

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT & SANITATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON  
DECEMBER 20, 2006  
AT THE BOARD OFFICE, 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE**

*Board Members of the Committee present:*

Saul Scheinbach, Committee Chairman  
Bradford Trebach, Committee Vice Chairman  
James Plaza

*Other Board Members present:*

none

*Community Members of the Committee present:*

none

*Also in attendance:*

Josh Payne (from the Riverdale Press)  
Martin Collins (Chair, Manhattan CB12)  
Thomas Giallorenzi  
Paul Travis (Kingsbridge Development Partners)  
Maria A. Lopez  
Felipe Alvarez

*The Committee met at 7:38 p.m. – S. Scheinbach in the Chair.*

1. It was agreed that the Minutes of the Committee's meeting of October, 23 2006 be adopted.
2. Update on the Facility Monitoring Committee for the Croton Water Filter Plant project.

The Chairman reported that Facility Monitoring Committee (FMC) did not meet in November, but will meet tomorrow, December 21. The major agenda item for discussion will be the efforts made by the DEP to get more Bronxites hired for the upcoming construction of the filtration plant. DEP Commissioner Lloyd will be attending.

3. Update on the Consolidated Edison high voltage transmission line.

The Chairman reported that to date he has attended seven meetings on this issue:

1. A hearing with Public Service Commission (PSC) and all active parties to ask the PSC for more time to formulate our response.
2. Two meetings with the other two communities involved; namely, Yonkers elected officials and CB12 in Manhattan to discuss a united strategy in moving forward to change the route.
3. A meeting at the CB8 office with local elected officials, those from Yonkers, CB12 members and Consolidated Edison representatives to discuss possible alternate routes.
4. Three meetings at Assemblyman Dinowitz's office with representatives of elected officials from all three communities, CB12 members and Assemblyman Dinowitz and Patricia McDow of the Yonkers City Council.

These meetings resulted in the proposal of an alternate route, acceptable by all three communities. The proposal is to be presented on December 22 to the judges who are reviewing the route proposed by Consolidated Edison. Our route begins in Yonkers at the Sprain Brook Substation and would travel west on Tuckahoe Road to the Interstate 87 south access ramp. It would continue south along the east side of I-87 through the Bronx to the point directly opposite West 208<sup>th</sup> Street in Manhattan. There it would turn west under the Harlem River to cross into Manhattan at West 208<sup>th</sup> Street. The line would travel west on West 208<sup>th</sup> Street until Ninth Avenue. It would then travel south on Ninth Avenue until Academy Street, the site of the Academy Substation.

The Chairman summarized a cover letter, signed by federal, state and city elected officials from all three communities for endorsement by the committee. The committee unanimously endorsed the alternate plan.

The Chairman asked Paul Travis, co-owner and manager of Kingsbridge Associates to summarize the route that Consolidated Edison plans to take through his property along the Harlem River ship canal. Mr. Travis said that he had been in discussions with the utility for the past year, and they had agreed on a route, which would begin the tunnel under the canal next to Applebee's. This route was minimally disruptive and did not result in any permanent loss of parking spaces. However, in September '06 the utility notified him that the original plan was scrapped and a new route, which would begin tunneling on the western edge of his property, adjacent to Broadway, was now in effect. In October he rejected this route because he would permanently lose 12 of 25 parking spots used by 8 adjacent businesses, which violates the term of several tenant leases. Moreover, it violates the terms of a parking waiver from City Planning and would require a

zoning variance. On December 18 he proposed an alternate route along the east side of Target and continuing behind it to the canal, which would not result in a loss of parking spaces. He is awaiting their reply, but fears they will stick to their disruptive route.

4. Canine-Waste Trouble Spots.

Opposite 3660 Oxford Ave. - On Dec. 20, the Vice Chairman contacted the Sanitation Department complaining about lack of enforcement of the canine-waste law in the grassy area along the sidewalk across from 3660 Oxford Ave. He is awaiting a reply.

5. Graffiti-vandalism.

Poles for Streetlights & Directional Signs. The Vice-Chairman informed the Committee that all of the silver poles for city streetlights and traffic signals in Community District 8 have been repainted up to a height of eight feet as part of a citywide program to remove graffiti. He noted that Welsbach Electric Corporation of College Point, Queens, was awarded the contract for painting such poles throughout the city. The color of the paint is glossy "battleship gray."

The Vice-Chair noted that graffiti vandalism was on the rise in the district. He reported two new sites:

W. 246<sup>th</sup> St. and Henry Hudson Parkway E. – On Dec. 20, the Vice-Chairman asked the NYC Department of Transportation to paint over the graffiti on the West 246<sup>th</sup> St. overpass of the Henry Hudson Pkwy. He is awaiting a reply.

Manhattan College Parkway overpass -On Dec. 20, the Vice-Chairman asked the NYC Department of Transportation to paint over the graffiti on the lower part of the Manhattan College Pkwy. overpass of the Henry Hudson Pkwy. He is awaiting a reply.

6. Any other business

SWAB

The Chairman presented a letter from Bronx Borough President, Adolfo Carrion Jr., requesting a replacement for Paul Dillon on the Bronx Solid Waste Advisory Board (SWAB). SWAB's purview includes evaluating the City's annual recycling and reduction goals and methods proposed to meet them, appraising the City's proposed means to encourage recycling, and analyzing the city's plans to promote the recycling program and to educate the public about recycling. The SWAB meets every second month from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. The Chairman asked the committee for a volunteer to serve on the Board for a two-year appointment. No one volunteered, so the chairman said he would repeat the request at the next full Board meeting.

The Chairman noted that on November 6<sup>th</sup> he received a response to his October 23<sup>rd</sup> letter to the DEP concerning the sewer backup at 5431 & 5433 Fieldston Rd. The response, by Moira Tittle, Chief, Correspondence Management Unit for the DEP, stated that the DEP is investigating the backup and will notify us of their findings.

*At 8:34 p.m., the Committee was adjourned to a day and time to be fixed by the Chairman.*

Respectfully submitted,

Saul Scheinbach  
*Chairman,*  
*Environment and Sanitation Committee*

SS:db