

# HEMPSTEAD HARBOR PROTECTION COMMITTEE

## FINAL

### MEETING MINUTES

Meeting of June 29, 2011  
Sea Cliff Village Hall – 7:00 pm

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

**Present:** Eric Swenson (Director); Kevin Braun (North Hempstead); Megan Loeb (North Hempstead); Len Shaw (Roslyn); Pasqua Dziadul (Sands Point); Jim Moriarty (Oyster Bay); Tom Powell (Sea Cliff)

#### Call to Order

Eric Swenson called the meeting to order shortly after 7:00 pm and explained that Bill was away on vacation.

#### Approval of Minutes

Pasqua Dziadul moved to approve both the draft minutes of the April 20<sup>th</sup> and the May 25<sup>th</sup> meetings. Kevin Braun seconded the motion. They were approved unanimously.

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

Eric announced the following:

**HarborFest** – was held on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at the Town Dock in Port Washington. The Committee unveiled its new display geared at the shellfish opening, which took place four days earlier. It was a nice day and there were good crowds.

**Phase II Sediment and Erosion Control Training** – The Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District will be holding the training session on July 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Old Bethpage Village Restoration. Municipal officials, especially building and code inspectors are encouraged to attend. Registration is \$100.

**SoundWaters Visit** – the tall ship SoundWaters from Connecticut will do an educational sail out of Hempstead Harbor on August 30<sup>th</sup>. The Sea Cliff Yacht Club will donate the use of its facilities for a dockside (or inside if inclement weather) from 3:00 to 5:00 and then hold a sail from 5:00 to 7:00. There will be some room for Committee members and Yacht Club members but details still need to be worked out. The event is being conducted on the part of the Long Island Sound Study Citizens Advisory Committee.

**Sea Cliff Mini Mart** – the event will be held, rain or shine, on Sunday October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Committee will have a double booth across from Village Hall. Eric will be away at a conference but Jim Moriarty and Tom Ryan from Oyster Bay will staff the booth. Others are encouraged to also help out.

#### 2011 Member Dues Status

Eric reported that to date the following municipalities have paid their annual dues: Flower Hill, North Hempstead, Sands Point, Roslyn and Sea Cliff. Nassau County will contribute 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. Oyster Bay's payment is in process. **Eric will send reminders to Glen Cove and Roslyn Harbor.**

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

Kevin Braun reported that the District will be holding a workshop on rain gardens and rain barrels. Details are not finalized yet. They are also working with the Long Island Native Plant Initiative (LINPI) to promote the use of native plants on Long Island. In addition, they have also been assisting North Hempstead with invasive species removal and Oyster Bay with its rain gardens. They are also resurrecting a Water Quality Coordinating Committee which will prepare a report to the county and municipalities summarizing all of the efforts and needs regarding water quality in the county.

## **L.I. Sound Study Citizens Advisory Committee**

Eric reported that he attending a meeting in Stamford on June 9<sup>th</sup>. The bulk of the meeting was spent on giving final comments and approval for the Sound Vision plan for Long Island Sound and for a two year Action Agenda. Of particular interest to the Committee are the inclusion of goals for better coordination of and dedicated funding for citizen water quality monitoring programs and for researching cost-effective means of reducing pathogen levels. It was also reported that a total of \$5.9 million in federal funding was approved for Long Island Sound for fiscal year 2011 which was about \$2.3 million more than anticipated.. Among other things, this will mean that the Long Island Sound Futures Fund for 2011 will more than triple (from \$409,819 to \$1.5 million). The Committee has a pending grant application for its water monitoring program.

## **2010 and 2011 Water-Quality Monitoring Programs**

Eric reported that the proposed revisions to the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) were approved by the US EPA on June 28<sup>th</sup>. Jim Moriarty reported that the water quality monitoring program is now in its 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> week.

## **Municipal Updates**

**Roslyn** - Len Shaw reported that at the last Board of Trustees meeting, the Mayor and Trustees expressed their gratitude to the Committee for its work. The Village is also pursuing a grant to enable them to restore the inside of the clock tower. On June 15<sup>th</sup>, with the cooperation of the County, Eric, Len and Pee Dee Shaw gained access to the lower outside area of the Grist Mill and were able to clean up about 5 or 6 bags' worth of accumulated debris.

**Oyster Bay** – Jim Moriarty reported that the Town has received the first half million seed oysters and 4 million seed clams for its grow-out program and will be receiving another half million oysters in July. The Town has also released its Request For Proposals for the Hempstead Harbor to Oyster Bay Harbor Blueway Trail. Responses are due on July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**North Hempstead** – Kevin Braun mentioned that a draft Blueway Trail plan has been prepared and that the advisory committee will be meeting on June 30<sup>th</sup>. A public meeting will be held at a date to be determined.

**Sands Point** – Pasqua Dziadul announced that the village recently had its elections and has a new Mayor – Ed Adler. Mayor Wurzel, at age 92 and having served for 35 years, decided not to see re-election. Mayor Adler formerly served as Deputy Mayor. She also mentioned that she recently received a nice note from Mayor Wurzel stating that he was very pleased with the shellfish opening and the work that the Committee is doing. The Village has also recently decided to allow filming in the village and already a movie and a commercial have been filmed at the Sands Point Preserve. This will bring some revenue to the village. Pasqua suggested that the Committee consider holding one of its meetings at the Preserve. ***Pasqua will attempt to secure the Sands Point Preserve for the Committee's September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.*** Finally, she mentioned that all of the buildings on the Lands End property have now been demolished and removed and that construction of the new homes is expected to begin this summer. The development will no longer use the name "Lands End" but rather something along the lines of "Sea Gate".

**Sea Cliff** – Tom Powell that the Village Trustees announced at their last meeting that a portion of the harbor has been re-opened to shellfishing. Also, the beach is “going strong”. The village is seeing an increase in the number of users. The Village and the Beautification Committee are also looking into the possibility of re-opening some of the closed staircases down to the water. The one at 18<sup>th</sup> Street and Bay Avenue is experiencing some erosion problems and this may present an opportunity to address storm water that discharges at that point and to remove some invasive plants.

### **Shellfish Opening**

Eric reported that there were 55 boats harvesting clams on June 1<sup>st</sup>, the opening day and that the baymen were finding plenty of shellfish. Each rake was coming up about two thirds full. The event received considerable press attention including three articles in Newsday, a Newsday editorial, a News 12 story, a Cablevision editorial and articles in several other publications. Kevin asked that Eric send him a disk of the Cablevision editorial. **Eric will send Kevin a disk.**

The Committee convened a meeting of all marine enforcement agencies on June 20<sup>th</sup> so that all could better understand the issues, who has jurisdiction, the boundaries, and so on. About 20 persons attended including NYS DEC Law Enforcement, NYS DEC Marine Bureau, Town of North Hempstead Public Safety, Town of Oyster Bay Public Safety, Nassau County Health Department and the Glen Cove Harbormaster and the Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor. The Nassau County Marine Police were supposed to attend but didn't. NYS DEC agreed to provide marker buoys to better delineate the boundaries. North Hempstead agreed to supply the anchors and chain for the buoys and to assist in their placement. DEC will also supply Closed to Shellfishing signs to the various municipalities to post in the closed areas. They are available in English, Spanish, Chinese and Korean. All agencies took some of the Committee's brochures on shellfishing to distribute.

Concern was expressed about over-harvesting in light of the fact that the state diggers permit does not have any restriction on harvest quantity. State officials felt that their hands were pretty much tied since their regulations are state-wide and cannot be applied to individual bays. Kevin felt that there must be a way that the state can prevent this. Eric mentioned that the Committee now has an intern, Daniel Corda, who is working on collecting more hard data on the shellfish situation. **Eric will have the intern research other states to see if any of them have a mechanism for preventing over-harvesting.**

### **Coastal Signage Project**

Kevin Braun noted that the 3 replacement signs have been delivered and that the Town's sign shop will be installing them soon. **Kevin will check to make sure that the signs are properly installed in concrete.**

### **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 the North Shore Country Club has not been able to find a company willing to remove the large pile of logs and branches at little or no cost in order to make way for the proposed sludge dewatering area. As an alternative, Eric has looked into having the Towns of Oyster Bay and North Hempstead take the material into their existing yard waste programs. Oyster Bay has agreed to assist. North Hempstead has requested a meeting with the country club to discuss the matter. Eric is working on setting up such a meeting. Tom Powell offered the use of a village payload loader to assist in the loading.

### **Powerhouse Drain Subwatershed Plan**

Eric reported that Cashin is nearly finished incorporating the various comments into the 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 has spoken to the Village and Village Clerk Randy Bond has requested that a copy be sent to her. **Eric will arrange for a copy to be sent to the Village of Sands Point.**

### **Other Items**

There were no other items

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 pm

**NEXT MEETING:** September 7, 2011 (location to be determined – possibly the Sands Point Preserve)