

HEMPSTEAD HARBOR PROTECTION COMMITTEE

FINAL

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting of May 25, 2011
Sea Cliff Village Hall – 7:00 pm

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

Present: Eric Swenson (Director); Fred Pollack (North Hempstead); Kevin Braun (North Hempstead); Megan Loeb (North Hempstead); Len Shaw (Roslyn); Pasqua Dziadul (Sands Point); Carol DiPaolo (Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor)

Call to Order

Eric Swenson called the meeting to order shortly after 7:00 pm and explained that Bill Clemency had a conflict that prevented him from attending. With a small turnout and the lack of a quorum, it was decided to abbreviate the agenda and hold a somewhat informal meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Due to a lack of a quorum, the draft minutes of the April 20th meeting could not be approved. They will be discussed at the next meeting.

Announcements, Reports, Reminders, & Upcoming Events

Eric announced the following:

Disk Wash-Up report – Eric noted that earlier in the day he had e-mailed the latest disk cleanup report from Westchester County:

5/20/2011	Prybil Beach	200
5/20/2011	West Harbor Beach	15
5/20/2011	Sea Cliff beach	2500
5/20/2011	Ransom Beach	40
5/20/2011	North Hempstead	1750
5/20/2011	Soundside Beach	150
5/21/2011	Roosevelt beach	100
5/21/2011	Creek Club Beach	3100
5/21/2011	Laurel Hollow Beach	2500
5/22/2011	Lattintown Beach	2500
5/22/2011	Creek Club Beach	1800
5/22/2011	Morgan Beach	7500
5/23/2011	Hobart beach	2500
5/23/2011	Morgan Beach	6250
5/23/2011	West Neck Beach	300
5/23/2011	Gold Star Battalion	10

EcoFest - Kevin Braun, Len Shaw and Eric Swenson each helped staff an information booth on the shellfish opening at the Town of North Hempstead's EcoFest on Saturday, May 14th. Due to a forecast of rain all day on Sunday, the decision was made not to set up the booth on Sunday.

Phase II Annual Reports – Reports are due to the DEC by June 1st. On March 31st, Eric e-mailed the Committee's annual reports to members for use in compiling their reports. The new annual reporting forms can be found at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/43150.html#Forms>. Very little change has been made from the 2010 forms but the new forms must be used.

HarborFest – will be held on Sunday, June 5th at the Town Dock in Port Washington. The Committee will have a booth. Set up times are 6:00 to 10:00 and the public hours are 10:00 to 5:00. **Eric will attend as will Jim Moriarty and Tom Ryan from Oyster Bay. Pasqua Dziadul will assist the Committee as well as the Manhasset Bay Protection Committee's booth.** Others are more than welcome.

2011 Member Dues Status

Eric reported that the Deputy County Executive has approved the use capital funds to cover some of the Committee's costs for major projects such as the restoration of Scudder's Pond and the development of a subwatershed plan in Glenwood Landing.

Nassau County Soil & Water Conservation District

Kevin Braun reported that the Long Island Envirothon, which was held on May 26th was a success. Chaminade High School took the top prize and is now headed for the state championships which are being held this week in Geneva, New York.

L.I. Sound Study CAC Update / Saltwater Fishing License Issue

Eric reported that as a follow-up to last month's meeting, he participated in a conference call with the CAC and was pleased to report that the CAC and the LISS Management Committee have agreed to remove the proposed action item calling for the reinstatement of the New York State saltwater fishing license fee due to lack of consensus around this issue.

2010 and 2011 Water-Quality Monitoring Programs

Carol DiPaolo reported that the proposed revisions to the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) were submitted to US EPA for review and the EPA raised a number of issues that are being addressed. The EPA stated that they could not approve the additional sampling stations that were sampled for the last two years due to the fact that the EPA cannot approve changes after the fact. At the same time, the EPA had said that they cannot approve changes prospectively unless they were tied to federal grant funds actually approved or received. When Carol explained the Long Island Sound Futures Fund process to them and that fact that in the real world, the monitoring ends up being nearly completed before a decision is made on the grant applications, they agreed to reconsider. In addition, the EPA asked that we remove the proposed revisions that addressed the pathogen sampling that we conducted for NYS DEC on the grounds that such sampling was covered by DEC's protocols and therefore EPA approval was not necessary. Carol expected that she and Fuss and O'Neill would be able to respond to EPA's issues by the end of this week.

Carol noted that the weather had prevented last week's anticipated start of the monitoring season but she expected to start tomorrow, May 26th. She noted that she has received reports of turkey vultures returning to areas near the harbor. They were first spotted two or three years ago. She also noted that local residents are starting to spot fox again in the area, including presumably male and female pair near the Greenvale/Roslyn Harbor area where Glen Cove Avenue turns into Bryant Avenue. About 10 years ago, the local fox population was nearly wiped out due to mange epidemic.

Municipal Updates

Due to the small turnout, it was decided to dispense with updates this month.

Shellfish Opening update

Eric reported that the DEC has advised him that the shellfish opening would take place on June 1st. A press release was prepared by the Committee and sent out on Tuesday with an embargo until Thursday, May 26th at the request of DEC, so that both press releases would be released on the same date.

Eric mentioned that he heard from DEC and that the only state officials that could commit to attend an event at this time would be the staff of the DEC's marine bureau. Eric had hoped that this event would attract the Governor, DEC Commissioner and Secretary of State but so far, that appears not be on the horizon. The Committee will discuss the possibility of an event sometime during the summer at the next meeting.

Carol DiPaolo stressed the need for enforcement once the shellfishing area opens to ensure that shellfish are not harvested from uncertified areas. Since these are NYS waters, enforcement responsibility lies with the NYS DEC. It was suggested that the Committee convene a meeting between NYS DEC enforcement officials and the harbor's Bay Constables and Marine Police so that all understand the protocols and area involved and so that all can act as eyes and ears. **Eric will outreach to all involved and set up a meeting.**

Megan Loeb distributed a bunch of the Committee's shellfish brochures that the Town of North Hempstead has printed for the Committee. **Megan will have the Town print additional copies and bring them to HarborFest.**

Coastal Signage Project

Kevin Braun noted that the 3 replacement signs have been ordered and are expected to arrive the week of June 6th. **The Town of North Hempstead will install the signs using concrete following their arrival.**

Phase II Stormwater Compliance Plan

Eric reported that, as time allows, he is continuing to revise the plan to address the comments provided by Eileen Keenan of New York Sea Grant / NYS DEC .

Scudder's Pond Subwatershed Improvements

Eric reported that Cashin Associates is working on the final design plans so that permits can be obtained. A key requirement is the need of a location for the temporary stockpiling of dredged material. The North Shore Country Club has OK'd the use of the same area to the south of the rear pond that was used in the 1980s, however, the area now consists of a large pile of logs and branches. The club is attempting to find a company that can come in at little or no cost and remove the material. If a stockpile location cannot be assured very soon, it appears that there will not be enough time to secure permits and go through the bidding process in order to meet the preferred Fall start of the work. In such a case, the work may have to wait until the following Fall. Carol suggested that the Committee contact National Grid to explore the use of their vacant parcels on the west side of Shore Road north of the power plant. **Eric will ask Cashin to look into this.**

Powerhouse Drain Subwatershed Plan

On the coordinated ordinances component, Cashin Associates is continuing work on the last three first-draft reports; reviewing comments received for the Sea Cliff and Flower Hill reports. They will revise and resubmit updated draft reports. Cashin is still awaiting comments from Sands Point and Roslyn Harbor. Pasqua Dziadul believed that the Village Attorney was asked to review the document. **Pasqua will check with Village Hall on the status of their comments. Victor Mora had agreed at the last meeting to check on the status of comments from the Village of Roslyn Harbor.**

Other Items

Summer Boat Tour – Eric noted that the Manhasset Bay Protection Committee will be holding another boat tour on the evening of June 8th. Discussion ensued as to whether we should do one. Those who attended felt that it might be better to have one every two years but agreed that the issue could be revisited at a future meeting when more will be in attendance.

Roslyn Gristmill Debris Cleanup – Len Shaw reported that a lot of debris has accumulated by the outfall at the Roslyn Gristmill and it has created an unsightly condition. He and some village residents are willing to help remove it but have been unable to gain access because the area is behind a locked fence. With the help of the Committee, the County has agreed to provide a key to get into the area. Len is looking for volunteers. **Anyone who would be willing to assist with the cleanup at the Gristmill should contact Len at (516) 621-1506.**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 pm

NEXT MEETING: June 29, 2011 at Sea Cliff Village Hall