

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT & SANITATION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON APRIL 20, 2010
AT THE BOARD OFFICE, 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE**

Board Members of the Committee present:

Saul Scheinbach, Committee Chairman
Bradford Trebach, Committee Vice Chairman
Thomas Giallorenzi

Other Board Members present:

none

Community Members of the Committee present:

none

Also in attendance:

none

The Committee met at 7:30 p.m. – S. Scheinbach in the Chair.

1. It was agreed that the Minutes of the Committee's meeting of January 19, 2010 be adopted.

2. Horizontal gas drilling

The Chairman said that the EPA has announced it will conduct a comprehensive study to investigate the potential adverse effect hydraulic drilling may have on water quality and public health. The study is expected to take two years. The EPA has allocated \$1.9M for FY2010 for this peer-reviewed study. The review being conducted by NYSDEC has been slow. DEC Commissioner Grannis recently said that the agency received 13,500 public comments on its draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement and may not be finished with its review until the fall.

3. Illegally posted signs.

The Chairman reported that illegal postings in the CB8 district had decreased in recent weeks. He said that vigorous enforcement by the Department of Sanitation as well as publicizing the issue at meetings and in the local newspapers was probably responsible for the decline. Vice Chairman Trebach requested that illegal postings of "Arizona Rescue Water" be reported to sanitation enforcement. He said that the Arizona Iced Tea Company had done this before and he had reported them. These were large stickers placed on light poles. The Chairman said he had forwarded the complaint and was waiting for a response. The Chairman presented a copy of a letter he sent to state assemblymen and senators. It is a follow-up to letters sent out in 2008 along with the Community Board 8 resolution supporting Assembly bill 9414 and Senate bill 6106A.

The bills would close loopholes used by commercial advertisers to avoid fines when placing signs on public property. Since these bills have not moved out of committee, the letter asks each elected official what action he has taken to expedite passage.

4. Graffiti vandalism.

Vice Chairman Trebach reported on graffiti. There has been an increase in graffiti. Vandals have hit areas along the Henry Hudson parkway service road, the pedestrian bridges at W. 235th St. and Manhattan College Pkwy. and the retaining wall along Irwin and Johnson Aves. He reported all these sites to the Board office and DOT has cleaned up most of them. The Department of Parks has also quickly responded to reports of graffiti in the Spuyten Duyvil playground.

5. E&S budget priorities.

There were no new submissions by committee members. The Chairman said he intended to re-submit an earlier proposal for increasing the number of canine enforcement agents in the Bronx to at least two, but was not re-submitting a request for twice weekly cleaning, graffiti removal, maintenance and rodent control along the perimeter of Jerome Park Reservoir (JPR) between the fence and curb. He said Mr. Trebach and he recently toured the JPR perimeter and found that, in contrast to an inspection last year, the perimeter was properly cleaned.

6. Other business.

The Chairman said the Water Board announced that water rates will rise by 12.9%, the same as last year. This is partly due to the huge cost overrun of the Croton filtration plant. The only public hearing in the Bronx is scheduled for May 4th, 8:00 p.m. at public school 14. Mr. Giallorenzi said trash was accumulating along the center median of Netherland Avenue, North of West 227th Street. The Chairman said he would report it.

At 8:04 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