

Bronx Community Board 8
Minutes of the Environment and Sanitation Committee
September 7, 2017 at the Board Office, 5676 Riverdale Avenue

The meeting commenced at 7:35 pm.

Attendance

Committee members: Laura Spalter, chair, Bob Fanuzzi, vice chair, Bob Bender, Martin Gluck, Karen Argenti, community committee member, Rob Spalter, community committee member

Committee members absent: Steve Froot

Community Guests: M. Eremeyev, Suzanne Corber, David Kornbluh, Martin Gluck, Anthony D. Delorbe

Agenda

1. The minutes of May and June were approved unanimously.
2. The committee voted to approve a resolution approving DEP's plan to construct two Water Quality Monitoring Stations (WQMS) in Van Cortlandt Park located north of the Mosholu Golf Course near Shandler Field and at the entrance of the Croton Filtration near Jerome Avenue. See resolution attached.

3. **Chair's Report:**

DEP Update: Based on emails and calls over the summer with Ibrahim Abdul-Matin from DEP the chair shared the following responses to some issues that were raised by the committee at the June meeting.

- DEP thinks remodeling the existing Shaft 2 building to make it as attractive as the new WQMS is a great idea. However, since that is not in their current contract, it cannot be included in this contract.
- Public access at the two new sites will continue unchanged. DPR has approved the sites.
- DEP and DPR are meeting regarding a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for maintenance of the grassy area on parkland in front of the Filtration Plant and around Woodlawn Water Tunnel No. 3. When complete, it will be shared with the committee.
- Regarding the DEP's role in keeping the chambers located in Van Cortlandt Lake clean, Parks and DEP had a meeting over the summer and are planning to bring their operations people to a second meeting shortly.

Organic Recycling Expansion: The chair distributed informative handouts and reported on two summer meetings related to the expansion of organic recycling in Community Board 8. Bob Fanuzzi noted that Skyview Cooperative is participating in this voluntary program.

CSX Update: The committee viewed post cleanup pictures taken by committee member Rob Spalter of mulched stretches of the CSX property with all the weeds, garbage, and dumping removed. The CSX cleanup between Van Cortlandt Park South and West 230th Street along the Major Deegan began in July and is almost completed. A campaign for the cleanup by the E and S committee began in January.

4. Jerome Park Reservoir tour held July 31 with DPR and DEP

Report by Karen Argenti, See report attached.

The meeting was held as a follow up to the April 2017 joint meeting held by the Parks and E and S committees. The goal of the meeting was to identify which agency owns which area and to develop an MOU to deal with maintenance. Karen distributed a report based on notes submitted by Bob Fanuzzi, Laura Spalter, and Karen.

The committee unanimously approved the report, which will be sent to the agencies. We will continue to follow up with DEP and DPR regarding green infrastructure, (particularly around the hilly area of PS 95), sanitation issues around Reservoir and Sedgwick Avenues, and support for community gardens. All noted the success of the new group Jerome Park Friends and Neighbors founded by Debbie Travis. Karen raised the need for DEP to supplement parks budget in order for parks to meet the area's needs.

5. Old Business:

- Bob Bender introduced a resolution urging our city and state elected officials to ban disposable plastic bags in New York City. After discussion the resolution passed with five in favor, none opposed, and one abstention. See resolution attached.
- The chair asked for volunteers to assist in tabling at the upcoming Bronx Community Green Fair on Sunday, October 22nd taking place at the Church of the Mediator, 260 W. 231st Street between the hours of 1–5 pm.

6. New Business:

- Karen Argenti, chair of the Water Working Group, reported on the environmental needs of the Putnam Trail in Van Cortlandt Park which includes reviewing the impact on the wetlands during and after construction with DEP and DEC. Bob Bender noted that these issues and goals are also part of the Parks Committee SWPPP Working Group. Bob Fanuzzi noted that there is broad environmental overlap.
- Bob Fanuzzi raised problem of graffiti behind BJ's and issues with step streets located in parks.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM

Respectfully submitted by,
Laura Spalter, chair