

HHPC FINAL MEETING MINUTES

January 8, 2020

Sea Cliff Village Hall

NOTE: ACTION ITEMS ARE IN BOLD HIGHLIGHTED ITALICS. MOTIONS ARE IN BOLD GREEN.

Attendees: Tom Powell (Chair and Sea Cliff); Eric Swenson (Executive Director); Kevin Braun (North Hempstead); Abby Kurlender (Roslyn Harbor); Louis Silfin (Sands Point); Maryann Webb (Oyster Bay); Rocco Graziosi (Glen Cove); Frank Genese (Flower Hill); Dan Fucci (Nassau County); Ian Zwerdling (Roslyn); Bruce Kennedy (Sea Cliff); Carol DiPaolo (Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor); and Michelle McAllister (Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor).

Call to Order

Eric Swenson called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Review and Approval of Draft Minutes

A motion was made by Kevin Braun and seconded by Abby Kurlender to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 13, 2019 as presented. They were approved unanimously.

Administrative Matters, Updates & Announcements

Approval of Proposed 2020 Member Dues – Eric distributed a copy of proposed 2020 dues schedule along with a cash flow projection covering the period from January 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021 (to cover the period that the 2020 dues would need to cover). He suggested that the dues remain at the same rates as they have been since 2015. Eric noted that for any members that are not on a calendar year budget cycle, the Committee can await the beginning of their next fiscal year. Eric also noted that under the Inter-Municipal Agreement, member municipalities are provided a 60-day window to decide whether to withdraw from the Committee. Assuming that no members withdraw, the proposed dues will be finalized at the March 11th meeting. After discussion, **a motion was made by Kevin Braun and seconded by Maryann Webb to approve the proposed dues for calendar year 2020 with the County paying \$33,575, each Town paying \$10,900, the City of Glen Cove paying \$8,150, and each village paying \$5,445, for a total of \$90,750.00. The motion was approved unanimously.**

Implementation of Nassau County Grant Program for Alternative Septic Systems – Eric stated that Nassau County has decided to have the Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District administer \$1 million in grant funds for property owners to install nitrogen-reducing septic systems. Meetings have taken place between the District and the County, with Suffolk County officials, and with one Engineering firm so far. The District will require engineering services to carry out its approvals and is looking at retaining an engineering firm or having a municipality provide those services, possibly for a fee. The program is expected to roll out in the Spring.

Army Corps of Engineers' Proposed Sea Barriers Public Meeting – Eric noted that a joint letter from the HHPC, the MBPC and the Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor has been sent to the Army Corps. The Village of Roslyn has also sent its own letter.

Boat Tour – Eric noted that April 15th has been confirmed as the date for the re-scheduled boat tour, with May 15th as a rain date.

HHPC's 25th Anniversary Celebration – Eric noted that this year marks the Committee's 25th anniversary and asked if members felt that an event should be planned. He noted that the Committee celebrated both its 10th and 20th anniversaries at Cedarmere. He asked for ideas. The Committee felt that since it has not been long since our 20th anniversary celebration, that we should not have a separate event. Perhaps we could celebrate in with champagne on the boat tour.

2020 Meeting Schedule – Eric reminded the Committee of the following dates for 2020 meetings:

- March 11 (quorum necessary – adopt dues)
- April 15th (note that our boat tour may take the place of this meeting unless the boat tour is cancelled)
- May ___ (TBD) – Annual Joint Protection Committee Meeting
- June 3rd
- September 9th
- October 14th
- November 18th

Topics for Joint Protection Committee Meeting - Eric asked if there were any topics that the Committee members would like to see discussed at the Annual Joint Protection Committee meeting. The Committee thought that septic management (especially given the pending grant availability to homeowners) would be a good issue. It was also suggested that a tour of the Town of Oyster Bay's new shellfish hatchery could be included. Since last year's meeting at Friends of the Bay drew a standing room only crowd, it was suggested that the meeting be held at the Oyster Bay Community Center.

Water Monitoring Program and Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor Update

2018 – 2019 Water Monitoring – Eric has filed the final report and reimbursement request with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and is awaiting payment of \$14,900.00.

2019– 2020 Water Monitoring – Carol stated that CSHH began the winter monitoring on November 6th. Data entry for the core (summer) program has been completed and the CSHH has finalized an agreement with Fuss & O'Neill for the Annual Report. Given the uncertainty over which nitrogen parameters will be specified by the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan (LINAP) and the EPA's Long Island Sound Nitrogen Strategy, they have decided to perform limited nitrogen sampling during the winter once a month (four samples) at the Powerhouse Drain and the outfall by Littleworth Lane (that includes effluent from Scudder's Pond). They will be collecting bacteria samples weekly over the winter (November to April) at these locations. Carol noted that last month a Ridley sea turtle was found at Tappen Beach. It was transported to Riverhead but they were unable to save it. Sea turtles normally migrate south by that time. [The turtle was found by someone walking on the beach who called Marine Rescue/ the Riverhead Foundation. The turtle was probably already dead. This was reported in a FB post from December 12. Sea turtles are occasionally seen here beyond the time they should have left the cold waters. When the water is too cold for them, they become "cold stunned" and most often immobilized and die.]

2020 – 2021 Water Monitoring – Eric stated that on November 4th, the Committee was awarded \$75,000 under the Long Island Sound Futures Fund for this program. We had applied for \$100,000. At the November meeting, it was decided that we should reduce the scope of the new grant by eliminating the component for marina sampling and allocate \$89,000 for the program. **Eric** has been in touch with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and **is in the process of revising the scope, the amount of match, and some of the language in the grant.**

Marcellino Grant items – Carol stated that CSHH has completed the Data Usability Assessment Report (DUAR) and checklist for the monitoring performed in 2017 - 2018. This is needed by DEC in order to reimburse us for costs for that year. For the 2018 – 2019 monitoring, the DUAR was incorporated into the Annual Report. This will also be done for the 2019 – 2020 monitoring and all future monitoring that will receive state funding.

Unified Water Study – This year’s program has ended. CSHH reps attended a summit on November 14th with all of the groups involved in this project.

FLUPSY Water Monitoring Project– As reported at the October meeting, despite their best efforts, the Town was not able to install FLUPSYS at Tappen Marina this summer or fall. However, CSHH completed a full season of collecting bacteria and nitrogen samples from Tappen Marina, as was stipulated under a grant CSHH received from the Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District for this monitoring project. The data collected from the 2019 season will provide a valuable benchmark for monitoring future conditions at the marina when FLUPSYS are installed. FLUPSYS are expected to be installed in spring 2020. Carol feels that they now have a full understanding of the background conditions within the marina. They found that there was only one exceedance of bacteria standards during the sampling period and that was after a rainfall which also resulted in exceedances at other stations.

Project Updates

Powerhouse Drain Subwatershed – Maryann reported that she is still trying to determine if the new storm drains with nitrogen and bacteria filters were installed. Eric stated that he has seen many streets off of Glenwood Road that have been repaved and which have new storm drains. ***Maryann will continue to find out the status.***

Scudder’s Pond Invasives Removal – Eric stated that since the last meeting, two landscape companies have given quotes ranging from about \$6,000 to \$9,000 which is far above the amount of funding that is available through the Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District. He noted that these funds were made possible by North Hempstead foregoing part of the funding they received for wetland restoration from the Nassau Soil and Water Conservation District and re-directing them to this effort. The section needed to be addressed may be as long as 1,000 feet. In the interim, the Village of Sea Cliff sent Village crews on a couple days when work was slow and they made tremendous headway. As an alternative to hiring a landscape company, ***Bruce Kennedy had offered to prepare a price quote from the Village to perform this work.*** This would then need to be approved by the Soil and Water Conservation District. Eric also noted that the Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District offered to help by either being present or by tagging the items that should be removed.

Proposed Joint Use of Pumpout Vessel – At the last meeting, Eric noted that the Town of Oyster Bay was willing to provide a pumpout boat for Hempstead Harbor if the three municipalities with harbor patrols (Oyster Bay, North Hempstead, and Glen Cove) agreed via an Inter-Municipal Agreement to share responsibilities for its operation. Rocco had checked with Glen Cove’s Harbormaster and he felt that it was not needed. Kevin has discussed the matter with Mal Nathan who referred it to his higher-ups but has yet to hear back. ***Kevin will follow up.***

Coordinated Harbor Cleanup – Phase II – Eric asked if there was interest in holding another coordinated harbor cleanup this year. Kevin stated that North Hempstead is interested. Eric stated that he believes that Oyster Bay is also interested. ***Eric will set up a meeting and also check with Kevin as to any changes in personnel from North Hempstead that should be invited.***

Nassau County Soil & Water Conservation District

Eric noted that Soil and Water District expects to receive “Part C” funds from the state again this year that can be used to fund projects around the County. Funding is expected to be at least as much as they received last year, if not higher. They should know in about a month.

Friends of Cedarmere

Tom reported that the greenhouse is being restored with funds from the County’s Hotel / Motel tax. He would like to include heating and ventilation so that it can be used to grow plants for the site.

Municipal Updates

Nassau County – With regard to the drainage pipe that has been observed to occasionally discharge a white milky substance between the restaurant and the wastewater treatment plant, Dan Fucci reported that the County has been able to inspect the first 287 feet of the 60” drainage pipe that runs from Shore Road to Glen Cove Creek. The pipe is about 850 to 900 feet in length. Unfortunately, they were unable to proceed further due to the amount of sediment and water in the pipe. So far, they have found nothing unusual. They are now considering plugging up the end of the pipe temporarily so that they can pump water out of it in order to continue the underwater camera work. They also need to locate two manholes along its length.

Sea Cliff – Bruce Kennedy stated that the Village received a \$30,000 grant to perform a culvert assessment. They also expect to go to bid by the end of the month for a contractor to make the connection from the sewer main on Sea Cliff Avenue to the sewer main on Hollman Boulevard (which runs to the Glen Cove Wastewater Treatment Plant). Under that contract, additional connections will be made on 12th Avenue, on Fairview, on Summit Avenue from 10th Avenue to Sea Cliff Avenue, and if funds are sufficient, on 7th Avenue. The sewer line to be installed will be 12” in diameter. This work is expected to be completed by the end of July.

Glen Cove – Rocco Graziosi stated that the City’s engineering consultant, H2M, has produced a draft report on the options for reducing bacteria that is entering Crescent Beach. These include the installation of a Helix system, the installation of an ultraviolet treatment system, the restoration of flow to and from an adjacent wetland area with replacement of invasive plants with native plants, the piping of the stream’s flow to discharge at a point further out into the water, the replacement of sand on the beach that has washed away, or some combination of these. During a recent field investigation, a culvert pipe was discovered between the wetland and the stream that is clogged. The City is looking into having an underwater camera investigate the structural integrity of the pipe to determine if it can be cleaned out or needs to be replaced. **Dan will send Rocco the contact for the firm that the County has been using for similar work at Glen Cove Creek.**

Roslyn Harbor – Abby Kurlender had nothing new to report.

North Hempstead – Kevin Braun reported that a large derelict boat in Mott’s Cove has been removed. He also noted that the Shoreline Trail extension has been completed and that a ribbon-cutting will take place in the Spring. The Town is preparing a Request for Proposals for the design and permitting of shoreline habitat restoration along the remaining length of the Shoreline Trail. Having the design plans will help facilitate the Town’s efforts to obtain grant funding for the construction. He also reported that in September the Town received only one bid for the dredging and restoration of Silver Lake in Roslyn and that bid was much higher than the estimates (\$18 million vs. \$8 to 12 million). The Town now has to review its bid specifications and go out to bid again.

Flower Hill – Frank Genese stated that the Village continues its stormwater management efforts and that it recently purchased Middle Neck Road (from Northern Boulevard to Port Washington Boulevard). As part of the purchase deal, Nassau County is installing new drainage to alleviate existing flooding conditions.

Oyster Bay – Maryann Webb noted that the Town is gearing up for its Spring programs including the operation of the hatchery.

Sands Point – Louis Silfin had nothing to report.

Roslyn – Ian Zwerdling reported that the Roslyn Landmarks Association will be elevating the Grist Mill to street level within the next 60 days. He also stated that the plans for the proposed high-rise condominium on Lumber Road (which is his property) may be changed to that of a 4-story building with 25% green space and parking underneath. It will need a zoning variance.

Other Items

None.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 15th – Boat tour (rain date – May 15th)

NEXT HHPC MEETING:

March 11th at 7:00 pm at Sea Cliff Village Hall **(NOTE: QUORUM NEEDED FOR PROPOSED DUES ADOPTION)**

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 pm

DRAFT