

HEMPSTEAD HARBOR PROTECTION COMMITTEE

FINAL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting of April 14, 2010
Sea Cliff Village Hall – 7:00 pm

NOTES: Items Requiring Action are ***italicized and underlined in Bold.***

Present: Bill Clemency (Chair and Flower Hill); Eric Swenson (Director); Aldona Lawson (Oyster Bay); Kevin Braun (North Hempstead); Len Shaw (Roslyn); Victor Mora (Roslyn Harbor); Dan Maddock (Sea Cliff); Carol DiPaolo (Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor) and Richard Sack (resident)

Call to Order

Bill Clemency called the meeting to order shortly after 7:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes of February 24th

The minutes of the March 17th, 2010 were approved at this meeting. Aldona Lawson made the motion and Len Shaw seconded it. They were approved unanimously.

Announcements, Reports, Reminders, & Upcoming Events

Media event with DEC Commissioner – Eric mentioned that he was recently contacted by the NYS DEC which expressed interest in using Hempstead Harbor as the backdrop for NYS DEC Commissioner's Media Event commemorating the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day. Hempstead Harbor was reportedly chosen because it is an example of the successes that can be achieved when citizens and government work together. The event will take place rain or shine on Sunday, April 18th at 1:00 pm at Morgan Park in Glen Cove.

L.I. Sound Study CAC day-long retreat on Sound Vision Plan – Eric advised members that this retreat will take place on Monday, April 26th in Greenwich. Carol DiPaolo, Aldona Lawson and Eric will be attending. Eric pointed out that the Sound Vision Plan will likely guide the Long Island Sound Study for many years to come and he felt that it is important to stress the need for steady non-competitive funding for water monitoring programs. He sees this meeting as an opportunity to continue to press for such funding.

Grant applications due for Long Island Sound Futures Fund – Eric reminded attendees that the deadline for applications is May 7th. See Water Quality and Monitoring Programs below for a discussion on the Committee's pending application.

Long Island Sound Citizen's Summit – Eric reminded members that this event will take place on May 7th in Bridgeport from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. Eric, Aldona and Carol plan to attend. All are welcome.

DEC Draft Policy on Power Plant Cooling Systems – Eric mentioned that comments due on May 9th. This issue overlaps with the comments submitted by the HHPC in response to National Grid's application for a variance to their SPDES permit. The Committee expects to submit similar comments to DEC on the draft policy. As currently written, it appears that the Glenwood plant would be exempt due to the fact that it operates at less than 15% capacity. A recent report put the operation at around 4%.

EcoFest – this Town of North Hempstead-sponsored two day interactive and educational event will take place at Clark Botanical Garden in Albertson on May 15th and 16th 9:30 am to 4:00 pm. Eric will staff the booth on the 15th and Len Shaw will do so on the 16th. Volunteers are welcome.

HarborFest – this Port Washington Chamber of Commerce event will take place on June 6th at Town Dock 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. The HHPC will have a booth as in the past. Kevin Braun pointed out that the Town of North Hempstead will also have a booth to explain the concept of the planned Blueway Trail with their consultants Nelson and Pope on hand. Eric suggested that ***Kevin request that the booth be located adjacent to the booths of the HHPC and Manhasset Bay Protection Committees.***

Panel Discussion on Regional Partnership – Carol DiPaolo mentioned that the Energeia Partnership – Academy of Regional Stewardship of Molloy College will be holding a panel discussion in Glen Cove on May 5th and Carol has been asked to serve as one of the panelists. Details can be found at the following website: <http://www.molloy.edu/energeia/who1.asp?drg=234-601019>. This will be posted on the Hempstead Harbor website: www.HempsteadHarbor.org.

Member Dues Status

Eric reported that since the March meeting, dues invoices were sent out. To date, two municipalities have sent payment in – the Villages of Flower Hill and Roslyn Harbor.

Nassau County Soil & Water Conservation District

Kevin Braun noted that while he was away and unable to attend the most recent Board meeting, that he understood that the District's recent 4 hour sediment and erosion control training session was filled (they had 100 openings). A Board meeting will take place this Friday.

Municipal Updates

Town of Oyster Bay – Aldona reported that the Town held its annual Dune Grass planting event at Tobay Beach on March 20th and over 1,400 volunteers showed up and planted 225,000 stalks of American Beachgrass. The Town was also rejected in its application to EPA for a CARE grant to kick off the Oyster Bay / Cold Spring Harbor Protection Committee. The Town is now working on an application for the same funding through the Long Island Sound Futures Fund. Finally, she mentioned that David Feld of the national GeesePeace organization is offering his services at no charge to the municipalities in the Oyster Bay and Cold Spring Harbor watershed to oil goose eggs and to train others to do so.

Town of North Hempstead – Kevin Braun stated that the Town will be going out to bid on April 20th or 22nd for its third phase of the habitat restoration project south of North Hempstead Beach Park. The Town expects to begin the work around June 1st. They have also received their DEC permit for the shoreline trail. An issue remains to be worked out with the Army Corps of Engineers. The Town expects to be constructing the 2nd of 5 segments most likely this fall or winter. The Town will have an informational booth on the Blueway Trail at the upcoming HarborFest in June (see Announcements above). Carol asked if Kevin knew anything about a floatable swimming pool that was reported to have been moved to the Motts Cove area from somewhere in the city. Kevin was not aware of it. **Victor Mora agreed to call Mike DiNapoli to see if he could provide information and to e-mail the Committee if he finds anything out.** A question then arose about the status of the Viaduct construction schedule. Bill Clemency reported that the current schedule calls for completion around the end of 2010.

Village of Roslyn – Len Shaw reported that the Village has compiled the results of an opinion and knowledge survey on stormwater issues. It was unclear as to whether these are the results of the survey that was conducted last year or whether this is a new survey. **Eric will contact Wade Curry to learn more.** The Village has also asked the Committee to provide comments or “correct” answers to some of the questions. **Eric will provide this information to the Village.**

Village of Roslyn Harbor – Victor Mora stated that there was nothing to report this month. Eric mentioned that the Mayor had contacted him requesting advice on grants and permits for the dredging of a pond within the village. Eric provided such information to the Mayor.

Village of Flower Hill – Bill Clemency stated that there was nothing to report this month.

Village of Sea Cliff – Dan Maddock reported that the Village fared pretty well during the recent rainstorms. While there were about 8 cesspools that collapsed, no one lost power. He also noted that with the new security cameras installed at the beach, he can see the increased activity that the warmer weather brings.

City of Glen Cove - while no one was present from the City, Carol DiPaolo did note that the DEC has issued its Record of Decision (ROD) for the Crown Dykman remediation. She reported that there will be a monitoring schedule set up. Details on the ROD can be obtained at http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/remediation_hudson_pdf/130054rod.pdf

Water Quality and Monitoring Programs

For the 2009 monitoring program, Carol DiPaolo indicated that she is still working on completing the annual report.

For the 2010 monitoring program, Carol DiPaolo and Eric Swenson reported that they participated in a webinar and a post-webinar conference call to discuss the 2010 Long Island Sound Futures Fund grant process. The Committee (through the village) could be eligible for up to \$150,000 or more for water monitoring this year due to additional funds allocated for Long Island Sound by Congress. Carol has spoken to Fuss and O'Neill regarding a proposal that would build on the county's current stream assessment work, the prior outfall study and tie in with the improvements in the Scudder's Pond and Powerhouse Drain subwatersheds. The proposed program would use new technologies such as bacterioide testing to help identify the sources of contaminants as being human or animal. To accomplish this, the QAPP would need to be revised to reflect the new testing procedures. Preliminary cost estimates total \$182,000 to \$224,000, for work that would be completed by the Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor and Fuss & O'Neill. The scope of the work to be applied for still needs to be refined and this could change these figures. Eric pointed out that at the January meeting, the Committee authorized an application of up to \$55,000 with the condition that the maximum amount of cost to the Committee in the event that a grant is not obtained would be \$45,000. In light of the availability of funding this year (which may not come again), Eric suggested that the Committee revisit its grant authorization amount while retaining the same \$45,000 fiscal outlay limit. After considerable discussion, Len Shaw moved that the Committee be authorized to apply for up to the maximum amount for which the program will qualify with the condition that the Committee would only be liable to cover expenses up to \$45,000 in the event that the grant is not received. Aldona Lawson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Eric mentioned that he recently received a nice letter from Michael Slattery, Director of the Eastern Partnership Office of the National Fish and Wildlife Service thanking the Committee for its dedication to fish, wildlife and plant conservation and for completing the 2008 water monitoring program.

Scudder's Pond Subwatershed improvements

Eric reported that Cashin has prepared a new "Preferred Alternate 4" that reflects the comments received from a field meeting with DEC and which eliminates some of the items on the golf course which are outside the current easement area and which were met with some concern by the North Shore Country Club. They also prepared a new chart with updated construction cost estimates. In light of the more recent and more detailed cost estimates, the contingency line was able to be reduced from 20% to 15%. The new construction costs come to \$2,573,775 (including \$335,729.63 in contingencies). When added to Cashin's contracts for design, permitting and construction oversight, the total comes to \$2,859,702.13. This exceeds the total of all grants and Sea Cliff's contribution by \$254,699. Eric noted that the preferred alternative may change based on comments at the upcoming public meeting and upon the bids that are received.

The Committee decided to try to schedule the public meeting for Wednesday, May 26th at 7:00 pm (in place of the Committee's May meeting). **Dan Maddock will contact the North Shore Country Club to determine if that date is available for using their facilities.** Once a date and location are confirmed, **Dan stated that the village could do a targeted radius mailing and post it on the Village website.** **Eric will place an ad in the Gold Coast Gazette and place it on the Hempstead Harbor website.** **Eric will ask the Glenwood / Glen Head Civic Association and the United Civic Council of Glen Head and Glenwood Landing to also distribute the information.** **Carol DiPaolo indicated that she would notify Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor members..**

Powerhouse Drain Subwatershed Plan

Eric reported that Cashin has prepared a draft abatement plan which is being reviewed by some members of the advisory committee. The coordinated ordinances portion should be ready for review in about two weeks. Once these two drafts are revised, a public meeting can then be held.

Other Items

Letter of Recommendation for Joel Ziev – Eric mentioned that Joel Ziev is seeking to become a member of the Long Island Sound Dredging Team Work Group and has asked the Committee to provide a letter of recommendation. Kevin Braun indicated that the Manhasset Bay Protection Committee recently agreed to send a letter on his behalf. After discussion, the Committee discussed the issue and approved the sending of a letter. **Eric will obtain a copy of the Manhasset Bay Protection Committee's letter and send a similar letter out from the Committee.**

Update of Status of Major Construction Projects – Eric distributed a draft update of this list. He has not received comments back from Glen Cove or Sands Point.

Phase II Annual Report – Kevin questioned when the members could expect to receive the Committee's Phase II annual report submission. He stated that he would like to opportunity to discuss it at a Committee meeting and since municipalities must submit their reports in June, that there may not be an opportunity to discuss the items given the fact that the Scudder's Pond public meeting may pre-empt the Committee's May meeting. Eric pointed out that in the past, he has submitted the report to the members and that there had not been much discussion on them at the Committee meetings. **Eric will work to get the report out as soon as possible** and would be available to answer any questions at any time.

Director's salary – Eric pointed out that the last time that the Director's salary was increased was 4 years ago and requested that the Committee consider an increase. He pointed out that the workload of the Director has increased and that the cost of living has gone up. Kevin Braun asked Eric how much of an increase would be appropriate. Eric responded that that would be entirely up to the Committee. Bill Clemency suggested that an ad hoc committee be formed to discuss this without the Director present and the Committee agreed.

The meeting adjourned at about 9:30 pm

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, May 26th at 7:00 pm at Sea Cliff Village Hall BUT NOTE: the public meeting for Scudder's Pond may pre-empt this meeting if it is scheduled on the same date and at the same time.