

## **BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8**

### **MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT & SANITATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MARCH 19, 2014 AT THE BOARD'S OFFICE**

#### **PRESENT**

Sergio Marquez  
Robert Press  
Laura Spalter  
Robert Spalter  
Tom Durham

#### **AFFILIATION**

CB8 Committee Chair  
CB8 Committee member  
CB8 Committee Vice Chair  
Community Committee member

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. The minutes of the February 19, 2014 meeting were approved.

#### **CHAIRS'S REPORT**

On March 17, 2014, the Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP") commenced two (2) sewer repair projects on the following streets: West 195<sup>th</sup> Street at Reservoir Avenue and on Webb Avenue between Eames and West Kingsbridge Road. The repair work is being conducted from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and the work should be completed within four (4) – five (5) days. On March 13, 2014, there was a gas leak that occurred in the vicinity of 3400 Cannon Place. Con Edison repaired the leaky gas main without incident.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

The complaint made by Mark Hugel at the February 19, 2014, meeting regarding the seepage of water coming from the Riverdale Country School was followed up with a site visit by Laura and Robert Spalter. Their findings indicate that the problem stems from the Riverdale Country School inadequate water run off system. An inquiry can be made to learn what representations were made by the Riverdale Country School in their variance application to the Land Use Committee regarding how they would

manage their wet lands. Several elected officials (Oliver Koppell, Elliot Engel and Jeff Dinowitz) have attempted to resolve this problem, but to no avail. These elected officials would contact the Riverdale Country School and the school would just divert the water to another location or claim that some pipe was broken. What the elected officials did resolve was the seepage of raw sewage from the school. Mark Hugel gave the committee a history of the problem. Mr. Hugel stated that the problem has lasted for at least ten (10) years. DEP has been to the site on numerous occasions, but their findings have been inconclusive. The rain or snow that melts comes from the Riverdale Country School drains into a ceramic pipe and the water seeps out onto the curb and flows up to 5235 Post Road, which is an apartment building. George, the superintendent at 5235 Post Road, has witnessed this problem and has previously contacted the media regarding same. When it's cold the water freezes, causing any car that's parked on that street to become frozen in the ice. There is no sewer near the vicinity of the water seepage. The run off water seeps into Mr. Hugel's basement and he has put off any landscaping until this problem is resolved. The committee determined that this is a systemic problem, which needs an onsite inspection by DEP, the Riverdale Country School, and a representative of the local elected officials to determine what is the cause of this problem. Mr. Hugel stated that he was in contact with Justin Demco from Jeff Dinowitz's office regarding this problem.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The Chair raised the issue of hydrofracking for discussion. Laura Spalter indicated that the committee had previously issued a resolution against hydrofracking.

Being that DEP should build a Pedestrian Bridge over the Major Deegan to connect its eastern and western halves and connect the broken Old Croton

Aqueduct Trial, the Committee is contemplating listing this project as a budget request.

Robert Press, attending the Bronx Waterfront Planning and Community Environmental Design Guideline meeting learned that all Bronx rivers are being considered for water front projects except the Hudson River because of the railroad tracks, a waterfront cannot be built along the Hudson River.

Robert Press also mentioned that the Department of Design and Construction ("DDC") is planning to install new sewers, watermains and catch basins and create pedestrian islands at 231<sup>st</sup> and 238<sup>th</sup> Streets on Broadway. But before DDC begins the work they have to present their plans for these projects before the community. DEP needs to inform the Committee of what projects they have planned for our board.

Tom Durham said that the Federal government has outlawed the use of incandescent bulbs for residential buildings.

The next committee meeting will be held on Wednesday May 21, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Board's Office.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sergio Marquez, Chair  
Environment & Sanitation  
Committee