proposed \$65,000 budget for the 2016/17 monitoring program is a safe bet for continuing the summer program with the additional stations, dealing with the additions for the new stations in the outer harbor and adding additional beach data to the annual report, as well as generating an Executive Summary and incorporating more graphics into the report.

Tab Hauser asked if there would be significant savings if the winter monitoring were to be cut out during January and February. Eric stated that it would not make too much of a difference since the winter program runs from November to May. He also mentioned that after this year, we may determine that we have enough data to cut out the winter monitoring but that at present it is too soon to know. Further, over the last winter, we were not able to get most of the samples from the Powerhouse Drain due to the demolition of the power plant and that we need to continue that sampling.

There is still uncertainty as to whether the embayment report cards will be continued and our role in a L.I. Sound report card. She believes that we will be asked to deal with refinements at an upcoming February meeting. She also felt that by this Spring, we should have enough information to see a trend for bacteria levels in Scudder's Pond.

She also mentioned that we have to deal with not only the availability of TOBAY lab facilities but also staff and boat to do weekly summer testing May through October. Eric stated that he will be outreaching to the Town of North Hempstead to determine the extent, if any, that they may be willing to assist with the summer monitoring program. Tab Hauser suggested that perhaps the Glen Cove Harbor Patrol could also assist, perhaps as a backup. He noted that they do limited patrols during the week. Carol had pointed out that at present all of her equipment is currently stored in the Town of Oyster Bay's water monitoring boat and that it is cumbersome to move it from boat to boat. If the Town's boat cannot be used on a consistent basis, she suggested that perhaps a locked container could be kept at Tappen Marina for her to store the equipment in.

*Eric will speak to the Towns of Oyster Bay and North Hempstead and the City of Glen Cove to determine the extent, if any, that each can lend to the 2016 summer program.*

### **Nassau County Soil & Water Conservation District**

Eric distributed a list of trees, shrubs and seed packets that the Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District is offering to purchase for municipalities at a reduced cost. The trees and shrubs are bare root seedlings. *If any municipality is interested in purchasing any trees, shrubs or seed packets, let Corey Humphrey know at (516) 364-5860 or [nassauswcd@optonline.net](mailto:nassauswcd@optonline.net).*

The District has also completed the production of a professional video on stormwater and will be making the rounds to interested groups to show the 30 minute version. It is anticipated that this film will be part of the agenda at the Committee's March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The raingarden at Cedarmere will be installed in either the Fall of 2016 or the Spring of 2017. The grant will also include a workshop for the public to provide training on how to design and construct raingardens.

Finally, the Long Island Envirothon this year will be held on April 20<sup>th</sup> at the USDAN Center in Wheatley Heights. The Envirothon picked up a major corporate sponsor this year – Covanta Energy. The organizers are still looking for people to serve as judges if anyone is interested.

### **Friends of Cedarmere**

Tom Powell mentioned that the Friends has been working on improving the paths on the site as well as other improvements. Eric mentioned that there will be two "pond pulls" this year – one in June and one in September and that volunteers will be needed.

## **C.E.S.P.O.O.L. Project Update**

Eric stated that the outreach strategy is nearly complete and that it is expected to be rolled out this Spring. He also stated that the Protection Committees were able to convene a meeting on December 17<sup>th</sup> with the Deputy County Executive and the County's Commissioners of Public Works and Health. A suggested list of short and long term ways in which the County can assist with the onsite septic issue was presented which the County is reviewing. All parties agreed to come up with a game plan to deal with the issue. As it happened, shortly before the meeting Newsday published an editorial praising all of the efforts on Long Island in dealing with septic wastes but the only mention of Nassau County was in regard to the Bay Park Wastewater Treatment Plan upgrades. This prompted the Protection Committees to write a letter to the editor which Newsday requested to be shortened to 200 words. A shorter version was prepared but since it really was inadequate to address the problem, the Protection Committees have asked that it be run as an Op Ed piece. Newsday is still considering whether to publish it.

## **Sewer Feasibility Study**

Eric reported that he attended a meeting on December 22<sup>nd</sup> with Nassau County DPW, County Legislator Delia DeRiggi Whitton, Sea Cliff Mayor Bruce Kennedy, the County's consultant D & B Engineers, and others to review progress on the Hempstead Harbor sewer feasibility study. The study, which was authorized at the end of September, 2015, is well underway and is about 30% complete. Information was shared and another meeting will be held in the Spring. There was also discussion on finding a way to fund the connection of the Sea Cliff business district sewer line to the Glen Cove Wastewater Treatment Plant.

## **Municipal Updates**

Glen Cove – Tab Hauser gave an update on the Mill Pond restoration. The project to dredge the pond and insert floatable debris traps is about 85% complete. Construction has ceased until the Spring when final dredging and landscaping and the installation of the floatable device traps will take place. The traps will capture debris before it can get into Glen Cove Creek and Hempstead Harbor.

He also reported that the Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) Step 3 grant. The Community Development Agency, acting on behalf of the City, requested proposals to produce a Brownfield Redevelopment Implementation Strategy for the BOA located in the Orchard neighborhood (along Cedar Swamp Road between Sea Cliff Avenue and the Glen Street railroad station). The City has retained the services of Nelson, Pope & Voorhis / Turner Miller Group as their consultants for this project. The Implementation Strategy will provide a description of techniques and actions to achieve desired future uses and development, and implement the area-wide plan.

Nassau County – nothing to report.

Sands Point – nothing to report.

Roslyn Harbor – nothing to report.

Sea Cliff – nothing to report.

### **Other Items**

None

### **Announcements, Reports, Reminders, & Upcoming Events**

Eric provided the following announcement:

January 15<sup>th</sup> – 12:30 pm – debut of “Water Matters”, a web-based show on [www.liwater.org](http://www.liwater.org) about Long Island’s water issues

**NEXT MEETING:** March 9, 2015 at Sea Cliff Village Hall [IMPORTANT – DUES TO BE ADOPTED]

## HIGHLIGHTS OF CAC MEETING – DECEMBER 10, 2015

- LISS Management Committee surveyed members for priorities for new CCMP – the first two were focused on local embayments and monitoring.
- 6 new Management Committee workgroups were established to replace the existing ones. Included among these are:
  - Watersheds & Embayments – they will consider water quality impairments with an emphasis on interpretation and application to management of watershed pollutant sources. Led by Mark Parker and Cassie Bauer.
  - Water Quality Monitoring – they will focus on improved data collection, management and interpretation considering open and near-shore water quality needs. Led by Jim Ammerman (who is new LISS Science Coordinator – former NY Sea Grant head – his interest seems to be on nutrients).
- Each workgroup will be preparing one page “next steps” for their January meeting. At their April meeting they will adopt next year’s workplan and budgets.
- UCONN Nitrogen Modeling of 110 LIS Embayments – Jamie Vaudrey gave an overview of her work to date:
  - East River and CT River contribute about 84% of the Sound’s nitrogen. Embayments around 18%.
  - Hempstead Harbor – largest source is septics followed by fertilizer then sewer discharges followed by atmospheric discharges.
  - She identified the top sites likely to exhibit symptoms. Most are “on the border” but not likely to exhibit including Hempstead Harbor, but Frost Creek is on the list.
  - She looked at the amounts of nitrogen delivered to the embayments per person depending on how their septics are managed and how far from the water they are. On average humans generate 4.9 kg. of N per year. Of that,
    - Those on sewers contributed 1.1 kg of N per person per year to the waterbody
    - Those on septics near the shore (within 200 meters) contributed 2.0 kg
    - Those on septics near the shore (but more than 200 meters from it) – 1.7 kg.
    - Those on septics farther than 200 meters – 0.8 kg.
  - Her report is being reviewed by EPA and is likely to be released in January.
- A number of NYS environmental groups are pushing for Gov. Cuomo to include \$800 million in the 2016 budget for wastewater and drinking water infrastructure grants. This is in addition to the \$200 million three year allocation that currently exists. It is anticipated that a sign-on letter for municipalities will be circulated.
- Another trip to Washington DC is planned for the Spring.