

# HEMPSTEAD HARBOR PROTECTION COMMITTEE

## FINAL

### MEETING MINUTES

Meeting of March 18, 2009  
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); Fred Pollack (North Hempstead); Kevin Braun (North Hempstead), Aldona Lawson (Oyster Bay), Dan Maddock (Sea Cliff); Pasqua Dziadul (Sands Point); Len Shaw (Roslyn); Joel Ziev (North Hempstead); Dan Fucci (Nassau County) and Carol DiPaolo (Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor)

#### Call to Order

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

#### Approval of Minutes of February 25, 2009

Dan Maddock moved to accept the minutes with no changes. Aldona Lawson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Announcements, Reminders, & Upcoming Events

L.I. Sound Citizen's Summit – Investing in Clean Water (March 6<sup>th</sup>) Bridgeport. Eric, Aldona and Carol all attended this event. Eric provided a handout summarizing the highlights (copy attached). He pointed out that the topic was timely given the immediacy of the federal stimulus funding. Key speakers included U.S. Senator Chris Dodd (CT), NYS Senator Carl Marcellino, NYS Assemblyman Charles Lavine, NYS Assemblyman Marc Alessi and CT State Representative Terry Backer and CT State Senator Eileen Daly. Eric stated that he felt that the topic, while interesting and timely, was not of immediate benefit to local governments.

Friends of Cedarmere meeting – Eric, Len Shaw, Carol DiPaolo and Patrice Benneward all attended this kickoff meeting on March 7 at the Trinity Church in Roslyn. The steering committee began meeting in the fall of 2008. The group hopes to be recognized by the county so that it can then incorporate as a charitable organization (501(c)3). They envision their role as a partner to the county assuming the day to day management and operations of Cedarmere (but not ownership at this time); sponsoring events there; applying for grants; expanding its exhibits and educating the public about William Cullen Bryant. Eric had prepared extensive minutes (copy attached) which he passed around at the meeting and which the Friends of Cedarmere asked permission to use as their own minutes. Eric gave his consent.

NYS DEC Phase II Workshop – Eric reminded the Committee members that the DEC will be holding a Phase II workshop on the new annual report forms on April 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm at Stony Brook. Interested persons must pre-register and space is limited. Bill and Eric plan to attend.

L.I.'s first pharmaceutical collection - Eric reminded the Committee that Long Island's first collection of unwanted medications (prescription and over the counter) will take place on Saturday, April 18, 2009, 10 am – 3 pm at the Setauket Firehouse on Nicolls Rd in Setauket. This is being organized by NY Sea Grant. This event is a collaboration of Stony Brook University and Medical Center, New York Sea Grant, Suffolk County Legislator Lynne Nowick, Assemblyman Steve Englebright, Suffolk County Health Department, Long Island Sound Study, and Triumvirate Environmental Inc. They will permit local municipalities to perform a "mini collection" to collect over the counter drugs and bring them to the event but any prescription drugs would need to be brought directly by the residents. There is a possibility that a future event may be held in Nassau County as a joint venture with a municipality such as the Town of Oyster Bay.

Town of North Hempstead EcoFest - This event will take place at the Clark Botanical Gardens on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and volunteers are needed due to schedule conflicts that Eric has. ***Len and Pee Dee Shaw will staff the booth on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.***

#### Long Island Sound Study CAC Update

Joel Ziev reported that he, Eric, Carol and Aldona attended the CAC's meeting at EPA Headquarters in lower Manhattan on March 12<sup>th</sup>. The meeting adjourned briefly at lunchtime so that the CAC could participate with organized labor unions in a press conference on the steps of City Hall to support the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act stimulus projects and environmental bond act projects. Unfortunately about two blocks away and at the same time, Bernard Madoff was appearing in court to enter his plea in the investment pyramid scheme and

nearly all of the media were pre-occupied with that event. An announcement was made at the CAC meeting that a \$5 Billion "NYS Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Bond Act" has been proposed to the state legislature. New York generally has environmental bond acts about every 10 years although the last one was in 1996. As currently envisioned, this bond act would appropriate \$ 1 Billion each to the following categories:

- Clean water through watershed protection
- Clean water infrastructure
- Green jobs through energy efficiency
- Clean Air and Green Transit
- Urban Health and Community Restoration

It was also announced that Rep. Rosa DeLaura is now the co-chair (along with Rep. Steve Israel) of the Congressional Long Island Sound Caucus. Since both Reps. DeLaura and Israel sit on the House Appropriations Committee, this could bode well for funding for Long Island Sound programs.

A presentation was also given by Ron Entringer and Lorraine Gregory (both of DEC) on the TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) for nitrogen in Long Island Sound. Since the TMDL was adopted in 2000, the EPA / DEC Phase II stormwater program has been implemented, new marine standards for dissolved oxygen were adopted and a new computer model ("SWEM") was developed. As a result, a reassessment of the TMDL has been undertaken and the focus is now shifting to municipalities ("MS4s") to reduce nitrogen rather than simply on wastewater treatment plants. Cesspools can be a major source of nitrogen. Under the DEC's proposed scenario, once the revised TMDL is issued, MS4s will have 180 days to modify their stormwater management plans to ensure that nitrogen reduction levels set forth in the TMDL are achieved. Then within 3 years, they must assess their progress. There could be a requirement in the next NYS general permit to require storm drain retrofits, although these are not generally designed to remove nitrogen. It was generally conceded that there are no real technologies for removing nitrogen from stormwater and that doing so would be exorbitantly expensive. Since shellfish are known to take up nutrients, Eric had asked if seeding a harbor with shellfish could be an acceptable control method. The DEC said that it could. Eric pointed out that this could be the basis for a real boost in the Committee's efforts to bring back shellfishing to the harbor. The DEC's timeline on the TMDL is as follows:

- Early 2009 – complete modeling of loads and effects
- Early to mid 2009 – develop management decisions
- Late 2009 – Proposed TMDL
- January 2010 – Finalize TMDL

Further information on the nitrogen TMDL can be obtained from Lorraine Gregory ([lagregor@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:lagregor@gw.dec.state.ny.us) (518) 408-5718) or from Ron Entringer ([raentrin@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:raentrin@gw.dec.state.ny.us) (518) 402-8176).

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

Kevin Braun reported that the Soil and Water Conservation District is feeling the pinch of the county's budget deficit. The County has proposed reducing its funding for the District from \$100,000 to \$50,000 for 2009 and they are preparing a summary for the county of all the services that they offer and the costs incurred for those services. In order to further assist the county and to justify their existence, the District is proposing taking over some of the responsibilities of the county DPW including, but not limited to, goose control, DPW and municipal employee training, site plan and storm water pollution prevention plan reviews. The District currently has two full time employees.

### **Municipal Updates**

Village of Sea Cliff – Dan Maddock reported that the North Shore Country Club is struggling financially and that one option being considered is the subdivision of part of the property for the construction of 7 single family homes. The Village is considering the enactment of a six month moratorium on development in that zone but exempting the 7 homes so that it can properly assess the impact if the entire country club is developed. A public hearing was held and the village is awaiting input from the Nassau County Planning Commission before making its decision. The village's Landmarks Committee wants to prevent the club from destroying the cottages along the southern edge of Scudder's Pond. Dan also reported that the Sea Cliff has reached out to Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor John Venditto to make him aware of the potential development. Carol DiPaolo pointed out that the site was included in the SEA Fund 3 nominations and that the club would likely be a willing seller, which is a plus under the SEA Fund requirements. She also pointed out that the Town had previously amended its zoning on the site to match Sea Cliff's zoning (note that the club property is partly in Sea Cliff and partly in the Town).

Town of Oyster Bay – Aldona Lawson mentioned that after several attempts to get Gladsky Marine (Glenwood Landing) to provide the Town with necessary information in order to legalize its operation and correct a number of violations, the Town has provided notice to Gladsky that it has ceased its review of its application until it clears up its past violations. Following the letter to Gladsky, the Town inspected the facility and cited the firm for many additional violations which are returnable in district court. Aldona also mentioned that on March 14<sup>th</sup>, the Town held its 21<sup>st</sup> annual dune grass planting at Tobay Beach and over 1,100 volunteers showed up.

Town of North Hempstead – Kevin Braun reported that NOAA has some federal stimulus funding available for wetland restoration and that the Town is pursuing some of these funds. He also mentioned that the Town has received site plans for the Glen Harbor Partners (“Hin Fin”) development and is reviewing them. A public meeting is expected to be held soon.

Village of Flower Hill – Bill Clemency noted that there is nothing new to report this month.

Village of Roslyn – Len Shaw reported that village elections were being held that day but that the Mayor is running unopposed.

Village of Sands Point – Pasqua Dziadul noted that there is nothing new to report this month.

Nassau County - Dan Fucci reported that the firm of Ecology and Environment has been retained to perform a watershed study of Hempstead Harbor and to perform an analysis of coliform bacteria inputs into the harbor. The \$25,000 study is part of a larger project undertaken by the county and includes a stream assessment of the harbor’s watershed. Each stream in the watershed will be physically inspected and all stormwater infrastructures will be photographed and have its condition described and its GPS coordinates recorded. Any illicit discharges will be identified. The stormwater coliform audit calculations will be performed in response to the DEC’s recent issuance of a shellfish pathogen TMDL for the harbor. Since the TMDL was based on assumed and not actual data, the input of these bacteria will greatly assist in providing a more realistic starting point for remediation. This will all take place in 2009. Finally, in view of concern over the county’s fiscal situation, Dan reported that the county has earmarked \$30,000 in this year’s budget for its HHPC dues.

### 2009 Member Dues

Eric pointed out that he had notified each of the member municipalities about the proposed 2009 member dues in accordance with the terms of the Inter-Municipal Agreement and provided each of them with at least 60 days to review the proposal before finalizing the dues. He also mentioned that he had copies of the dues contributions available if anyone needed an additional copy. He asked if any of the municipalities had any concerns or comments with respect to the dues. No concerns or comments were voiced. He also noted that a quorum was present at the meeting. With that, Aldona Lawson made a motion to approve the 2009 Dues Schedule. Len Shaw seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. **Eric will send out invoices.** The final 2009 dues are as follows:

Municipality	Previous Years			Current Year
	2006 Annual Dues	2007 Annual Dues	2008 Annual Dues	Proposed 2009 Annual Dues
City of Glen Cove	\$7,500	\$7,425	\$7,425	\$7,425
Town of North Hempstead	\$10,000	\$9,900	\$9,900	\$9,900
Town of Oyster Bay	\$10,000	\$9,900	\$9,900	\$9,900
Village of Flower Hill	\$5,000	\$4,950	\$4,950	\$4,950
Village of Roslyn	\$5,000	\$4,950	\$4,950	\$4,950
Village of Roslyn Harbor	\$5,000	\$4,950	\$4,950	\$4,950
Village of Sands Point	\$5,000	\$4,950	\$4,950	\$4,950
Village of Sea Cliff	\$5,000	\$4,950	\$4,950	\$4,950
Nassau County	\$30,000	\$30,525	\$30,525	\$30,525
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>\$82,500</b>	<b>\$82,500</b>	<b>\$82,500</b>	<b>\$82,500</b>

Carol DiPaolo gave the following updates:

2008 monitoring program – the final report is being prepared by Carol and Fuss and O'Neill and is expected to be completed by the April Committee meeting. This will complete the 2008 program.

2009 monitoring program – Eric reported that he and Carol reviewed the proposed expansion of the monitoring program in order to determine the level of work involved and any additional cost and determined that the addition of 18 monitoring locations would increase the necessary budget by \$10,000 (to \$45,000). The expansion will add 18 locations being sampled 15 to 18 times with DEC providing the lab work. These additional samples would be located in the mid and lower harbor as well as in Glen Cove Creek and would begin the process of assessing the likelihood of opening these areas to shellfishing. It is expected to take about two years' worth of data in order to begin to make the determination. In light of this, on March 13<sup>th</sup> Eric submitted a grant proposal in the amount of \$45,000 to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation ("NFWF").

Eric pointed out that at the Committee's February meeting, the Committee authorized the expenditure of \$35,000 for the program (the same as for 2008). Because the NFWF grant will not be announced until September (when the monitoring season is nearly over), this creates a dilemma in that the work would need to get underway in April. Eric pointed out that one way around this dilemma would be to postpone the collection of the additional samples until after September when it is known whether the grant is received. To do so, however, would necessitate collecting part of the samples in 2009 and the remainder in the spring of 2010. This would cause the 2009 program to overlap with the 2010 program and would necessitate the request for an extension of the grant. Eric had spoken with Lynn Dwyer of NFWF and she was amenable to working out such an arrangement in the event that the grant is awarded. Eric pointed out that this arrangement would also require that the DEC to commit its lab to the new schedule also and that the revised schedule would most likely involve twice weekly sampling and lab work rather than once weekly. Bill Hastback of DEC was away on vacation and thus Eric was unsure if this was feasible. In the event that the grant is not received, Eric pointed out that he could come back to the Committee and seek the additional funds to expand the program on our own.

After discussion, the Committee felt that it would be preferable, if at all possible, to fund the program in full at the beginning of the season. It was noted that there would still be time to appropriate the additional funds prior to the onset of the program if it is done at the April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. **Eric will pursue the various options and report back to the Committee at the April meeting.**

Eric also mentioned that he has prepared a draft contract between the Village of Sea Cliff and the Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor based on the 2008 agreement and had sent a draft copy to the Village. Changes were made to the previous agreement to account for the possibility that the grant comes in for an amount between \$35,000 and \$45,000 (depending on the funding received) and to include the expanded scope in the event that the grant is awarded. He requested authorization for the Village to enter into the agreement on behalf of the Committee with the Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor. Bill Clemency made a motion to authorize the agreement. Aldona Lawson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Shellfish re-opening project - Eric reported that he has contacted Bill Hastback of the DEC for an update on the shellfish re-opening and that Bill responded as follows:

DEC's water quality monitoring of outer Hempstead Harbor continues as part of our routine systematic random sampling (SRS) in SGA#34, western Long Island Sound, and SGA, #50 Hempstead Harbor (outer). Our most recent sampling run was done 12/8/08. We now have 40 sampling runs since we began sampling in the area on August 27, 2004. The next sampling run is planned on March 19, 2009, weather permitting.

Additional, occasional sampling targeted to assess w/q after rainfall (runoff) events in the range of 0.50" to 2.00", as was done on five (5) occasions in late 2007 and 2008 by Tony Alfieri, TOB, would be beneficial to supplement our SRS database, which is skewed to dry to low-to-moderate rainfall/runoff conditions.

Results of the chemical analyses of shellfish tissue collected last summer/fall are still being reviewed by NYS Department of Health. They have had the data since November and December as the contract labs' reports arrived. I was expecting the results of the NYSDOH review of the metals data last week.

I have completed about half the shoreline survey/pollution source inventory of Hempstead Harbor. I still need to do a slow cruise along the shoreline to develop detailed information in the report narrative. That work should be completed by the end of May.

I have been in touch with FDA personnel to request and pre-plan for the necessary hydrographic dye study of the effluent from the Glen Cove Wastewater Treatment facility. I made my initial request to FDA in September of last year. Recent communication with the FDA personnel that will conduct the dye study indicates that they are planning on late-July (29-31) or mid-August (17-19).

I have also notified Rich Cotugno, Superintendent of Sewer Plants, Nassau County Dept. of Public Works of our plans to work with FDA this summer to conduct a dye study at the GC WWTP.

The dye study is necessary to characterize the dilution, dispersion and time-of-travel of the effluent from the GC WWTP so the required\* (excerpt from NSSP Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish below) closed safety zone can be determined.

I can prepare 95% of the regulatory amendments package to effect the reclassification of the area after i complete the shoreline survey report and the water quality report. However, i will not be able to submit the regulatory package until after the FDA reports on the findings of the dye study because i have include the description of the closed safety zone around the GC WWTP in the amended regulations.

Bill H

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\*Excerpt from the NSSP Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish:

<http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~ear/nss4or04.html>

(5) Wastewater Discharges.

I. (a) An area classified as prohibited shall be established adjacent to each sewage treatment plant outfall or any other point source outfall of public health significance.

II. (b) The determination of the size of the area to be classified as prohibited adjacent to each outfall shall include the following minimum criteria:

1. (i) The volume flow rate, location of discharge, performance of the wastewater treatment plant and the bacteriological or viral quality of the effluent;
2. (ii) The decay rate of the contaminants of public health significance in the wastewater discharged;
3. (iii) The wastewater's dispersion and dilution, and the time of waste transport to the area where shellstock may be harvested; and
4. (iv) The location of the shellfish resources, classification of adjacent waters and identifiable landmarks or boundaries.

Shellfish density survey – Eric pointed out that he is still awaiting a decision by the Town of Oyster Bay as to the release of the completed study. He mentioned that portions were sent to Tom Maher of Nassau County for use in the upcoming shellfish seeding program.

#### **Scudder's Pond Subwatershed Study, Retrofits & Improvements**

Eric reported that Cashin is continuing its work on the Scudder's Pond I and II contracts. No work product has been submitted by the consultant yet. He also stated that Cashin reports that they are close to providing a price quote for the Scudders' III contract. If the price is acceptable, the Village has the go-ahead from the DOS to retain them as a sole-source.

#### **Powerhouse Drain Subwatershed Plan**

Eric reported that Cashin is also continuing its work on the Powerhouse Drain plan. No work product has been submitted by the consultant yet.

#### **No Discharge Zone and Clean Marinas Project**

Eric mentioned that he has still received no response from local marinas and yacht clubs and despite sending two letters assurances from two of them regarding participation in the Clean Marinas project. He mentioned that he had hoped work on transforming his five page information packet for boaters into a brochure but has not done so yet. **He will have the brochure by the April meeting.**

#### **Coastal Signage Project**

Kevin Braun indicated that he has heard from DOS since the last meeting but they were not able to report anything substantive – only that they are continuing to work on the signs.

#### **New NYS DEC Phase II Annual Report Form**

Eric passed around a copy of the DEC's new annual reporting form for Phase II stormwater programs and pointed out a potential issue that would make it difficult or impossible for the Committee's members to take credit for the work performed by the Committee. The issue stems from the fact that the new annual form requires there to be a formal agreement between the two parties (in this case between the municipalities and the Committee) that spells out in specific detail the items to be undertaken. In our case, the new Inter-Municipal Agreement between the municipalities and the Committee (which took nearly two years to adopt) does contain language to the effect that the Committee undertakes activities on behalf of the member municipalities for Phase II stormwater permit compliance but it does

not, and cannot, provide the level of specificity required by the permit. It should be noted that the Inter-Municipal Agreement was drafted prior to the new annual report requirements.

Eric has contacted Ms. Eileen Keenan of NY Sea Grant / DEC to discuss the issue and she has concurred that the Committee's agreement would not suffice under the permit rules but that there may be a way for the Committee to certify the work it does for the municipalities. A meeting has been set up between Eric and Ms. Keenan for Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss this.

The language in the permit requirements are as follows:

If an MS4 relies on another entity/MS4 to satisfy permit requirements, a third party certification statement is required as per GP-0-08-002 pg. 12 Part IV.G:

#### G. Reliance Upon Third Parties

This section applies when a permittee relies upon any third party entity to develop or implement any portion of its SWMP. Examples of such entities include, but are not limited to a non-government, commercial entity that receives payment from the permittee for services provided (for example businesses that create policies or procedures for permittees, perform illicit discharge identification and track down, maintain roads, remove snow, clean storm sewer system, sweep streets, etc as contracted by the permittee).

The permittee must, through a signed certification statement, contract or agreement provide adequate assurance that the third parties will comply with permit requirements applicable to the work performed by the third party. The certification statement, contract or other agreement must:

- provide adequate assurance that the third party will comply with permit requirements;
- identify the activities that the third party entity will be responsible for and include the name and title of the person providing the signature;
- the name, address and telephone number of the third party entity;
- an identifying description of the location of the work performed; and
- the date the certification statement, contract or other agreement is signed.

Example certification language is provided below:

#### Contracted Entity Certification Statement:

"I certify under penalty of law that I understand and agree to comply with the terms and conditions of the (permittee's name) stormwater management program and agree to implement any corrective actions identified by the (permittee's name) or a representative.

I also understand that the (permittee's name) must comply with the terms and conditions of the New York State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("SPDES") general permit for stormwater discharges from the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems ("MS4s") and that it is unlawful for any person to directly or indirectly cause or contribute to a violation of water quality standards. Further, I understand that any noncompliance by (permittee's name) will not diminish, eliminate, or lessen my own liability."

*According to Ms. Keenan:*

In order to submit one report on behalf of all HHPC MS4s, the parties need to have a legally binding agreement. It doesn't appear that the HHPC agreement is adequate as a legally binding agreement or third party certification. I believe that the third party certification (with detail/signature certification as described above) could suffice as a legally binding agreement.

Absent a legally binding agreement, each MS4 could report the activities that were conducted on its behalf in their own, individual annual report. However, a third party certification statement is nonetheless required when relying on another entity.

#### **Other Business**

Eric mentioned that with respect to changing the Director's position from an independent contractor to a part time employee, that following last month's meeting, he Eric visited the Civil Service Commission and researched possible titles and forwarded them to the Village Treasurer. He also heard through Dan Maddock that the Village Attorney expressed his opinion that in order for the Director to be a Village employee, that the Village would need to control the hours and work assignments of the Director. Since the Director works on behalf of the full Committee and not just one of its members, it is not clear that this obstacle can be overcome. Eric is continuing to research the issue.

The meeting adjourned approximately at 9:00 pm

**NEXT MEETING:** April 15th at Sea Cliff Village Hall (7:00 pm)

## **LONG ISLAND SOUND CITIZEN'S SUMMIT**

March 6, 2009  
Bridgeport, CT

Most interesting facts gleaned:

- Ancient Babylonia (in present day Iraq) has a stormwater infrastructure in 4000 BC.
- Ancient Rome mandated home sewer hookups in 100 BC.

Federal stimulus package has \$ 4 Billion for wastewater projects for all 50 states. Almost all will go to piping. In NYS, 15 million of the state's 18 million citizens are served by sewage treatment plants. NYS needs \$ 36.8 billion over the next 20 years for wastewater infrastructure. The state's share of the stimulus package is \$ 432 million

Governor Paterson has set up a Clean Water Collaborative – headed by Sandra Allen (formerly headed DEC's Water Division). Her number is 518 402-8233 or [h2oinfra@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:h2oinfra@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

There is a proposed \$ 5 Billion NYS bond act which is scheduled to be unveiled to the public on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **SUMMARY OF FRIENDS OF CEDARMERE MEETING**

Trinity Church, Roslyn  
March 7, 2009

I attended the Friends of Cedarmere's first public meeting on Saturday and thought I'd fill you in.

The meeting was the first public meeting of the Friends of Cedarmere. It was held at the Trinity Church in Roslyn.

The steering committee, consisting of 5 persons sat at a table at the front of the room. A rough guess is that there were about 100 attendees.

The steering committee began meeting in the fall of 2008. The group hopes to be recognized by the county so that it can then incorporate as a charitable organization (501(c)3). They envision their role as a partner to the county assuming the day to day management and operations of Cedarmere (but not ownership at this time); sponsoring events there; applying for grants; expanding its exhibits and educating the public about William Cullen Bryant.

Cedarmere's former Director, Harrison ("Terry") Hunt (who is on the steering committee) retired in mid December and there is no money in the county budget to hire a replacement. All of Cedarmere's staff except for one person has been transferred to other sites and the exhibits are in the process of being dismantled and sent to the county's DPW building in New Cassel for storage. Apparently the county felt that the museum was underutilized and did not justify re-opening after the usual seasonal closure (the museum is typically open from April until November 3rd - Bryant's birthday). According to Terry, if the rumors are true that the county and its unions have reached agreements that prevent layoffs, Cedarmere will be the only museum in the county to close.

Background: William Cullen Bryant bought Cedarmere and about 200 acres in 1843. When he died in 1878, the site was divided between his two daughters. Eventually his grandson owned the property who then left it to his daughter, Elizabeth Godwin. In 1975, Ms. Godwin left it to the county in her will provided that the county maintain it for educational and cultural purposes. She also left \$100,000 as seed money for its upkeep. The county accepted the property but was slow to do anything

with it. It was finally opened to the public in 1994 (Bryant's bicentennial). Ms. Godwin's executor attended the meeting and spoke about her wishes.

Over the years, the furnace and plumbing have been replaced and a new slate roof was installed by a contractor who did a poor job. The slate which should have lasted 100 years has already begun falling off. The grounds and gardens have been restored. The mill building is slated by the county for renovation with matching funds provided by the Gerry Trust.

The next phase of renovation to the main house is the completion of the flat roof project which has been awaiting completion for 4 years. This needs to be complete in order for Cedarmere to receive a NYS grant for restoration of the house's exterior. Benjamin Moore has offered to provide the paint.

In addition, as a result of the Hotel Tax legislation, money is allocated for the restoration of the interior. The county has estimated that the total cost of restoring the house is \$1 million. Between state grants and the hotel tax, close to \$500,000 is available for restoration. It appears that the county has put all restoration projects on hold.

Bryant's property once included the land where the Nassau County Museum of Art now stands. Before the county took over that property, it was owned by Charles Frick who died in 1968. After his death, a developer wanted to subdivide the property and after public pressure, the county purchased that property for \$ 3 million. The Town of North Hempstead rented the property from the county for two years at \$ 1.00 per year.

The Friends are looking at the Friends of Sands Point and another group organized on behalf of Elderfields in Port Washington as models. They noted that the Friends of Sands Point (Hempstead House) took 6 years to form and reach agreement with the county.

The Friends originally had a meeting scheduled with the county to discuss these items but the meeting was scheduled for the day after Tom Suozzi presented his layoff plan to the Legislature. The county cancelled the meeting until it had a better sense of what would be happening. It is expected that this meeting will be rescheduled shortly. The county representatives that were to attend were: Ian Siegel (Deputy County Exec), Eileen Krieb (Executive Coordinator for the Dept. of Parks) and Jose Lopez (Commissioner of Parks).

They also have a commitment to meet with Legislator Wayne Wink.

Friends feels that there is a lot of untapped potential to bring in funds for use of Cedarmere. For example, the county currently limits the fee that can be charged for use in weddings to \$50.00 (and those fees go to the Parks general fund).

Friends is also launching a website and already has two facebook sites.

In the interim, they can be reached at [wcbryant@optonline.net](mailto:wcbryant@optonline.net).