

## Highlights of the Operation SPLASH Meeting

October 3, 2017

**Senior Vice President Skip Zawrotny** reported that Freeport and Lindenhurst boats with recent mechanical problems would be back in service soon.

**First Vice President Stefanie Scherner Birnbaum** thanked volunteers Danny and Ellen Lee and Francis Berbichiv, who manned the SPLASH displays at the festivals in Lido Beach and Merrick last month.

**The Education Report** was given by Devorah Crupar, who announced that the Education program is completely self-supporting through grants and reimbursements from schools. Some additional, new education programs going forward will be focusing on water quality studies, as well as Milburn Creek studies.

**President's Report: President Rob Weltner** reported on the following:

1) A follow-up on the **bunker legislation**. The plan to save the bunker has had very positive effects, including seeing increases in the numbers of fish, even dolphin. SPLASH members were reminded that there is still time to voice support for enhanced protections for the menhaden before the vote on new legislation (Amendment 3) on November 14.

Members are asked to submit a written comment to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) urging the New York representatives to the ASMFC to vote in favor of Option E.

Public comment letters will be accepted until October 20. Send your email to [comments@asmfc.org](mailto:comments@asmfc.org) Use the subject line: Draft Amd. 3

2) Update on the **outfall pipeline**. The DPW plans to award the project design contract by the end of this year. The cost will be \$275 million.

3) **The Nassau County Executive Environmental Forum**, featuring candidates Laura Curran and Jack Martin, will be held Sunday, October 15, at the Adelphi Angello Alumni House, 154 Cambridge Ave. Garden City, from 4-6PM.

Candidates will be asked how they stand on Long Island's critical environmental issues and how they plan to meet these challenges. Our focus will be on the Long Beach/Bay Park to Cedar Creek conversion. SPLASH members are urged to attend. We want to make sure politics doesn't interfere with the environment.

## **New Business**

1) SPLASH member Peter Rosenthal announced a Meet-the-Candidate event to be held October 11 at Hewlett Woodmere Public Library.

2) Tara Bono, from Sunpower's Empower Solar in Island Park made a power point presentation that explained the function and benefits of residential solar power, as well as various paying options.

3) Jerry Foster made a presentation entitled "How Many Plastic Bags Does It Take to Kill a Whale?" The answer was 31. And Jerry pointed out that SPLASH's collection of 20,000 plastic bags means we have potentially saved more than 645 whales each year. Exact details of The Plastic Whale that dies due to ingesting plastic bags can be found here:

<http://news.sky.com/video/documentary-a-plastic-whale-10924827>

4) Raffle proceeds came to \$68. The winner of \$34 was Helene Manas.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Visconti, Recording Secretary