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Cooperative DEC grant off the table

Northport and town to seek money separately; Asharoken undecided

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An uncommon joint proposal by Northport, Asharoken and Huntington for environmental funds from the state was tabled last week, a casualty of an impending deadline that made working out the many technicalities involved in inter-municipal proposals an impossible task.

Instead, each locality will file separate grant proposals that will likely run up against more competition for the funding to be used, among other things, to install filters in storm drains to reduce pollutants and nitrogen levels in the Sound.

Speaking about the advantages of a joint proposal, Northport Trustee Tom Kehoe said, "They cover a bigger area with a larger population. [Officials] look at this as covering a multitude of sins, so to speak, and pay more attention."

Kehoe said such proposals have been uncommon because of the many technical difficulties that need to be untangled. In this case, the joint venture was sunk when Northport and Huntington couldn't set up a joint bank account and terminate the grant proposals before Friday's deadline.

"We should have pulled the trigger earlier," Kehoe said.

Instead, Northport and Huntington will file separate copycat grants asking for approximately \$125,000 each to install filters on storm drains, conduct DNA tests on pollutants in harbors and beaches and launch an educational program touting the availability of pump-out boats in the harbor. The

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Photo by Richard Podlesney

In kind painting

On April 18, Erich Preis of Huntington was working on a painting of the Northport dock for a future raffle to raise money for homeless veterans on Long Island. Preis has been donating artwork since 9/11 in memory of his friend, Officer Michael Noeth of the U.S. Navy, who died in the terrorist attacks at the Pentagon. In 2007, his paintings of Montauk lighthouse and Mustangs on Clinton Avenue raised \$2,000 toward the purchase of food and clothing for veterans throughout the winter.