

HEMPSTEAD HARBOR PROTECTION COMMITTEE FINAL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting of August 2, 2006
Sea Cliff Village Hall – 7:30 pm

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

Present: Bill Clemency (Flower Hill), Eric Swenson (Director), Kevin Braun (N. Hempstead), Tim Duffy (Aide to Councilman Fred Pollack, N. Hempstead); Joel Ziev (N. Hempstead); Aldona Lawson (Oyster Bay), Danielle Oglesby (Glen Cove), Rick D'Amico (NYS DEC), Carol DiPaolo (Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor), Steve Gonzalez (Candidate for NYS Assembly) + 6 residents.

Discussion:

I. **Call to Order.** Bill called the meeting to order and gave a brief overview of the Committee for the benefit of the residents in attendance.

II. **Approval of Minutes of June 21st meeting.** Moved by Kevin Braun. Seconded by Danielle Oglesby. Approved unanimously.

III **Announcements, Reminders, & Upcoming Events -**

- 2006 Dues update – all municipalities except Nassau County have paid their 2006 dues.
- Key Club Beach Cleanup Project – Eric reported that Julia Salat, the students' advisor, liked the idea of a fall coordinated beach cleanup that was discussed at the last Committee meeting but did not feel that the students could handle all of the harbor's beaches at one time. Ms. Salat was taking the summer off so further details will not be worked out until she returns.
- LIS Stewardship legislation update – after summarizing the bill and its issues, Eric reported that he participated in a conference call with Friends of the Bay and the Citizens Campaign for the Environment to discuss strategy on ensuring that the bill continues to include underwater lands (including wetlands) and that land acquisition remains in the bill. The upshot of the call was that Friends of the Bay would take the initiative to arrange a meeting in September with Audubon New York and other Long Island organizations to try and find a compromise that would satisfy both the Connecticut and New York interests.
- Roslyn Landing DEIS update – Eric reported that the Village of Roslyn has closed its hearing on the proposed townhouse project but is keeping the record open for 30 days to receive written comments.
- Boat Parade – August 5th – Eric reported that he was contacted by Mike Ogle who was organizing the harbor's first boat parade, scheduled for August 5th (raindate August 12th). Modeled after similar events in Florida's Intra-coastal waterway, participants will decorate their boats and parade through both Manhasset Bay and Hempstead Harbor. The event, which will begin in Manhasset Bay and end at Steamboat Landing, is open to all boaters. Further information and a contact number can be found on the harbor's website: www.hempsteadharbor.org.
- Sea Cliff Mini Mart – Eric reminded the Committee that this event will take place on Sunday, October 1st and that ***volunteers for the Committee's booth are needed.***

IV. **Municipal Updates**

North Hempstead – Kevin Braun reported that the Town has received a \$27,000 wetland restoration grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation under the Long Island Sound Futures Fund. The grant will be used for the restoration of an outfall and to prepare a maintenance plan for the wetlands that have been restored under two previous grants. With respect to the proposed Glen Harbor Partners (Hin Fin) project in Glenwood Landing, the Town has tabled its decision on the acceptance of the Final Environmental Impact Statement and will receive further public comments at its meeting of August 22nd. The Town also provided additional copies to local libraries. Joel Ziev reported that he recently completed his annual flyover of the harbor and has taken a large number of high resolution photographs, bringing to 700 the number of aerial photos in his collection. This year's flyover was conducted at low tide. Upon flying over the viaduct construction site, it was evident that a lot of sediment was being discharged into the

harbor from one of the new discharge pipes under the bridge. This apparently is related to the dewatering activity associated with the digging of new footings for the replacement spans. Joel reported this to the DEC. **Joel will follow-up with this**. Joel also reported that he will be attending a national conference on "Managing Sediments in the Watershed: Bringing Dredged Material and Watershed Managers Together" which will take place in Portland, Oregon on August 29th – 31st. As chair of the Long Island Sound Study CAC's Sediment / Dredge Management subcommittee, Joel is particularly interested in developments regarding alternative use of dredge materials. To that end, he also reported that Brookhaven National Laboratory is currently developing some dredging disposal alternatives for the Army Corps of Engineers in New Jersey and that the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy recently received permission to investigate the use of dredge materials in the capping of a landfill. Other alternatives that may be available include high temperature incineration in a cement kiln and using the ash in the fabrication of concrete blocks and in the recovery of metals.

Oyster Bay – Aldona Lawson reported that the Town has executed its \$25,000 grant agreement to develop a recreational needs study and to prepare final designs for Shore Road and Glenwood Landing streetscaping. This grant is an outgrowth of the Town's Glenwood Landing Waterfront Redevelopment and Revitalization Plan (GLWRRP), which suggested that the Town conduct further research into the appropriateness and feasibility of creating a recreation zoning district to ensure adequate open space and recreational opportunities for its residents. The recreation needs study was recommended as a means to address a call for more recreational uses and open space by the public and a need to verify that there is a significant need for such a zoning district. The study will be useful in determining present and future demand for recreational and open space lands within the Town and is seen as essential for demonstrating the validity of such a zoning change if challenged. The design component of this project includes the development of final designs for Shore Road and Glenwood Landing streetscaping. Aldona also reported that the eagle scout candidate and 12 or 13 members of his troop have installed a large number of storm drain markers and have provided informational door hangers to nearby residents in Oyster Bay. They will be doing the same in Glenwood Landing in the near future. Eric reported that the Town has taken delivery, and put into service, its third pumpout boat. He also reported that the Town will be installing new waste oil recycling tanks to replace the current waste oil igloos, including the one at Tappen Beach. The new tanks will be installed at the Town's Glen Head and Oyster Bay highway yards rather than at Tappen and Roosevelt Parks.

Glen Cove – Danielle Oglesby reported that Governor Pataki announced that Glen Cove would receive a \$340,200 Brownfields grant to remediate the former Gladsky property. According to the Governor's press release, this 0.78-acre industrial site located on Garvies Point Road on the Glen Cove Creek, had former uses as a boat maintenance and repair facility. Previous investigations identified polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and metals contamination in the surface and near surface soils at the site. The remediation of the Gladsky site will include the excavation and disposal of the contaminated soil. Areas above the groundwater table, where residual contamination exceeds State guidelines, will also be excavated and disposed of properly off-site. Upon completion of the remediation, the site will be redeveloped into an esplanade and inter-tidal wetland as part of the Glen Cove Creek Waterfront Revitalization Area. Danielle also reported that the city's youth board volunteers installed 250 storm drain medallions. Finally, Danielle reported that the city's waterfront project open house was a big success. The event, which was held at the Metropolitan, drew more than 1,200 people who asked a lot of questions and raised a lot of issues. Both the developer (Glen Isle Partners) and the City have copies of the questions and are reviewing them. Generally the response was more positive than negative. A follow-up event will be held this fall, most likely in October.

LISS CAC and Civic Group Updates

Eric mentioned that the harbor may have increased representation soon on the Long Island Sound Study Citizens Advisory Committee (LISS CAC) as he was nominated for membership to represent the HHPC and Aldona Lawson was nominated to represent the Town of Oyster Bay. These nominations will be considered at the CAC's September meeting. If both are approved, they will serve as alternates for one another.

V. 2006 Water Quality Monitoring Program

- Update on QAPP development – Eric was pleased to announce that the QAPP has been completed, approved by the U.S. EPA and printed and disk copies received. Copies were distributed to the Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor and the Town of North Hempstead at the meeting. With this approval, the Committee is now eligible for federal funds for the harbor's water monitoring program. The first payment is expected shortly.
- 2006 water quality monitoring program – Carol DiPaolo reported that she has been finding very high levels of bacteria from some outfalls in Glen Cove Creek near Steamboat Landing and the Sewage Treatment facility. These outfalls, which are exposed only at low tide, appear to flow even during dry weather. The Committee enlisted the assistance of Nassau County Health and Public Works officials and City of Glen Cove officials to try to identify the source. A site visit by water was planned for August 3rd but Carol advised that this was cancelled and would need to be rescheduled. Carol also reported that there are still a number of barges in the harbor – one is in Town of Oyster Bay waters adjacent to the Gladsky property which is filled with debris and which recently had a number of floats tied to it. Another is in the Town of North Hempstead waters in the Mott's Cove area and contains the remnants of the Glen Cove ferry terminal. Eric mentioned that the Town's Code Enforcement Division is aware of the situation. **Kevin Braun offered to look into the barge in North Hempstead.** *Note: Kevin followed up and reported that the harbor master informed him that the barge is owned by a contractor working for the Town and is not abandoned. The contractor is working for the Town in the cleanup of East Sheets Creek and has assisted the Town in various projects. He will also be bulk heading property in the area and may be using the barge for storage.]*
- Agreement with Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor – Eric reported that an agreement between the Town of North Hempstead and the Coalition for the 2006 water monitoring program on behalf of the Committee was prepared by the Town and signed by the Coalition. The Committee and the Coalition are awaiting signed copies by the Town.
- 2004 – 2005 Annual Report – Carol reported that Fuss & O'Neil is nearing completion of this report.

VI. Coastal Signage II Project Update

Eric reported that the scoping meeting with the Department of State has been set for August 16th (3:00 pm) at the Town of North Hempstead Law Library. Prior to the meeting, Kevin Braun and Eric Swenson will give Nancy Rucks and Nancy Kunz from DOS a driving tour of potential signage sites.

VII. Scudder's Pond Subwatershed Study – update

Eric reported that the Committee gave EEA a deadline for completion of the Scudder's Pond subwatershed study. In response, conference call held on July 28th with EEA, the Committee and the Department of State in which agreement was reached on the items that EEA would need to revise. Eric noted that the DOS is still not pleased with the format of the report but since EEA followed the format set forth in the DOS-approved RFP, they cannot be required to re-format the document. Instead the Committee will work on the re-formatting once EEA's changes are provided.

VII. Update on Previous Grant & Award Applications

Eric reported that two DEC grants (one for public outreach and one for signage) and one DOS grant (for public outreach) have been completed and closed out since the last meeting. He also mentioned that there has been some progress with the Nassau County Environmental Bond Act projects. The County Legislature has approved the purchase of several parcels and is now considering some stormwater projects. At the County's and Sea Cliff's request, Eric prepared a summary sheet for the County Legislators on the proposed funds for Scudder's Pond improvements.

IX. **New Inter-Municipal Agreement**

Eric reported that he has received approval of the revised Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA) from Sea Cliff and Oyster Bay. Approval or final comments were due from all of the municipalities on August 1st. **Municipalities that have not returned the IMA faxed reply form to Eric should do so as soon as possible.**

X. **Glenwood Landing Sewer Feasibility Study**

Eric reported that since the last meeting, he had a telephone conversation with Patrice Benneward of the Glenwood / Glen Head Civic Association regarding the proposed Hin Fin development and during their conversation, the possibility of hooking up part or all of Glenwood Landing into the proposed Hin Fin sewer line was discussed. It was felt that having a community hook into a sewer system is once in a lifetime opportunity but that a study would be needed to determine the feasibility, cost, financing and procedures and that since this community is split between the two Towns, that it would be most appropriate for such a study to be conducted jointly by the Town of North Hempstead and the Town of Oyster Bay and that grant funds may be available for this. Eric suggested that the Committee apply on behalf of both Towns in next years LWRP EPF grant round. Eric checked with both Towns. Oyster Bay has given the OK to pursue such a grant. Fred Pollock gave his OK to bring the issue up at this meeting. Eric also spoke to Dan Maddock since Sea Cliff recently performed a similar study. Dan put Eric in touch with an engineer from Dvirka & Bartilucci who worked on the Sea Cliff study. After discussion, the Committee favored the proposal.

XI. **Federal No Discharge Zone Designation**

Rick D'Amico from NYS DEC pointed out that the DEC is interested in working with local officials to seek federal No Discharge Zone status for harbors on the New York side of Long Island Sound. This is in furtherance of the Long Island Sound's Comprehensive Management Plan. At present only Huntington Harbor has received such designation. The Town of Oyster Bay has completed a draft application and is close to seeking such approval. Since this has already been selected as a goal by the Committee, Eric asked for volunteers to serve on a subcommittee to prepare an application for Hempstead Harbor. **Bill Clemency, Aldona Lawson and Rick D'Amico agreed to serve on the subcommittee.** A meeting will likely be convened in September.

XII. **Executive Director's Salary**

Bill mentioned that Eric has served as the Committee's Executive Director for more than three years and that when he assumed the position that he also assumed the same compensation rate as his predecessor. Since it has been many years since the hourly rate was last increased, Bill felt that something should be done. It was decided that an ad hoc committee be formed to review the situation. Bill stated that he had some thoughts on the matter and that **he would contact members of the ad hoc committee by e-mail to discuss the matter.** [Note – I did not write down who volunteered for this ad hoc committee – that is why the names are not mentioned here].

XIII. **Select Next Meeting Date and Location**

Danielle will look into the use of Glen Cove City Hall. The next meeting will be on September 20th. [Note – Danielle has since advised that this date is not good for City Hall] **Our Next Meeting will take place at Sea Cliff Village Hall at 7:30 pm on September 20th.**

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The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:05 pm