

HEMPSTEAD HARBOR PROTECTION COMMITTEE
FINAL MEETING MINUTES
Sea Cliff Village Hall
April 10, 2013

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

Attendees: Tom Powell (Chair & Village of Sea Cliff); Dan Fucci (Nassau County); Len Shaw (Roslyn); Kevin Braun (North Hempstead); Eric Swenson (Executive Director); Abby Kurlender (Roslyn Harbor); Joel Ziev (North Hempstead); Carol DiPaolo (Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor); Leg. Delia DeRiggi-Whitton (Nassau County Legislator); Matt Piacentini (Aide to Leg. DeRiggi-Whitton); Elaine Roach (resident)

Call to Order

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

Guest Speaker

Nassau County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton explained her recent efforts to resolve long-standing septic issues within her district (which currently covers the eastern portion of the Hempstead Harbor watershed and extends into the Bayville and Oyster Bay areas but with recent redistricting, will shift further west effectively coinciding with the entire Hempstead Harbor watershed). She stated that there are three issues that need addressing – 1) connecting the downtown Sea Cliff business district to the county’s Glen Cove Wastewater Treatment plant; 2) connecting about 70 homes in the Crescent Beach area of Glen Cove to the plant; and 3) extending the recently installed “Birches” sewer line in Locust Valley to Bayville. She explained that when she was a member of the Glen Cove City Council, she learned that the Glen Cove plant had a significant amount of additional capacity available. She has been spearheading a bipartisan effort to obtain grant funding to perform the feasibility study necessary to properly plan these proposed connections. The engineering firm of H2M had put together an outline and background for the feasibility study with a cost estimate of about \$100,000. To pursue this, she, Sea Cliff Mayor Kennedy and others (including Eric Swenson from HHPC) met with Rep. Steve Israel (Co-chair of the Long Island Sound Congressional Caucus whose district covers these three areas) to seek his assistance.



Rep. Israel was very supportive and suggested that a conference call be set up with NY State legislative leaders so that support could be sought on the state level for a possible grant that could match a federal grant. A conference call was then held on April 8th with Sen. Carl Marcellino, a representative for Assemblyman Lavine, Assemblyman Michael Montesano, the three Mayors, Matt Piacentini (for Leg. DeRiggi-Whitton); Eric Swenson (for HHPC) and others. Details still need to be worked out in terms of appropriate grant sources, who would write the grant, etc. She is hopeful that a bipartisan effort will bring a resolution to these issues.

Review and Approval of Draft Minutes of Meeting of March 13, 2013

Kevin Braun moved to approve the minutes of the March 13th meeting. Len Shaw seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously approved them.

Announcements, Reports, Reminders, & Upcoming Events

Eric Swenson made the following announcements, reports and reminders:

L.I. Sound Citizens Summit – will be held on Friday, April 26th at Iona College in New Rochelle.

Town of North Hempstead EcoFest – Saturday, April 27th and 28th at Clark Botanical Gardens in Albertson . HHPC will have a booth and volunteers are needed.

Lawn and Garden Social Marketing Focus Groups – Wednesday, May 1st at Sea Cliff Village Hall (two sessions: 5:30 to 7:00 pm and 7:30 to 9:00 pm) participants are needed. Participants will be fed and receive a gift with a value of \$25.00.

Special Joint Protection Committee meeting with Dr. Chris Gobler – Tuesday, May 14th at 7:00 pm at Bryant Library in Roslyn

Webinar on “Watershed Arithmetic – Crediting and Counting Your Watershed Practices Toward TMDL Goals” - Center for Watershed Protection, May 15th, 12:00 to 2:00 pm

NY Sea Grant’s “Living Shorelines” conference, May 15th 8:30 to 4:30, Sheraton in Hauppauge (register by May 7)

HarborFest – Sunday, June 2nd at Port Washington Town Dock. HHPC will have a booth and volunteers are needed.

L.I. Green Infrastructure Conference and Expo – Eric noted that this June 12th event at Brookhaven National Laboratory is progressing well and EPA Regional Administrator Judith Enck has agreed to give the keynote address.

Creation of Long Island Water Quality Coordinating Committee – Eric noted that the kickoff meeting of the steering committee was held on April 3rd in Riverhead and was well attended. Some good discussions took place and it appears that the group has a good core committee.

Update on Glenwood Power Plant Decommissioning – Carol DiPaolo reported that she had spoken with the National Grid personnel and was advised that asbestos removal has begun in the building behind the guard

house. Every 3 or 4 days, a truck is filled with material and removed from the site. They have also applied for demolition permits and expect to begin demolishing this building around May 1st. The large brick building will begin asbestos removal in the Fall and demolition is expected to be completed in 2014. There is some community sentiment for re-purposing the large building rather than demolishing it. National Grid has apparently determined that it would be too cost-prohibitive to do so and that the best alternative is to raze it.

Executive Director Expenditure Requests

Motion to Purchase Canopy - Eric Swenson requested authorization to purchase a 10' x 10' pop-up canopy to be used at fairs and festivals and similar events. He explained that this year's HarborFest will no longer be held under a tent and that a canopy would be necessary. In the past, he has been able to borrow the Town of Oyster Bay's for other events but HarborFest always coincides with Bay Day in Oyster Bay and the Town usually needs its canopy for that event. The next event is EcoFest in a couple weeks and this could be used there as well. Eric has priced them and found one at BJ's for \$199.00. He felt that it is time that the Committee had its own canopy. Tom Powell moved to authorize Eric to purchase the canopy for \$199.00 plus tax. Abby Kurlender seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Motion to Authorize Travel Expenses to Washington DC – Eric also stated that the Long Island Sound Study Citizens Advisory Committee has organized a two day trip to Washington DC to meet with the EPA and member of Congress to discuss funding for Long Island Sound environmental projects. Eric stated that the Committee authorized him to attend last year and that it was a valuable experience and that a good share of the Committee's funding comes from these federal funds. Bayville Mayor Doug Watson has expressed interest in joining the group this year. Eric estimated that the cost for airfare, lodging and meals would not exceed \$600.00. Tom Powell made a motion to authorize Eric to spend up to \$600.00. Len Shaw seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2013 Member Dues Update

Eric noted that North Hempstead has sent in its dues. Dan Fucci stated that the county may be in a position to pay its dues earlier this year and requested that **Eric send him the necessary voucher** so that he can initiate the process.

Water Quality and Monitoring Programs / Shellfish Opening

2012 Water Quality Monitoring Program update – Carol DiPaolo reported that work is continuing on the 2012 Annual Report but that much of her effort in the last few weeks has gone toward working on the grant application with Eric for the 2013 water monitoring program.

2013 Water Quality Monitoring Program – Eric and Carol described the expanded program proposal that is currently being prepared for the 2013 Long Island Sound Futures Fund grant application. The grant request is for \$55,000 to cover the core water-monitoring program and additional bacteria testing at the Scudder's Pond weir and outfall to correspond with the construction of watershed improvements at Scudder's Pond that are scheduled for November 1 through March 31. Collection of weekly bacteria samples is proposed along with samples following up to 8 rainfall events at the same locations (up to 5 samplings during the regular monitoring season and up to 3 more during the construction season). Samples have been collected at these sites since 2010 during the regular monitoring season to establish a benchmark of bacteria levels.

The analysis results of the proposed additional bacteria samples will help in determining both the efficacy of the watershed improvements and the likelihood of DEC resuming testing in the lower harbor for a possible reopening of shellfish beds in that area. With the help of Dan Fucci and John Jacobs, the Nassau County Department of Health has agreed to provide the additional laboratory services at no cost.

Eric stated that he is pretty close to completing a grant application. He further stated that the agreement between the Village and the Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor (to carry out the monitoring) will need to be structured in two parts. The first part would cover the core program, and the second part would be a contingency item to cover the additional sampling. We should learn of the grant award in October, prior to the start of construction of the watershed improvements at Scudder's Pond.

Nassau County Soil & Water Conservation District

Kevin Braun mentioned that the District's post-Sandy Tree and Shrub sale has been a big success with over 10,000 trees and shrubs sold. Newsday and Ch. 7 Eyewitness News have already indicated that they will be covering the event. Also, an art auction will also be held on June 22nd at Martin Viette Nurseries to benefit work that the District does.

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

Eric noted that the project team is still pursuing the procurement of a professional pollster determine the level of knowledge and motivational factors for residents with respect to septic system maintenance.

Coastal Signage Project

Kevin Braun noted that he has heard nothing from the Department of State since his phone conversation late last year in which they 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". In addition, Eric noted that just prior to the meeting that he received an e-mail from the Town of North Hempstead's grants person who stated that this grant may have expired in December 2012. Eric indicated that he believed that he had requested an extension. **Eric will check to see whether an extension was requestd** [note: such a request was made]. **Kevin agreed to follow up with the Department of State.**

Scudder's Pond Subwatershed Improvements

Eric reported that the proposed draft easement with the North Shore Country Club was forwarded to the Village Attorney for review and comments are expected shortly. Eric also noted that the DEC has verbally approved the permit and has asked for a map from Cashin. He is expecting to receive the permit in the next couple weeks. It thus appears more than likely that we will be able to bid and award the project and begin construction this Fall.

Eric also stated that he received an e-mail from the Department of State stating that their intent was to end the original Scudder's agreement and the first Scudder's construction grant by the end of this year. Eric

responded that the original grant has not been closed out because there is still one component that is outstanding and it was hoped that those funds could be re-appropriated towards actual improvements in the event that additional funds are needed after bids are received. As for the first construction grant, he pointed out that the three DOS grants are designed to match against two Nassau County Bond Act grants and that the final permit is expected imminently. He is awaiting a call back from DOS to resolve this.

Phase II Stormwater Compliance Plan

Nothing to report this meeting. Eric would like to get this wrapped up as soon as possible and he has spoken to Cashin Associates about wrapping this up. The Department of State has stated that this must be completed before the end of the year.

Municipal Updates

Roslyn – nothing to report this month.

Nassau County - nothing to report this month.

Town of North Hempstead – Kevin Braun mentioned that bids for the extension of the shoreline trail have been received and that construction is expected to begin after July 15th. There are sufficient funds to allow construction of the next two phases – comprising about a mile of additional trails. Also, the Blueway Trail plan is nearing completion – the Department of State is reviewing the plan and following this, another public meeting will be held. Kevin also mentioned that the harbor cleanup of May Newberger Cove (south of North Hempstead Beach Park) was a big success with up to 70 volunteers (including Catherine Chester from HHPC). They filled 50 – 75 garbage bags. He reported that the “rack” that washed up on the wetlands planting was up to six inches thick in places. This was removed in time so that these plants can still emerge this season.

Village of Sea Cliff – Tom Powell mentioned that the village has purchased a new garbage truck and is negotiating with the union to allow two runs on recycling days. That would allow residents to put out newspaper and cardboard on the same day. Also, construction is proceeding on the Sea Isle development project along Hollman Boulevard. The contractor has erected a fence along the right of way that may be restricting some of its use.

Roslyn Harbor – nothing to report.

Other Items

Carol DiPaolo mentioned that she has learned that in December, the Town of Oyster Bay authorized the Town Supervisor to enter into a contract to build a restaurant at Tappan Beach. She has heard that the contractor will be Singletons, which operates a similar facility at the Town’s Tobay Beach and that the new restaurant will seat up to 80 persons and will have a liquor license. The restaurant is expected to be up and running this summer. It will be located in the building that formerly had a concession stand. She has requested a graphic from the Town as well as a description of the project as well along with details as to how that project could affect the marina or any other part of the beach park. She stated that some of the boaters are concerned that some of the marina boat slips would be removed so that transient boaters could tie up and use the restaurant.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 pm

NEXT MEETING: May 14th, 2013 (Bryant Library in Roslyn – SPECIAL JOINT MEETING)