

# HEMPSTEAD HARBOR PROTECTION COMMITTEE

## FINAL MEETING MINUTES

January 9, 2013

NOTE: ACTION ITEMS ARE IN ***UNDERLINED ITALICS***

Attendees: Tom Powell (Sea Cliff and Chair); Len Shaw (Roslyn); Kevin Braun (North Hempstead); Eric Swenson (Executive Director); Abby Kurlender (Roslyn Harbor); Catherine Chester (Sands Point); Joel Ziev (North Hempstead); Carol DiPaolo (Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor); John Stalzer (interested citizen)

### Call to Order

Tom Powell called the meeting to order at approximately 7:10 pm.

### Review and Approval of Draft Minutes of Meeting of November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Kevin Braun moved to approve the minutes of the September 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Tom Powell seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously approved them.

### Reminder of 2013 Proposed Meeting Schedule

Eric reminded the Committee of the 2013 meeting schedule and pointed out the change in the September date (the meeting will be held on September 11<sup>th</sup>). The schedule is as follows:

- January 9
- March 13
- April 10
- June 19
- September 11
- October 9
- November 20

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

Eric Swenson made the following announcements, reports and reminders:

**L.I. Green Infrastructure Conference and Expo** – Eric noted that this event (the second such conference) will take place on June 12<sup>th</sup> at Brookhaven National Laboratory and that the scope has been broadened somewhat to include some green energy issues. The organizing committee expects to be able to offer P.E. credits.

**Creation of Long Island Water Quality Coordinating Committee** – Eric noted that the committee, which is intended mainly as a resource to bring every Long Island organization working on clean water issues together to coordinate activities rather than to serve as yet another organization tackling the same issues, will hold a meeting with a proposed steering committee on March 7<sup>th</sup> in Riverhead.

**Report on Long Island Clean Water Alliance meeting** – Eric mentioned that he attended a kickoff meeting on December 17<sup>th</sup> at the offices of the Citizens Campaign for the Environment. There were about 30 attendees which included representatives of the Sustainability Institutes, Nature Conservancy, North Shore Land Alliance, SPLASH, Pine Barrens Society, Citizens Campaign for the Environment, Sierra Club, Friends of the Bay, Grace Foundation, Sarah Meyland and others. I was the only attendee representing local governments. A second meeting with other groups from the east end was to be held later that afternoon in Riverhead. Background: the Rauch Foundation has made protecting Long Island’s water quality a major priority in its funding. After the Rauch Foundation conference at the Huntington Hilton in March, the speakers got together to decide where to go from there. They decided that they needed to form a broad coalition of groups to push for legislation and to make water quality a priority for Long Island. The idea is to mimic the “Long Island’s Last Stand” campaign that was initiated a few years ago by the Nature Conservancy to preserve the last remaining open space on the island. They are trying to get 100 -200 groups to sign onto this alliance. At this point they have only reached out to not-for-profits and academia. Eric noted that he does not see this group more as complimenting rather than overlapping the efforts of the Long Island Water Quality Coordinating Committee which he is also involved with.

**Report on Cleaner Greener Communities meeting** – Eric stated that the next meeting will take place on January 18<sup>th</sup> and he plans to attend.

**Possible Joint Protection Committee meeting** – Eric mentioned that efforts are underway to hold a joint meeting of the three protection committees (possibly at the Bryant Library in April or May) with a presentation by Dr. Chris Gobler of SUNY Stony Brook who has done extensive research on algae blooms and nitrogen in groundwater and surface waters. Stay tuned.

### **2012 Member Dues Update**

To date, all municipalities have paid except Nassau County. Eric was assured last week that funds have been encumbered for the county’s payment and a voucher and backup documentation were hand-delivered by Dan Fucci to the administration last week

### **Proposed 2013 Member Dues**

After reviewing and discussing the Committee’s current fiscal situation and costs for the 2013 water quality monitoring program (see below), a motion was made by Kevin Braun and seconded by Tom Powell to propose member dues at the same levels as 2012. The Committee approved this motion unanimously. The proposed dues now go to the member municipalities for their required 60 day review period. Municipalities have the option of dropping out of the Committee if they so desire (*note: this has never happened*). The next step is the formal adoption of the dues at the March 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. The proposed dues are as follows: County - \$30,525; Towns - \$9,900 each; City - \$7,425; and villages - \$4,950 each for a total = \$82,500.00. Eric reminded the villages that the Committee customarily waits until after the start of their fiscal years before billing (usually June 1<sup>st</sup>).

### **Water Quality and Monitoring Programs / Shellfish Opening**

2012 Water Quality Monitoring Program update – Eric noted that the grant agreements have been finalized and that the Committee has received \$36,000 as the initial payment toward the \$40,000 grant. Carol DiPaolo reported that she has received the bacteria results from the Nassau County Health Department for the final sampling done in November and the numbers had decreased as expected at that time of the year. There was no detectable change in bacterial levels as a result of Hurricane Sandy. She has begun working on the Annual Report which is the last component of the program and the grant.

Beach Closure and Wildlife Feeding Pamphlets – Eric distributed two draft pamphlets that he prepared explaining beach and shellfish closures and educating the public on the dangers of feeding ducks, geese and other waterfowl. He asked for comments on the documents. Several Committee members provided written comments at the meeting.

2013 Water Quality Monitoring Program – Carol noted that her costs for carrying out the program have increased in nearly all aspects and requested that the Committee consider increasing the contractual amount to \$45,000 for 2013 (from \$40,000). She reminded the Committee that the program cost had been \$45,000 in 2009 and 2010 but that the costs had been cut back in 2011 when the Committee failed to receive a grant for the 2010 monitoring program. Joel Ziev emphasized the need for written documentation to justify the increase and to break down how the funds will be expended. The Committee reviewed the HHPC's current fiscal situation and the likelihood of receiving a grant for the 2013 monitoring program and felt that the increase could be approved provided that **Carol provide written backup showing the need for the increase.** Tom Powell moved that the Committee authorize entering into a contract with the Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor to carry out the 2013 water quality monitoring program for an amount not to exceed \$45,000 and that the Committee be prepared to absorb that expense in the event that no grant funding is received. Abby Kurlender seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

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

Kevin Braun mentioned that the District is allocating about \$3,000 in labor and materials toward the Town of North Hempstead's wetland restoration in lower Hempstead Harbor. The Town is pursuing the renewal of its permit to be able to remove invasive phragmites.

### **C.E.S.S.P.O.O.L. Project Update**

Eric noted that the project team is pursuing the procurement of a professional pollster determine the level of knowledge and motivational factors for residents with respect to septic system maintenance. It is hoped that the polling will be completed by the Spring so that the information can be used in developing a short video using the talents of student Chris Johnston. The team is also pursuing various educational outreach strategies.

### **Coastal Signage Project**

Kevin Braun noted that since the last meeting, he has been in communication with the NYS Department of State on our Coast Signage II grant and they have advised him that they have hired a new staff person and once this person is up to speed, our project is "on the top of the list".

### **Scudder's Pond Subwatershed Improvements**

Eric reported that the Village Attorney has prepared a draft easement with the North Shore Country Club which was forwarded to the club for its review. No comments have been received as of this date.

### **Phase II Stormwater Compliance Plan**

Nothing to report this meeting. Eric would like to get this wrapped up by the Spring **and will talk to Cashin Associates about wrapping this up.**

### **Municipal Updates**

**Roslyn** – Len Shaw reported that the public trail that runs behind the Atria and Horizon buildings has a lot of debris along the shoreline that needs to be removed (especially by the Horizon development) and that the owner is responsible for such cleanup. The Village has requested that the owner(s) remove the debris. Also, Len noted that there are large covered piles of dirt underneath the Viaduct that are being tested for contaminants prior to being disposed of. It is believed that these are associated with the Viaduct reconstruction project.

**Town of North Hempstead** – Kevin Braun mentioned that the Blueway Trail is nearing completion. A draft plan has been completed and is being reviewed by the Department of State prior to public release. Also, bid specs have been completed for the shoreline trail extension to its terminus near the Viaduct. The Town is awaiting its extension of its Army Corps of Engineers permit. They hope to begin work in February as it must be completed by March 15<sup>th</sup>. Kevin is also working to set up a cleanup of Hurricane Sandy debris in the area of the wetland plantings in March. Unless the debris is removed, it may smother and kill the emerging plants. He had discussed with Eric the possibility of a joint harbor cleanup with the Town of Oyster Bay. **Kevin will advise Eric with the date of the program and Eric will propose this to the Town of Oyster Bay.** Carol mentioned that the west side of the harbor seemed to have been impacted the most with debris from the hurricane.

**Village of Sea Cliff** – Tom Powell reported that some progress has been made regarding the controversy with respect to the public easement at the Sea Isle property. The Village is working with the homeowner who lives adjacent to the 10 foot easement on the trimming of bushes and the removal of tree stumps so that the public can have access to this section of shoreline.

**Town of Oyster Bay** – no representative present.

**County of Nassau** – no representative present.

**City of Glen Cove** – no representative present.

**Village of Flower Hill** – no representative present.

**Sands Point** – Catherine Chester reported that there has been some activity on the Lands End development along East Creek. Apparently the road is being constructed on the property.

**Roslyn Harbor** – nothing to report.

### **Other Items**

No other issues.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:10 pm

**NEXT MEETING:** March 13, 2013 (Sea Cliff)