Long Island Regional Planning Council
Summary Minutes

Meeting of April 17, 2018 Meeting
Hofstra University Club
David S. Mack Hall
225 Hofstra Blvd.
Hempstead, NY 11549

LIPRC Members Present
John D. Cameron, Jr., Chair
Jeffrey Kraut, Treasurer
Theresa Sanders, Secretary
Barbara Donno
Nancy Engelhardt
Edward Romaine
Ralph Scordino
Elizabeth Custodio
Robert Kennedy

Staff and Guests Present
Richard V. Guardino, Jr.
Elizabeth Ridge Cole
Rachel Titus
Debra Mule, Nassau County Legislator
Lina Fusco, Village of Lawrence Deputy Village Treasurer
Anita Hari, Village of Lawrence Village Clerk
Michael Borsuk
Adam Haber, Town of Hempstead
Evlyn Tsimis, Deputy Nassau County Executive Economic Development
Matthew Norton, L.U. 638 Steamfitters
Lionel Chitty, Town of Oyster Bay
Shari James, Nassau County Comptroller
Sandra Senior, Childcare Council of Nassau County
Tom McKevitt, Nassau County Legislator
Moses Seuram, LIBOR
Kelly Morris, Suffolk County Deputy Executive Director IDA
Mark Page, Nassau County
Angel Cepeda, Nassau County Youth services BOD
Peter Demidovich, LIBOR
Mary Marks, Nassau County Legislator
Tricia Chirco, LIBOR
Michael Miller, LIBOR
Laura Schultz
Bert Patterson, Town of Hempstead
Ian Wilder, LIHS

Andrew McKay, Nassau County
Marco Paventi, LIBOR
Dianne Scalzi, LIBOR
Jim LaCarrubba, Chief of Staff, Town of Hempstead
Glenn Llobell, Llobell Realty
Paul Llobel, LIBOR
Valerie Smith, Suffolk County Attorney's Office
Thomas A. Lupo, Suffolk County Comptroller staff
Francine Carlow, President, Nassau Council Chamber of Commerce
David Lunenfeld, LIBOR/MLS
Tony Smith, LIBOR
Paul Wernersbach, LIBOR
Mayra Amundaray
Susan Helsinger, LIBOR
Randy Kaplan, VP of Government Affairs, LIBOR
Zahid Syed, Town of Hempstead
Paul Pontieri, Mayor, Village of Patchogue
Elaine Gross, ERASE Racism
Christi Kunzig, Nassau County
Rick Brand, Newsday
Joseph Mottola, CEO, LIBOR
Robert Busweiler, Office of Nassau County Comptroller
Todd J. Poole, CEO, 4ward Planning Inc.
Jacob Schuster, Office of Senator John Brooks
Mohinder Taneja, President, American Diversity Forum
Kevin Hardiman, Nassau County Attorney's Office
Lorraine Deller, Nassau- Suffolk School Board Association
Jack Schnirman, Nassau County Comptroller

Meeting Commenced:

- John D. Cameron, Jr., opened the meeting at approximately 10:15AM
- Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call
We have a quorum.

Adoption of the November 2, 2017 minutes. All in favor. Robert Kennedy abstained.

John Cameron: We have a resolution authorizing an agreement with 4ward Planning Inc.

Rich Guardino: One of the initiatives that the Suffolk County Development Corporation asked us to take on is to look at the revitalization that has taken place in the Village of Patchogue over the past ten years. As many of you know, it has been a significant revitalization and a model for other places on the island. They have done a terrific job in terms of transit-oriented development and we will look at the economic impact, direct and indirect impact, what it means in terms of tax assessments, sales tax, etc. We have with us the Mayor of the Village of Patchogue, Paul

Pontieri, who also served as a member of the Selection Committee. We also have Todd Poole, CEO of 4Ward Planning Inc., who will be doing the economic impact study for us.

The resolution authorizes an Agreement for Consulting Services with 4Ward Planning Inc. to be executed by the Selection Committee member Theresa Sanders on behalf of the Council, incorporating the final agreed upon General Terms and Conditions, Notices and Contact Persons, Description of Services and Payment terms, with costs not to exceed $32,980.

Motion to Accept: Theresa Sanders
Seconded: Edward Romaine
John Cameron: My firm does business with 4Ward Planning Inc., therefore, I was not involved in the selection process and abstain from the vote.

John Cameron: Welcome to Mayor Bob Kennedy. He has been appointed by County Executive Laura Curran to serve on the Council. Mayor Kennedy has an outstanding record of accomplishment, he has great insight into operating a local municipality, is sensitive to regional issues such as environmental, economic, social, etc., and his place on the Council will be appreciated. Another new appointee is Supervisor Laura Gillen. We have her Chief of Staff Jim LaCarrubba holding her seat. She is at a Governor's Press Conference.

We also have other elected officials: Jack Schnirman, Nassau County Comptroller, Tom McKevitt, Nassau County Legislator, Debra Mule, Nassau County Legislator.

The next item on the agenda is the presentation of our Property Tax Alternatives Study. The Study would not have occurred without the financial support of various entities including Nassau and Suffolk Counties, including the Suffolk County Economic Development Council chaired by Theresa Ward. We have with us the Deputy, Kelly Morris, who has been a strong supporter. We have the support of Suffolk County EDC, as well as the support of LIBOR. Some officials are here today, including Joe Mottola, CEO, Charlotte Van der Waag, President, LIBOR, Randy Kaplan, VP Government Affairs, LIBOR.

As background to the genesis of the study, we released the LI2035 Plan in 2010. The plan looked at four areas: tax and government, economy, environment and infrastructure, equity. We then came up with 39 sustainable strategies with dozens of sub-strategies. What came to the top were two overarching issues identified as the greatest impediments to Long Island's future sustainability: a lack of diversity in housing stock, i.e. lack of rental housing. Long Island has a very low percentage of rental housing which makes it difficult for young people and empty nesters trying to downsize. It is difficult to transition and cycle housing to the younger workforce. The Council champions transit-oriented development projects that will grow our tax base, whether commercial or residential, and provide housing in transit-served areas in order to commute without driving. In the last five years we have seen a sea change on Long Island where there is greater receptivity to these projects. Paul and the Village of Patchogue, Wyandanch, the Village of Greenport before that, are cited as success stories.

The second issue identified as an impediment is Long Island's unsustainable tax burden, principally property taxes. Today's Study is an analysis to quantify alternatives to the property tax. The issues of spending and assessment are critical issues, but this Study will focus on the revenue side. We did a procurement with different qualified companies submitting proposals and selected an outstanding firm, PFM, who also worked on LI2035. In order to get historic perspective and more localized data, they brought in Hofstra Suburban Studies with Larry Levy chairing. The Study was originally planned to be released at the end of the year, but as we all know, DC was tinkering with the federal tax code and the state budget was coming out so we held off. Once those two things evolved, we had PFM and Hofstra update the report. This Study reflects the latest.

PRESENTATION
"Study on Alternatives to the Property Tax"
Randy Bauer, Director, PFM Group Consulting:

John Cape and I were the two senior principals on this project, joined by other PFM staff members and significant assistance from Hofstra. I have been with PFM since 2005 and lead the Management and Budget Consulting Practice related to tax and revenue policy. Prior to PFM, I was the State of Iowa Budget Director and spent 20 years in state government. John Cape's NYS clients include NYS Association of Counties, Nassau County, Rockland County, NYS and the City of Albany. Prior to PFM, he served as Director of Budget for NYS overseeing a $113 billon operating budget. John also served in state government for more than 30 years and is a senior fellow at the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government at SUNY.

Just a brief note about PFM, it was started as Public Financial Management 45 years ago in Philadelphia with a staff of five on the principle of providing sound, independent financial advice to state and local government. We now have 40 offices around the county employing over 600 professionals including office locations in NYC and Long Island. Our role and mission is to act as a neutral, independent third party.

The Study is now on the LIRPC website. There is significant analysis in the Study that help explain what we have found. We are providing alternatives for policy makers to address issues on Long Island. It provides roadmaps for policymakers moving forward.

John Cape, Managing Director:

As John Cameron mentioned, back in 2010 when we did the LI2035 report we had an alarming projection for what the rate of growth in the burden of property tax would be on Long Island. We forecast that by 2035 almost 15% of the median household income would go to property tax, far more than paying a mortgage. We updated that number with the advent of the property tax cap and other policy changes. The advent of the property tax cap and its impact on Long Island – the good news is we can see the other variables and environmental (political and social) issues have tamped the rate of growth but the rate of growth is still creeping close to 10% of median household income by 2035. The good news is the rate of growth isn't alarming any longer but it is not time to muffle the alarm bell as 10% of median household income is still a dramatic amount and far more than is paid by similar regions around the country.

There are a number of risks as to whether or not the effect of the property tax cap is sustainable on Long Island. When we looked at the math we saw that after the recession the increase in property values had the effect of reducing the rate of growth of property taxes. The pension payments came down during the last 5-year period and so the amount that both school districts and municipalities paid for pensions was a reduced amount which helped tamp down the spending. Nobody knows whether that is a sustainable track. Comptroller DiNapoli says it is at a moderate rate right now but the stock market is a fickle character, we are at the end of one of the longest business cycles we have had in this country and whether or not the pension obligation for municipalities and school districts will remain at the current level is a risk moving forward. We also looked at what happened to reserve levels in both general-purpose municipalities and school districts. While reserves aren't gone, they are depleted and there were a lot of examples that we found where the ability to stay under the property tax cap was achieved by withdrawing money from their reserve accounts. The question is as reserves are depleted whether that is a sustainable method to keeping municipalities and school districts under the cap.

In terms of schools, while individual school districts vary, the enrollment island-wide has been stable and has declined in some school districts. As we know, school enrollment is cyclical, so whether school enrollment and spending demands increase is a risk factor as well. The state has been doing well in the past five years and has been able to provide transfer payments principally in terms of general support for school aid at record levels. Lastly, there has been a phenomenon on the island where we have seen a cycle of retirements of teachers and municipal employees being replaced by younger, lesser paid people starting out their career. When the $90,000 a year teacher retires and is replaced by a $50,000 teacher, that's a permanent $40,000 savings in payroll expense. That cycle is coming to an end, so whether that's a vehicle in the future for tamping down cost is a risk. While the good news is the property tax cap has had real traction on Long Island, the bad news is there are many risks as to whether the property tax cap is sustainable.

When we look at real estate taxes paid, the median in US, median in New York State, Nassau County and Suffolk County – we are paying quadruple the national average and at least double the state average. When we look at total revenues, Long Island provides the largest proportion of all of its operating revenues from local sources of any region in the state and it is getting worse. More than two-thirds of the operating revenue used by municipalities and school districts comes from local sources; that is a daunting figure and one that other places in the state don't have to shoulder.

Percent of median household income – we benchmarked looking around county looking at other generally affluent with pockets of poverty counties that are suburban counties and we looked at what their property taxes are as a percent of personal income. As you can see Nassau and Suffolk Counties lead the parade.
Randy Bauer: Before we talk about alternatives, its useful to keep some things in mind with tax policy. The data has shown property tax raises a lot of revenue. To look for meaningful alternatives we need to look for meaningful revenue. There is no perfect tax, they all come with challenges, often for particular groups or certain types of consumers. When we look at structuring the changes there will be winners and losers. If you are going to pursue alternatives this is what it looks like in terms of strengths and weaknesses, this is what revenue looks like.

The last point is that property taxes are relevant and used so often because it's a good tax for raising revenue (as far as taxes are concerned), assessing property, its visible, and it isn't easily moved so collections rates are high. None of what we've identified eliminates property tax, that doesn't exist in any local government realm. View the alternatives as replacing a portion, not eliminating.

The US Supreme Court is hearing arguments today in South Dakota v. Wayfair regarding challenging the nexus standard. The sales tax is the most common form of state taxation in the country, a consumption tax, and is in place in most states. The issues that state and local governments have been facing are how to collect sales tax. Because the sales tax is applied in literally thousands of transactions by businesses and individuals they must be captured at point of sale and remitted to state or local government. The problem is that in two key cases the Supreme Court has determined that in order to compel a retailer to collect the tax they must have nexus in the state. That is a challenge for internet sales which is becoming a larger component of sales in country. The state and local governments are faced with the challenge that they cannot compel an out of state retailer to collect tax and remit to state and local government unless the retailer has an actual presence in the state. A number of state and local governments have sought ways around this and one that going to be argued today. There are indications that the Supreme Court is going to in some way change the standard. In the country there is \$10-\$20 billion per year in foregone revenue for state and local governments because they cannot compel the retailers to collect on their behalf and that number continues to grow as internet activity grows. This is an important issue for Long Island with an estimate in revenue of \$50-\$100 million. Should the Supreme Court decide in South Dakota that the nexus standard is constitutional and isn't in violation, then states that choose to define nexus in that fashion will be able to compel retailers to collect on their behalf. That will still require action by states. The concern is that even if the Supreme Court overrules it and defines a different standard for collection, congress may step in. Congress, because of the ability to regulate e-commerce, could establish different standards. Those are all unknowns. At the state level in New York, the nexus has been proposed. It would require state action, but the state will collect revenues and return to counties and they would return to local governments as well. That is a very important issue and one that we expect there will be some determination soon.

Robert Kennedy: Your last comment about sales tax coming back to local government is incorrect. The Village of Freeport generates over \$15 million in sales tax and we receive nothing back each year in sales tax. The town takes the money, the county takes the money, and nothing comes back to the villages. We need to get more money back from sales tax generated in the local municipalities.

Ed Romaine: Unlike upstate where sales tax revenue is shared with villages as well as towns, there is no such sharing in Suffolk County with towns and villages. We see no portion of sales taxes. I wanted to make that clear that how revenue is shared on Long Island is different than how it is shared elsewhere in New York State.

Randy Bauer: There is some sharing that goes on between local governments on Long Island.

Robert Kennedy: Zero shared with the Village of Freeport. This year they are throwing us a bone with $94,000.

Randy Bauer: There are three issues relating to sales tax. One is the base with which you collect the tax, next is the rate you collect and finally, what's the percentage. New York City's local sales tax rate is 4.5%, while Nassau and Suffolk County impose the tax at 4.25%. Increasing Long Island's rate by .25 to be commensurate with New York City would yield an additional $160 million in additional revenue in 2018 and grow to nearly $270 million by 2035. That would be a small reduction of 1.4% in property tax.

We also looked at a more significant increase. Increasing the local rate to 5.25% would reduce property taxes by 5.5%, and the combined 9.625% rate would not exceed the 10% rate that is considered the barrier not to be crossed for sales tax. At 5.25% additional revenue generated is $600 million in 2018 and over $1 billion by 2035.

John Cape: Under current law, the sales tax on motor fuels is only charged on the first $2.00 of each gallon of fuel. The law subsequently amended to allow local governments to opt in to collect the counties' share on the full cost. Nassau and Suffolk have opted in, but the state has remained capped at $2.00 a gallon. The question is if the cap were removed and money made available to local government and there were no major fluctuations in fuel prices, the impact could be approximately $59 million annually. Transportation infrastructure is a big issue both nationally and in New York. Since 2013, 24 states have increased state gas taxes. In most cases it provided additional money for transportation infrastructure.

John Cameron: This warrants more discussion. Fuel oil tax hasn't been raised in many years in New York State and we all know local municipalities are facing a burden with underfunded infrastructure. We think that this could be a source of funding that if the state raised the fuel oil taxes, then the state could take half the funding and the rest could go to counties, towns, and villages.

Randy Bauer: Any tax law changes require assistance from Albany. For major taxation changes, the local governments require state approval to enact taxation. We looked at emerging taxes, mostly excise taxes, to see if those may be useful alternatives. A tax on sugared beverages has been emerging for five years. It is now in place in Philadelphia and Seattle. In Philadelphia it is a tax of one cent per ounce. Philadelphia will raise $80 million, not to mention the health-related benefits. Obesity is a major health issue and we all know that sugared beverages are empty calories that contribute. In our research we've found that using excise taxes to reduce consumption is most effective with the younger population due to less disposable income. Some people go outside the city to purchase, but less so on Long Island given that the geographic area makes it difficult to leave the taxing jurisdiction and reduces the opportunity for cross border competition. We looked at the analysis in two different ways and came up with an estimated revenue of $109 million. Unsurprisingly, the sugar sweetened industry has made their views know. Cooke County enacted the tax and then unenacted it based on the industry opposition.

Along the same lines, there are a handful of states that have enacted an excise tax on e-cigarettes. It seems logical to tax that industry. New York had a proposal in the governor's budget that was not enacted but it is an area where states will move forward on that excised tax in the future. This could be an estimated revenue of $1 million.

It is necessary to look at emerging taxes. In the last five years there are 9 states that have legalized recreational use of marijuana and it is a significant revenue raiser. The state of Colorado, which was the first state to legalize marijuana, now raises more than its tax on cigarettes. The governor of NJ ran on a platform to legalize marijuana and will continue that. On Long Island, a 1% tax would be approximately $3.5 million per year. At a rate of 15%-25% the island would generate approximately $52-$87 million per year.

The personal income tax is the State's largest revenue source and is also in place in two neighboring local governments – New York City and Yonkers. It taxes income, so it generally has more connection with ability to pay than property and sales taxes. We looked at two approaches. One is a percentage tax on income – either flat or progressive, which is the NYC approach. We also looked surcharge calculated as a percent of what the local taxpayer would owe the New York State in personal income tax, like Yonkers. Because it is a major tax with a broad base, a local income tax has the greatest potential to raise the revenue necessary to make a material reduction in residential property tax rates.

We are going to also talk about income-based property tax relief through a circuit-breaker. In 2016, 15 states and D.C. offered property tax circuit-breaker programs use a formula to target reductions for taxpayers who owe significant property taxes relative to their incomes. Another 15 states provided property tax credits to some low-income taxpayers based solely on income and do not require property taxes to exceed a set percentage of income to qualify. Many states also target circuit breaker programs for specific types of individuals or households beyond simple income, most commonly households headed by those over age 55 or those classified as disabled. The problem is that it doesn't get to underlying issues which is you have individuals that don't fall under that category but have trouble paying their property taxes. It is a significant issue facing property tax payers and government in general on Long Island.

Of the revenue source options identified, you can get an additional $500 million. This is a useful approach as opposed to a little bit at a time. It is rare to get big bang approach to solve public policy issues. We feel there are reasonable options that could be pursued to start the discussion of substituting property tax on Long Island.

There are other related issues which is the impact of federal tax law changes. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 was the first major change in tax policy since the 1970s. It has a significant impact on Long Island and New York State. The deductions allowed for state and local taxes for federal income tax purposes is now capped at $10,000 per federal tax return per year. The law's limitations on SALT deductions will cost New York's taxpayers an additional $14.3 billion per year. The Governors of the States of New York, Connecticut, New Jersey and Maryland have announced plans to sue the federal government. There are two primary efforts focused on working around to mitigate the effects of the limit on the SALT deduction. One is use of charitable contributions as a substitute for state income tax and/or local property tax. Second is a statewide employer compensation expense tax.

John Cameron: When we did the school working groups we identified that there are 500 New York State mandates that are not federal mandates. It is a challenge to put caps on if you don't do something about mandates. The study doesn't address the assessment issue or spending issue. The tax rate is a function of tax base, spending and revenue. We need to next focus on cost side of equation. If you raise dollars, government is going to spend it. We need to do more, which is why we are releasing this study and then dealing with the tougher end of equation.

John Cape: State and local governments are under assault from federal government these days in terms of transfer payments between federal government and state and directly to the localities. Support for Medicaid is the largest component of federal funds in the State budget. The FY2019 Executive Budget continues to hold counties harmless for the increase in local share of Medicaid costs, however, significant federal funding threats exist that could pose a risk to the Counties' Medicaid obligations.

The spending side of the equation requires dealing with a lot of external factors like state mandates that interfere with significant cost savings in the service delivery. Both County Executives are looking to control costs and there are a number of intermunicipal cooperations and school cooperation initiatives going on. If you look at school districts, three-fourths of a school district's cost is personnel. The major cost of personnel is salary – it is hard to roll back from where you are now. In order to have cost savings, you have to take dramatic action to generate cost savings. Those cost saving initiatives generally require time to get traction. There are people out there in municipal governments that are working to save money by cooperating, using technology better. The takeaway from the study is the need for a renewed effort to focus on expenditures.

We conclude with there is no magic bullet on Long Island. In asking "how do you improve the situation?" What improves for one devastates another. We attempted to have this be a primer that lays out the issues, the factors, and these are the numbers on what the initiatives are worth. Now is the time to put into the public discourse the facts so people can make better decisions. Significant actions are needed which won't be easy because it has to be done in Albany.

Ralph Scordino: When you look at Bergen County and others in the Study, was there anything in particular in those counties that they were doing differently to lower their taxes?

Randy Bauer: You will find some initiatives that they have used that may be applicable in the study.

Rich Guardino: If you look at comparable counties they went to different legs of the stool – sales tax or income tax.

Jeffrey Kraut: We've been looking at this problem for decades. We have 125 school districts, where some counties have only one. We don't subscribe to a revolutionary form of change because of the multiple levels of government that prevent cohesive change. The Study is trying to say you can't support the status quo. We are putting these ideas into the public debate. If you have a county income tax, you change the political conversation as to how to generate change. Cost increases in government are modest, the biggest thing is school districts. School districts are about labor. Technology isn't going to save much, it is labor, overhead, there is a basic inequity in school districts.

Ed Romaine: We have 68 school districts in Suffolk County. The poorest school district is William Floyd because of the property taxes which support it. We have the reverse property Robin Hood theory going on – steal from the poor to give to the rich. There is a disparity, even in Brookhaven, the school district that spends the most is Port Jefferson. In the 2016/2017 school year they spent $37,000 per student. Next door at Three Villages they spent $28,000. There must be a change in the way the districts do business and the way we introduce equity. There should be funding education based on student need, everyone gets X dollars, weighted for special needs. Then each district manages the best they can which leads to consolidations. Then you introduce equity, it doesn't matter where you live because each child is funded at same rate.

Francesca Carlow, President, Nassau County Chamber of Commerce: We are the voice for 10,000 small businesses in Nassau County. It hits me hard because I am a brick and mortar retailer in Nassau County. I would like the Council to know that they should help push a fair system to collect internet sales tax, helping businesses level the playing field and collect tax for all vendors selling in New York State. This is an entity, this is how business is being done. Local small businesses are referred to as the backbone of the economy because we support public safety and infrastructure. Local sales taxes generate millions in sales tax revenue and our backbone is now stressed. We need to urge our elected officials to support and help its backbone so that we can compete and succeed in this challenging and changing marketplace.

John Cameron: If not enacted, businesses will close, shrinking our commercial tax base and increasing the burden further to the residential tax base.

Jack Schnirman: I wanted to start with agreeing with Francesca. Both County Executives and Comptrollers are in full agreement. I want to point out that today is tax day, so what better a day than today to have the conversation. Property taxes are a tremendous burden. The federal tax legislation is going to be taking effect and challenging us in advance of next year's tax day. It will contribute to local governments and homeowners feeling a fiscal emergency. It bears mentioning that we have a finite amount of time to look at revenues. On the expense side, in the Nassau Comptroller's office, we feel like doing things in the same way won't work. We are launching an effort on the expense side. On the revenue side, alternatives to more property taxes are worth a discussion and today is a good start. No one wants more property taxes. No one is looking for more fees for services and not a lot of people wanting layoffs either. Reimagine the way we spend, generate tax dollars.

Paul Llobell: I would be more impressed with our government if instead of the 2% tax increase, how about a 1.9% decrease each year. I've been a fire commissioner for thirty years. I know if we had a mandate to decrease our taxes that we impose by 2% we could do that. We would go to our gas supplier, our insurance carrier, and negotiate pricing. We have a serious problem. We are looking for other places to raise taxes. Let's control our spending. We all know the pension programs aren't 100% funded. We need to control the expenses we have instead of looking at other areas to pull tax money in.

Robert Kennedy: I would like to make a few comments in spending in the villages. In Freeport we have our own police department, water department, and in the past five years the Village of Freeport has reduced its debt and has increased its reserves. We put 25 additional police officers on and haven't had a tax increase in over five years. The municipalities aren't spending, it's the schools. This village has secured the spending and wasteful spending. We spend $1 million each year in medical and dental, workman's comp, all mandated increases. We need assistance for businesses that are producing, who survived Sandy, put money into infrastructure.

John Cameron: On behalf of the Council, I'd like to thank John and Randy on an excellent presentation and Study. Once again, getting to the point that this is one leg of the stool dealing with the revenue side. Hopefully we can get authority to move to the next side and deal with expenditures.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Our website is up and running and the full report, executive summary and presentation is on the website, so please take a look. We have been working on some initiatives with LINAP, and we will have a report at a future meeting. We have received an additional grant from NYS DEC where we will be doing STEM training in school districts related to the LINAP study, as well as South Shore water quality monitoring working with environmental groups, colleges and universities. We will be getting started with our study in Patchogue and there will be more to come on that.

Next meeting: To be decided

Meeting adjourned at 12:20PM