

Carmans River Task Force
MEETING MINUTES
September 23, 2008
Brookhaven Town Hall, Farmingville, New York

Chair: Adrienne Esposito

Members Present: Deborah Lynn (Senator P. LaValle Representative), Johan McConnell (South Yaphank Civic), Robert Kessler (resident), George Costa (Trout Unlimited), Marty Van Lith (Open Space Council), Sue Lindley (Legislator Kate Browning), John Stehle (Resident), Chad Trusnovac (resident), Fran Hurley (Yaphank Taxpayers and Civic Association), Kathy Schwager (The Nature Conservancy), Samantha Homan (Assemblyman Alessi representative), Councilwoman Kepert, Anthony Graves, Camilo Salazar (Suffolk County D.E.E.)

Members Absent: Steve Trusnovic, Donna Lent (Assemblywoman Eddington representative)

Guests Present: Audrey Kessler, Bob Judd, Peggy Judd, Matthew Atkinson, Doug Swesty, Liz Krolik, Heidi O'Riordan, Ann Carter, R. Manel, Tara Bono

Meeting initiated by Adrienne Esposito at 7:10 PM

- I. Introductions and changes to the agenda- Anthony Graves will also speak about the Brookhaven landfill plume and the impact to the Carmans River system. The presentation for watershed protection by the Open Space Council is cancelled due to illness and they have requested to provide this presentation at the next meeting. The D.E.C. announces that there is another invasive species, Hydrilla which has been identified in another water body and we should be on the look out for it in the Carmans. They distributed photo cards for identification purposes.
- II. Update from the Town of Brookhaven – Anthony Graves
 - A. Harvester update: Graves informs us that the town has purchased a harvester and there are plans to use it on the lower lake on dense patches of Cabomba and Variable Leaf Milfoil. The town has applied for three permits to the DEC and is also waiting on permission from the county to operate in their 20% of the lake. There is discussion about the potential impacts of the harvester because of the nature of the plant breaking and growing from the smaller pieces. To help solve this problem, a screen will be put in place along the outlet when the harvester is in use and a few

hours after. The screen will be cleared hourly to rid any blockage by plant material. The goal is to start harvesting as soon as the permits are completed, sometime this fall. The best time to harvest is in the spring when invasive species are present but before the native plants grow back so there are plans to do it again in the spring as well. The plant material will be collected and brought to the landfill to be composted. This year the harvester will be concentrating only on lower lake and the machinery will be operated by the Brookhaven Town highway department. Although this was a possibility for treatment in the RFP, there is no need to go back and change the RFP because this is not a long term solution.

- B. Landfill plume: There is a known plume from the Brookhaven Town landfill to Little Neck Run, and also in Beaver Creek. This is important to us because Beaver Creek is the doorway to the river and this could affect the whole system. Some reported that the trout are mostly gone from this area because of the degradation in water quality. Not all of the damage was done by the landfill; there were sewage impacts as well. Councilwoman Kepert's office has scheduled a meeting on this on Friday, Sept 26th and more will be discussed.
- C. Stormwater Runoff – the town is working with the highway department concerning the runoff affecting the Yaphank lakes and Carman's River. The town grant (which is separate from the county grant) covers any part of the implementation process of the project. The grant is flexible and is also to be used on other parts of the water system.

III. Update from Suffolk County – Camilo Salazar

- A. Storm Water Remediation Program - Salazar informs us that the CR21 concerning the four county owned outfalls that influence the lakes is in planning. The goal is to identify major pollutants, and determine the flow rate. They also aim to estimate the benefits and construction costs. This project is a priority and will definitely be discussed at the next meeting Water Quality Fund, this Thursday. This committee needs to approve the funding for the project so that the project can advance to the Environment and Planning Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature.

* The committee agrees that we should send a letter from the Carmans River Working Group urging the importance of this issue. This was motioned by Robert Kessler and seconded by Marty Van Lith. All were unanimously in favor. Camilo will stay on top of this issue and keep us updated as to whether it was recommended to be passed onto the environmental committee on Thursday. If it passes through, Adrienne will send the same letter to members of the environment committee. All Working Group members should call or write to SC Legislator Schniederma asking for his support.

- B. RFP – is in final provisions by Jenny Kahn in the legal department and it is to be advertised on October 2nd for public comments. There will be a

meeting for the public to ask questions on October 16th. The conference will be Oct 30th, where bids for work will be submitted. All proposals will be due back to Suffolk County by November 20th. There is a plan to have a final decision by December and to assign the project in January. The RFP committee will consist of 6-10 people including Camilo, the SC DPW and the water quality department. The working group had originally aimed to take action in the spring which is the prime time for eradication, but this timeline is unlikely and ambitious. The feasibility study will cost about \$200,000 and the pilot project will cost about \$50,000. The results from the study will be public. The county will favor any contractor with local experience or experience with aquatic plant invasive species.

IV. Next meeting

- A. We will be having a voluntary meeting on Monday November 20th at BP Cottage from 7:30-10 PM to listen to Steven Moyers, from Trout Unlimited. He will be giving this presentation at the regular meeting of the Trout Unlimited board meeting.
- B. Our next official meeting will be on November 18th 7PM at Brookhaven Town Hall. At our next meeting we need to keep working on the drainage issue and the fish passages. The watershed presentation will be rescheduled for this meeting.