

HHPC MINUTES
January 11, 2017
Sea Cliff Village Hall – Public Library

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

Attendees: Tom Powell (Chair); Eric Swenson (Executive Director); Abby Kurlender (Roslyn Harbor); Noel Diehl (Glen Cove); Erin Reilley (North Hempstead); Kevin Braun (North Hempstead); Dan Fucci (Nassau County); Tom Ryan (Oyster Bay); Anita Frangella (Roslyn – Village Clerk); Brian Kuller (Roslyn – Code Enforcement); Brian Herrington (Flower Hill); Catherine Chester (Sands Point); and Carol DiPaolo (Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor).

Call to Order

Tom Powell called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

Review and Approval of Draft Minutes

A motion was made by Tom Powell to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 16, 2016. Dan Fucci seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Administrative Matters & Announcements

Welcome to new Oyster Bay Representative – Eric mentioned that the Town of Oyster Bay has appointed Tom Ryan as its new representative. Former representative, Sean Jordan, has transferred to the Town’s Department of Planning and Development. Tom introduced himself but it no stranger to the Committee – he has assisted with staffing booths at HarborFest and Sea Cliff Mini Mart and formerly served as a representative for the Town.

Relocation of HHPC office to Oyster Bay – Eric noted that he has moved the HHPC office from Syosset to Oyster Bay. This was concurrent with the move of the Town of Oyster Bay’s Department of Environmental Resources. The new office is on the 4th floor of Town Hall at 54 Audrey Avenue.

Eric’s Employment with Cashin Associates – Eric advised the Committee that he is now also employed by Cashin Associates on a part time, ad-hoc basis. He stated that his employment was for a specific purpose and that he is unsure how long it will last – possibly only a few months. It will not interfere with his HHPC duties.

Status of 2016 dues – Eric stated that all municipalities have paid their 2016 dues.

“Passing the Baton” event from Rep. Israel to Rep. Suozzi – Eric attended this event on January 1st at Glen Cove City Hall. He reported that it was a standing room only crowd and that it was difficult to get to talk to each of them but he did have brief conversations with each. He encouraged Rep. Suozzi to join the Long Island Sound Congressional Caucus and he said that he would. He also thanked Rep. Israel for his efforts on behalf of Hempstead Harbor. He stated that he would be glad to continue to help if we needed it.

Nassau County Comptroller's Environmental Advisory Committee - Eric also announced that he was invited to join the Nassau County Comptroller's Environmental Advisory Committee and accepted the invitation. He will attend the meeting on January 19th. Carol DiPaolo indicated that she is also on the committee.

EPA lawsuit against NYS Parks for Use of Cesspools - Eric mentioned that he had sent around information regarding a lawsuit brought by the US EPA against NYS Parks under the Safe Drinking Water Act for continued use of "large capacity cesspools" (those that serve more than 20 persons) at their facilities including many on Long Island. Under the consent agreement, the state will convert them using additional or other technologies which vary from park to park. It is unclear as to whether EPA may seek to enforce this against municipalities.

Discussion of budgetary Issues – options for a sustainable budget and Adoption of recommended 2017

Dues – Eric distributed a document entitled "Discussion Options for HHPC Program Sustainability" (copy attached) which summarized various options for ensuring that the Committee's income sustains its expenses. He explained that with the loss of the water monitoring grant, our expenses exceed our income by \$31,250.00. The document's options included raising dues; scaling back expenses such as the Executive Director's hours; reducing the scope of the water monitoring program; and seeking additional sources of income; or a combination of these alternatives. Dues would need to be increased by 34.4% in order for it to cover all expenses. While most felt that this would be a tough sell given tax caps and their financial conditions, Anita Frangella (Roslyn) mentioned that she had discussed the matter with Mayor Durkin and he would support such an increase. Carol DiPaolo discussed an option of scaling back the 2017-2018 water monitoring program whereby the core monitoring (April or May to October or November) would be reduced to collecting samples every other week rather than weekly (12 sampling runs as opposed to 24 sampling runs) and doing the same with the winter sampling (12 runs instead of 24). She would also produce an annual report and there would be some savings there (\$13,000 to produce it vs. \$16,000). Altogether, the scaled back program would save \$17,000.00. Eric pointed out that he contacted the Long Island Regional Planning Council which is administering the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan for the NYS DEC and that they are in need of collecting nitrogen data in order to develop realistic nitrogen reduction targets. They agreed to review a request for funding. Eric also reached out to NYS Assemblyman Charles Lavine with a proposal to dedicate a line in the state's Environmental Protection Fund for water monitoring programs but has not heard back from him yet. Carol has also submitted a proposal for funding to the Long Island Sound Funders' Collaborative seeking funds to carry out their Unified Water Study monitoring. If she receives this funding, it would go directly to the Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor and cover additional parameters that would be separate from, but compliment the Committee's program. After much discussion, Tom Ryan made a motion to keep the 2017 member dues the same as 2016. Catherine Chester seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Erin Reilly then made a motion to allocate up to \$48,000 for the 2017 – 2018 water monitoring program by scaling back the program in the manner that Carol DiPaolo suggested. Abby Kurlender seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. ***Eric will send out the proposed dues to all municipal members and will continue his efforts to locate and obtain additional sources of funding over the next year. Eric will also draft an agreement between the Village of Sea Cliff and the Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor so that it is "ready to go" once dues are finalized in March.***

Revised Meeting schedule for 2017 – Eric stated that due to changed travel plans, he cannot make the originally scheduled meeting date in April and asked whether the Committee wished to change or cancel it. The Committee decided to change the date to April 26th. The revised schedule is as follows:

- January 11
- March 15 (**NOTE: QUORUM NEEDED – ADOPTION OF DUES**)

- April 26 (note: this is a change from the original date)
- June 7
- September 13
- October 11
- November 15

Approval of Joint Letter with comments on Draft New MS4 Permit

Eric noted that he had previously sent around a draft copy of a joint letter with comments to the NYS DEC on the proposed new MS4 stormwater permit that would also be signed by the Manhasset Bay Protection Committee, the Oyster Bay / Cold Spring Harbor Protection Committee, the Peconic Estuary Protection Committee, the Setauket Harbor Task Force, and the Friends of the Bay, and possibly others. He pointed out that there may be some additional comments added as the letter is reviewed by others. There was consensus to approve the draft joint letter.

Water Monitoring Program Update

2016 Program update – Carol stated that she has completed the core sampling and is in the midst of the winter monitoring program. She noted that there are still root balls and logs accumulated at the Scudder’s Pond weir.

Unified Water Monitoring Efforts update – Carol mentioned that she, Eric, Erin, and Paul DeOrsay (Friends of the Bay) had attended a meeting earlier in the day in Bridgeport to review the latest developments in the Unified Water Study. The meeting was well attended. **Eric will send a copy of his notes to the Committee members.**

2017 Program - see the discussion under **Discussion of budgetary Issues – options for a sustainable budget and Adoption of recommended 2017 Dues** above.

Project Updates

C.E.S.S.P.O.O.L. Project – Eric noted that the project partners are now carrying out the public education portion of the project. He is slated to give a presentation to the North Shore Kiwanis on January 12th and it will be part of the presentation that he and Sarah Deonarine will give at the Port Washington Library on January 26th. He requested that **HHPC representatives get back to him with numbers of brochures and fact sheets that can be distributed by each municipality (at village halls, mailings, etc.)** Anita Frangella asked for 25 copies. **Eric will drop them off at Village Hall.**

NY American Water Grant – Roslyn native garden – Eric noted that this project was delayed until the Spring but is still awaiting information regarding the overall design of the park from the Village of Roslyn. **Anita will speak with the Mayor and get back to Eric.**

Scudder’s Pond Phragmites Removal – Eric noted that Solitude Lake Management had performed the cutting of the dead Phragmites culls on January 10th and will be returning in June to do the treatment. He and Carol stopped at the pond and looked at the work the morning of the meeting and were unsure as to whether all of

the culls were cut. [*note: subsequent correspondence with the company that all were cut – the ones that appeared not to be cut were cattails*].

Powerhouse Drain Subwatershed – Eric stated that he is continuing to review the recommendations contained in the subwatershed plan and ways in which they can be carried out. He recently met with Fabco, who installed storm drain filters in many areas of the subwatershed for the Town of Oyster Bay, and obtained a list of the devices installed and maps showing locations.

Sewer Feasibility Study – Eric stated that he has heard nothing since the last meeting on the completion of the study.

Nassau County Soil & Water Conservation District

Eric noted that the District finally has a full Board. New members include Tara Schneider Moran from the Town of Hempstead, Reese Michaels (who is a Master Gardener) as an At Large member, and Dan Fucci. He expects that a new Chairperson and Vice Chairperson will be selected at the January Board meeting. Eric is expected to continue as the District's Treasurer.

Friends of Cedarmere

Tom Powell noted that the raingardens have been completed and that the group had many accomplishments over the past year.

Municipal Updates

Flower Hill – Brian Herrington stated that with the election of former Mayor Elaine Phillips to the NYS Senate, that they have a new Mayor – Bob McNamara, and that he has been appointed as Deputy Mayor (in addition to serving as a Village Trustee). He also mentioned that Scotts (the company that he works for) has a Community Gardens Grant Program whereby they will provide grants of up to \$1,000 to a 501(c)(3) organization. The current grant round has a deadline of February 14th. He stated that they also have another program open to members of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Glen Cove – Noel Diehl noted that the property along Garvies Point Road has been sold to the developer of the Garvies Point project and that reconstruction of the road is expected to begin shortly. The City Council also recently repealed the City's coastal erosion local law. Per the resolution, the program was returned to the NYS DEC. Other local municipalities have done the same. Please note also that the Garvies Point Redevelopment Project is not within the boundaries of the Coastal Erosion Plan and historically, less than one home every two years in the City is subject to the plan.

Nassau County – Dan Fucci had nothing to report.

Oyster Bay – Tom Ryan had nothing to report.

Sands Point – Catherine Chester had nothing to report.

Roslyn Harbor – Abby Kurlender had nothing to report.

Roslyn – Anita Frangella noted that the village has completed the repair of all of its roads as well as the replacement or re-lining of all of its sewer pipes. The work on the sewer pipes together with the raising of manholes near Gerry Park has resulted in a substantial reduction in the amount of stormwater getting into the sewer system and having to be pumped to the Cedar Creek Sewage Treatment plant. This has resulted in substantial savings to the Village. In addition, the Lumber Road development is nearly finished and the Biti townhouse complex south of the viaduct is proceeding with the first residents expected to move in in June.

North Hempstead – Erin Reilley noted that their public works department is finding a large number of plastic bags with dog feces in their catch basins and wondered if other municipalities were finding the same. None of the other members were immediately aware of this and would have to check. She also noted that there will be a series of visioning sessions on the future use of North Hempstead Beach Park and the land across the street from it. The first session, expected to be the largest, will be held at the Port Washington Library on January 26th. **Erin will send around a copy of the flier for the visioning sessions.** Kevin Braun also noted that the Town received a \$400,000 grant to continue wetland restoration in lower Hempstead Harbor. It will cover the costs for planning, permitting and construction for up to a mile of shoreline.

Sea Cliff – Tom Powell had nothing to report.

Other Items

There were no other items.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:15 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS/ DEADLINES:

January 12th – Presentation at North Shore Kiwanis meeting (7:15 – Swan Club)

January 18th – Town of North Hempstead visioning session on North Hempstead Beach Park (7:00 - PW Library)

January 19th – Nassau County Comptroller’s Environmental Advisory Committee (5:00 – Mineola)

January 26th – Speak on State of the Harbor at Port Washington Library (7:00)

January 27th – Joint L.I. Sound Study CAC / STAC meeting (Bridgeport)

NEXT MEETING: March 15th at Sea Cliff Village Hall **(IMPORTANT – NEED QUORUM)**

DISCUSSION OPTIONS FOR HHPC PROGRAM SUSTAINABILITY

AMOUNT NEEDED TO CONTINUE CURRENT LEVEL OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES: \$122,000

Broken down as follows:

- Director's salary - \$54,272
- Office supplies and other expenses - \$1,830
- Website hosting - \$499
- Water Monitoring program - \$65,000

CURRENT DUES: \$90,750 (therefore deficit = \$31,250)

OPTIONS:

1 Raise Member Dues

This would require a 34.4% increase which equates to:

- Villages - \$7,320 each (*from \$5,445 each – increase of \$1,875*)
- City - \$10,980 (*from \$8,150 – increase of \$2,830*)
- Towns - \$14,640 each (*from \$10,900 each – increase of \$3,740*)
- County - \$45,140 (*from \$33,575 – increase of \$11,565*)

2 Scale Back Water Monitoring Program

Current program cost: \$65,000 (*plus \$78,086 in in-kind and volunteer matches = \$143,086 value*)

Out of Pocket Costs (based on 2015-2016 program) include: **Reduced Frequency Alternative***

• Core monitoring -	\$35,000	\$25,500
• Winter monitoring -	\$10,500	\$7,200
• Annual report -	\$16,000	\$13,000
• Service equipment -	\$2,000	\$1,500
• Materials & Supplies -	\$1,500	\$800
TOTALS:	\$65,000	\$48,000

* **Reduced Frequency Alternative would continue our existing program as is with the following exceptions: no nitrate and nitrite sampling (as lab has closed); 12 weeks in summer instead of 25; 12 weeks in winter instead of 25; no pond outfall sampling in winter.**

3 Scale Back Director's Hours

Average hours billed 2015 – 2016 = 21.7 hours a week

4 Obtain Grant(s) and/or Donation(s) for Water Monitoring (*note: grants & donations, by their nature, are generally not sustainable and may require considerable effort to obtain*)

Some options include:

- Pressing the L.I. Sound Study for funding separate from the L.I. Sound Futures Fund.
- Pressing for NYS to add a line for water monitoring in the Environmental Protection Fund. This could take 1-2 years or more.
- Seeking funding under the L.I. Nitrogen Action Plan.
- Seeking foundation grants (note: most only fund 501-c-3 not-for-profits, therefore CSHH could pursue this).

- Seeking corporate sponsorships.
- Seeking “Part C” funding from the NC Soil & Water Conservation District