

HEMPSTEAD HARBOR PROTECTION COMMITTEE FINAL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting of June 21, 2006
Dziadul Residence, Sands Point – 7:30 pm

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

Present: Eric Swenson (Director), Kevin Braun (N. Hempstead), Fred Pollack (N. Hempstead); Joel Ziev (N. Hempstead); Dan Fucci (Nassau County); Len Shaw (Roslyn); Patrice Benneward (Glenwood / Glen Head Civic Association & Manhasset Bay Protection Committee); Pasqua Dziadul (Sands Point);

Discussion:

- I. **Call to Order.** Eric called the meeting to order and advised the group that Bill had a conflict and could not attend. Thank you to Pasqua and Ed Dziadul for the use of their home and the refreshments.
- II. **Approval of Minutes of May 24th meeting.** Moved by Kevin Braun. Seconded by Pasqua Dziadul. Approved unanimously.
- III. **Announcements, Reminders, & Upcoming Events -**
 - HarborFest – Eric reported that this year's HarborFest was an enjoyable event. After two days of rain, the event saw good weather and good crowds. The HHPC's booth was adjacent to those of the Manhasset Bay Protection Committee, the North Shore Audubon Society and the Nassau County Soil & Water Conservation District and all booths were arranged into a large collective "U" shape which allowed passersby to step out of the flow of traffic and either browse the displays or ask questions. The setup worked well. The MBPC loaned the HHPC its large portable display and HHPC loaned MBPC a table and table skirt. HHPC members staffing the booth, besides Eric included Tom Ryan, Aldona Lawson, Dan Fucci and Kevin Braun. Fred Pollock and Rosemary Konatich were also there as staff of the festival.
 - Hin Fin FEIS – the comment period has passed. The HHPC and the Glenwood / Glen Head Civic Association provided written comments. A draft statement of findings is being reviewed by the Town. It is possible that the Town Board will adopt these findings at its June 27th meeting.
 - Roslyn Landing (BITI) DEIS hearing was held on May 30th 8:00 pm at the Bryant Library and the HHPC presented oral and written comments. The Village Board of Trustees (BOT) did not close the hearing but decided to continue it at the next BOT meeting which was held on June 20th. At the June 20th meeting, the BOT announced that it would take public comments at a special session to be held at 8:00 pm on July 11th. It will be held at the Bryant Library.
 - Meeting with NYS DOT on Viaduct reconstruction – Eric reported that on June 13th, he, Bill Clemency, Len Shaw and Wade Curry from the Village of Roslyn met at the viaduct construction site with Charles Maass, the DOT's on site Engineer in Charge and Gregg Williams, the DOT's Long Island environmental manager. The purpose of the meeting was to bring the Committee up to date on the reconstruction project and to advise the DOT of the Committee's concerns regarding the issue of stormwater management; sediment and erosion control; the impact on nesting diamondback terrapins in the vicinity and the potential impact of barges on the creek bottom and wetlands. A walk of the site revealed that a new section of bulkhead was installed along the eastern side of Roslyn Creek from the bridge south. In addition, the DOT has installed two Vortechs swirl separators that are operational and will serve the new bridge. We advised the DOT that the Village of Roslyn has been recommended for county bond act money that would provide for two additional swirl separators, one of which would be located adjacent to the site on Skillman Street. We also asked if they would be amenable to an inter-municipal arrangement for the maintenance of these devices. The DOT replied that they use a contractor to provide the maintenance and that they have similar arrangements with other municipalities so that this was entirely

feasible. We also advised them of the presence of nesting terrapins and the nesting season. Because the reconstruction is running behind schedule, no major disturbances were necessary during this mating season. The DOT asked for more specifics regarding the locations of nests and **Eric agreed to contact Prof. Draud for this information.** As for sediment and erosion control, the DOT does have a SPDES permit and hay bales and silt fencing was installed. We stressed the need for care when dismantling the existing bridge to prevent large amounts of debris from falling into the creek. Finally, Bill expressed concern over the fact that communication to the nearby municipalities seemed to drop off once the reconstruction began. Mr. Maass noted Bill's concerns and promised to try and improve the communications.

- Possible Student Project – Eric reported that he was contacted by Ms. Julia Salat, the faculty advisor to the North Shore High School Key Club (the student version of the Kiwanis Club) and that this very active and award winning club is looking for a major project to undertake in order to comply with the statewide organization's emphasis this year on environmental projects. The club has 40 to 50 students who are looking to devote 500 to 1,000 hours to a single project between late August and the end of December this year. Ms. Salat had also contacted Patrice Benneward of the Glenwood / Glen Head Civic Association with the same request. Eric had polled the Committee members and provided the following list of potential projects:

INITIAL IDEAS FOR STUDENT PROJECT

FIRST CHOICE:

- Design and conduct a survey of the community on their knowledge of stormwater issues and analyze the results (this will assist us in knowing where to focus our energies in the future)

OTHER POSSIBILITIES:

- Prepare a Hempstead Harbor Guide explaining its history, describing its facilities, listing its rules & regulations and explaining its environmental issues (*note: depending on length, such a guide could be costly to print and could become quickly outdated*)
- Organize a Harbor Festival for Hempstead Harbor (*could become an annual event*)
- Design & construct a traveling display on one or more watershed issues for libraries and arrange for its use
- Organize and conduct a Beach Cleanup (*note: International Beach Cleanup is usually held in September*)
- Organize and conduct a Wetlands Cleanup / Shoreline trail cleanup
- Research, design and build a "Sound Garden" to demonstrate proper gardening techniques in a watershed (*but time of year is not best*)
- Install Storm Drain markers
- Organize and conduct a workshop on a harbor issue
- Design, print and distribute a series of palm-sized fact sheets and guides on specific harbor issues (like our green cards on lawn care).

A discussion among the Committee members then ensued and it was decided that the most practical project would be for the students to organize the harbor's first-ever harbor-wide beach cleanup (where all six beaches would be cleaned at the same time). It was noted that the 21st Annual International Coastal Cleanup sponsored in this area by the American Littoral Society will take place on September 16th but that the timing may not be

good for the students given the fact that they begin the semester only a couple weeks prior to that. It was thought that they could participate and learn from that event and then organize a larger event later in the school year (e.g. October). It was also mentioned that both Rosemary Konatich and Jennifer Wilson Pines are coordinators of the September coastal cleanup event and could possibly serve as a resource to the students. **Eric will convey this proposal to Ms. Salat.**

- Long Island Sound Stewardship Initiative federal legislation – Eric reported that a vocal minority in Connecticut persuaded House sponsors to disallow the inclusion in the House bill of any areas below mean high water. Because wetlands and underwater lands are excluded, this has the effect of eliminating most of Hempstead Harbor and Manhasset Bay, the Fishers Island eelgrass beds, 99% of the Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and several other areas from inclusion as stewardship sites and thus the funding that goes along with such designation. House sponsors have apparently told environmental groups that the only way that this bill will pass is if it contains this narrow language. The New York State Audubon Society has agreed to the narrower language for this reason. Others, including Eric feel that it might be better to not pass the bill than to pass a bad bill since it is very difficult to amend a bill once it is passed and in this case, eliminating wetlands in effect guts the intention of the legislation (to protect sensitive coastal areas). It may be better to take time to try to work out a compromise or await a better time to push for its passage. **Eric will track this issue and contact Committee members if they are needed to write letters, etc.**
- Day at the Beach – in the course of the discussion on the potential student projects and the HarborFest, it was mentioned that it would be nice if there could be an annual harbor festival on Hempstead Harbor. Fred Pollock responded that the Town of North Hempstead has begun holding an annual “Day at the Beach” in September for families. Eric offered the help of the HHPC in adding an environmental aspect to this year’s event, which is slated to take place on Sunday, September 17th. **Fred Pollock will have Leslie Gross from the Town’s Business and Tourism Committee contact Eric.**
- The Port Washington Manhasset Bay Kayak Run will take place on July 22nd from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm at the Port Washington Town Dock. The event is open to kayakers of all skill levels. Rentals are available. This is not a race. Prize drawings. All proceeds support the Pt. Washington Community Chest. Early entry fee: \$25. Day of event: \$ 35.00. Call (516) 883-9777 for more information. This event is posted on the website.

IV. **Municipal Updates**

Sea Cliff – Dan Maddock was unable to attend but advised Eric that there was nothing to report this month.

Roslyn – Len Shaw mentioned that there would be another hearing on the BITI Townhouse DEIS (see Announcements above for more details) and that a cell tower may be erected in the village as a result of a recent court decision.

North Hempstead – Kevin Braun reported that Gil Anderson has left his position as the Director of Public Works and also that the Town is very close to being able to finally purchase a piece of waterfront property along Shore Road (which includes some underwater lands). This piece of property formerly held a conveyor system for the nearby sand mines. The Town and the property owner have agreed upon a price and are negotiating the terms of the contract.

Nassau County – Dan Fucci reported that the County has finished its annual Phase II report.

Roslyn Harbor – [Note: with Patrice Benneward no longer employed by the Village, she is no longer the official representative to the Committee and no new representative has been appointed. However, Patrice continues to work as a consultant to the Village on certain projects]. In the absence of an official representative, Patrice Benneward reported that the village has retained her to prepare the Village’s annual stormwater report.

Oyster Bay – Eric reported that a Boy Scout seeking to become an Eagle Scout has agreed to oversee the Town’s storm drain marker project (obtained by a grant from the EPA through the

Long Island Sound Study). He will be coordinating the installation of markers in the Glenwood Landing and Oyster Bay areas as well as a survey of residents on the effectiveness of the markers. Eric also reported that the Town expects to take delivery shortly on its third pumpout boat.

Glen Cove – Danielle Oglesby was unable to attend but advised Eric prior to the meeting that the Glen Cove Industrial Development Agency (IDA) has finally vested title to the Doxey property at 10 Garvies Point Road. (previously Hawkins Cove). This site is situated between Li Tungsten parcel A and the former Gladsky site. The IDA has also received a \$200,000 EPA Brownfields Cleanup grant to remediate the site.

Sands Point – Pasqua Dziadul reported that the Board of Trustees has approved the annual dues payment to the HHPC. She also mentioned that there was nothing new to report on the proposed Land's End subdivision and that the developer's proposal is still not finalized. The Village is also in the process of retrofitting its fire hydrants and has approved its 2006 road improvements budget. Finally, as a follow-up to her report last month, Pasqua reported that the Village has advised residents in its June newsletter that the letter and survey sent recently to Village residents regarding a proposal to construct townhouses on the Village Club property was not sent by the Village, that there is no proposal before the Village Board of Trustees and that the Village has not taken any position on such a proposal.

V. **LISS CAC and Civic Group Updates**

Glenwood / Glen Head Civic Association - Patrice Benneward reported that the association's blog has now had 650 hits. She hopes to one day develop a full website.

VI. **2006 Water Quality Monitoring Program**

- Update on QAPP development – Eric reported that the EPA provided comments on our QAPP and that responses back to the EPA are expected shortly. The signed agreement between the Town of North Hempstead and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation arrived in the mail today and the initial payment is expected shortly.
- 2006 water quality monitoring program – the program has been underway for about three weeks. The agreement between the Town of North Hempstead and the Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor is in the process of completion. Fuss & O'Neill is also working on the 2004-2005 Annual report.

VII. **Coastal Signage II Project Update**

- The subcommittee (Eric, Aldona, Danielle and Patrice) held a preliminary meeting on June 7th and discussed potential themes and locations for the 5 new signs and 1 kiosk. The discussions so far have identified the following proposal:

The preferred locations for the 5 wayside signs would be:

- Powerhouse Park in Glenwood Landing
- Cedarmere Historic Museum grounds in Roslyn Harbor
- Roslyn Gerry Park in Roslyn
- The waterfront trail being created at Sterling Glen in Roslyn
- Sea Cliff Park (Cliff Way and Hollman Blvd.) in Sea Cliff

The preferred location for the kiosk would be:

- Morgan Park (by the beach) in Glen Cove

The preferred themes for these signs would be:

- Powerhouse Park – the focus could be on the importance of waterways to the development of Glenwood Landing and the surrounding areas and the ever-changing landscape. This sign could depict the former Fyfe's Shipyard which constructed the oyster sloop Christeen and PT boats for WW II; the Glenwood Power Station and its

predecessors; photos of the old hotel by the shoreline and an old aerial photo of the shoreline.

- Cedarmere - here the focus could be on the inter-connection between the arts and the environment as William Cullen Bryant was much inspired by nature and the harbor; it could include the importance of planning and preserving nature for public spaces. During his tenure, Central Park and other important public places were created and Cedarmere itself serves that function now. This site is also expected to be a stop on the upcoming Blueway Trail and the sign could be located by the waterfront.
- Gerry Park – this sign would discuss waterfowl, efforts to control overpopulation (GeesePeace programs) and the problems that can occur when people feed bread to geese and ducks.
- Sterling Glen – while the group did not discuss the specifics of this sign, its location in the lower harbor would be ideal to explain the history of Roslyn (formerly called Hempstead Harbor) – the first colonial harbor in the county; the site of the nation’s first paper mill; the Grist Mill, the George Washington Manor; the historic district, etc. Alternatively, it could focus on the habitats in the lower harbor including diamondback terrapins and osprey.
- Sea Cliff Park – this sign, which would be located on the site of the former steamship pier, could focus on the steamship era and could include a map showing the steamship route with stops in Glen Cove, Sea Cliff, Glenwood Landing and Roslyn. It could include photos of the ships, explain the shipwreck in the harbor and show photos from that era.
- Morgan Park – One panel of this kiosk could focus on the Gold Coast era with details on the J.P. Morgan, F. W. Woolworth, the Pratt family and others especially since this park bears Morgan’s name. Another panel could focus on the industry in Glen Cove including the Duryea Starch Works (at the time the largest starch factory in the world); Li Tungsten (at the time the largest tungsten refiner and contributor to WW II). The third panel is reserved for a standard panel provided by the Department.

VIII. **Update on Previous Grant & Award Applications**

- 2005 – 2006 EPF (Scudders Improvements Phase I) – the latest word is that an announcement of the 2005 grant awards will be made by the end of June.
- SMSI Grant (Water Quality Monitoring) – nothing has been heard on this grant and no target date has been set for announcements to our knowledge.
- 2006 NFWF Small Grants (portable display) – Eric announced that the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has still not announced its grant awards (which were expected by the end of May) but that he has been advised that the Committee will not be receiving this grant this year.
- National Watershed Award (resubmittal) - Eric reminded the Committee that while we were not selected last year for this \$10,000 outright unrestricted cash award, we were encouraged to resubmit it with a simple update in June 2006 for reconsideration. **Eric will resubmit for this grant.**

IX. Select Next Meeting Date and Location – August 2nd at 7:30 pm at Sea Cliff Village Hall.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:45 pm