



Manhasset Bay Protection Committee

ManhassetBay.net

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March 22, 2023

Supervisor Jennifer DeSena
Town of North Hempstead
220 Plandome Road
Manhasset, NY 11030

Re: *Support for sewerage Plandome Road in Manhasset by utilizing ARPA funding*

Dear Supervisor DeSena:

I am writing on behalf of the Manhasset Bay Protection Committee to express our support for sewerage of the Plandome Road area of Manhasset and request that you use funding received from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for this important work.

Research has made it clear that the major contributors to both our groundwater and surface water issues are antiquated on-site wastewater treatment systems, specifically cesspools. It appears that some, if not all, of the cesspools in the study area are failing and a source of nitrogen and bacteria to Manhasset Bay. Groundwater travel times to Manhasset Bay for the entire Plandome Road area are very short.

Additionally, Manhasset is situated at the back of the Bay, which is very shallow and does not exchange cleaner waters from other parts of the Bay and Long Island Sound very well. Nitrogen here can cause blooms of algae which contribute to odor complaints during low tide. Diverting this sewage to the Great Neck Water Pollution Control Plant, which is monitored by the State Department of Environmental Conservation and which has to remain in compliance with strict nitrogen limits set by the 2000 Long Island Sound Nitrogen TMDL, will serve to improve and protect the Bay and quality of life for residents throughout the Town.

Funds received through ARPA provide an exciting opportunity to make sure that, when sewers get placed in Manhasset, as many landowners connect as possible. Investment in sewer infrastructure is a specified eligible use of ARPA monies and the Government Finance Officers Association has identified investment in infrastructure as a “particularly well suited use of ARPA funds.” The Committee urges you to take advantage of this funding in order to improve water quality in Manhasset Bay

As you know, the Town is a member of the Manhasset Bay Protection Committee, an inter-municipal organization focused on addressing water quality and coastal issues with a coordinated, watershed-level approach. The Committee's goals are to protect, restore, and enhance Manhasset Bay so as to insure a healthy and diverse marine ecosystem while balancing and maintaining recreational and commercial uses. An important step in achieving these goals is the removal of as many cesspools as possible from the watershed.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Sarah Deonarine
Executive Director

CC Councilmember Robert Troiano, Jr.
Councilmember Peter Zuckerman
Councilmember Dennis J. Walsh
Councilmember Veronia Lurvey
Councilmember David A. Adhami
Councilmember Mariann Dalimonte