



WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ADVISORY BOARD

January 22, 2026 Meeting Minutes

The WQIAB meeting was hybrid.

Members Present: James Eklund (*Chairman*), Julia Weisenberg, Twoey Brayson, Greg Toner

Member Present on Zoom: Betty Bishop

Town Officials Present: Amber Brach-Williams (*Supervisor*), Albert Dickson (*Councilman*)

Attendees Present in Person: Kate Rossi-Snook, Tom Hashagen, Meg Larsen

Attendees via Zoom: None

1. Meeting called to order at 6:01pm (*James Eklund*)

2. Minutes: Motion to accept November 6, 2025, 2025 WQI Meeting Minutes. Seconded. Unanimously approved.

3. CCE 2025 Shellfish Seed Planting Report (*Kate Rossi-Snook*)

Kate Rossi-Snook presented the 2025 Shelter Island Town Shellfish Seed Planting Report, prepared by Michael Patricio, Shellfish Aquaculture Manager at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County. The report highlights the numbers and sizes of each species that have been seeded in Town waters, which included oysters, clams and bay scallops. CCE worked with SI Harbormaster Beau Payne when selecting the seeding locations. The total approximate value of shellfish seeded between June and November was \$18,058. The full report can be found on the WQIAB webpage. Ms. Rossi-Snook highlighted pride in CCE's long-term contract with the Town of Shelter Island, the only East End town with such an agreement. She noted that the initial work funded by WQI led to other efforts working with the school and private homeowners and she, and her colleague, Kim Barber, will return to present more detailed results from these efforts, along with updates on oyster reef and eelgrass restoration projects and plans for future initiatives.

4. Review WQI Septic Rebate Request for Payment

- **Hashagen – 70 West Neck Road**

The application has been pending since 2020 and the project is finally complete.

The applicant, Tom Hashagen, was present to explain the challenges he faced throughout the process.

Member Weisenberg made a motion to approve the I/A Septic Rebate for the base amount of \$15,000. Member Brayson seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Member Eklund emphasized that an existing unit was upgraded during the process and that this should not be confused with new construction, which would be considered an increase in growth and density.

- **Lange – 82 Smith Street**
#09-2024 (JW)

The applicant has completed the installation of the new I/A Septic System; however, she was recently approved for funding to convert the basement into living accommodations through the ADU grant program.

Ms. Lange submitted a letter which Chairman Eklund read into the record.

Chairman Eklund indicated that additional review is needed. Members discussed whether policy adjustments may be necessary to accommodate ADU's and affordable housing, while balancing growth and community benefits.

The Board will table the discussion until further review and feedback from the Town Attorney.

5. Review New WQI Application

- **Eklund – 59 S. Midway Road**
WQI #08-2025 (BB)

Chairperson Eklund recused himself as this is his application.

Member Bishop reviewed the application and compiled the Report to Town Board.

Member Brayson presented this information on her behalf, detailing the project which would replace a collapsed and

blocked, 80-year-old failing system.

After highlighting the environmental benefits of the upgrade, Member Brayson made a motion to approve funding for the base grant in the amount of \$12,000. Member Weisenberg seconded. Unanimously approved.

6. Financial Report

Supervisor Brach-Williams reported that the NY Class account balance was \$3,952,645 as of December 31, 2025, with approximately \$500,000 encumbered for approved and in-process applications.

7. New Business

Members discussed reevaluating the formula sheet used to calculate the rebate.

Chairperson Eklund suggested members think about new proposals that would support local water quality improvement projects, using the WQI fund balance.

Adjourned 7:10 pm

*Submitted By,
Jessica Montgomery
WQIAB Clerk*

(Approved 2/5/2026)