

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SANITATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MAY 20th, AT RIVERDALE MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

PRESENT

Robert Fanuzzi
Laura Spalter
Bob Bender
Robert Spalter
Suzanne Corber
Phoebe Mankiewicz
Paul Mankiewicz
Christina Taylor

AFFILIATION

Committee Chair, CB8
Committee Vice Chair, CB8
Committee Member, CB
Community Committee Member

I. Approval of minutes

The minutes of March 18, 2015 were approved (4-0)

II. Chair's Report

- A. JFK High School is now a drop-site for compost. Thanks go to Danny Steiner, Sustainability Coordinator of JFK, and Jodie Colon of DSNY NYC Compost for their work in creating this local composting site.
- B. Committee is seeking alternative June meeting date
- C. Jodie Colon is enlisting CERT in measurement of storm water runoff with coordination of BCEQ Water Committee Researcher Phoebe Mankiewicz

III. Green Infrastructure Project

Chair recreated timeline of E and S Committee meetings, presentations, and activities on Combined Sewer Overflow, Harlem River Outfall, and High Flow Areas in Community Board 8 since September 2014:

- A. November 2014, documenting Sandy surge flooding
- B. January 2015, concerning Tier 1 (50% of city CSO) from outfall Wards Island 056, BxCB8 sewershed for WI 056, consent decree with USDEP in 1997, exclusion of CB8 from Long Term Control Plan, and NYC DEP Long Term Control Plan for Harlem and Hudson Rivers (Open Water Act of 2017).
- C. March 2015, demonstrating Graphic Information System research for Green Infrastructure sites estimating high flow/flooding in CB 8
- D. April/May: E and S committee sends questions about Broadway Sewer capacity, outfall of WI 056, and water quality of Harlem River to NYC; awaiting response

Chair recreated timeline of DEP policy and announcements regarding Green Infrastructure.

- A. November 2014 DEP press release announcing expansion of Green Infrastructure program into 3 Bronx priority areas: Soundview, Clason Point, Castle Hill
- B. November 2014, NYC DEP community relations representative, in response to query from E and S committee on exclusion of BxCB 8 from priority areas, states commitment of DEP to addressing 1" storm water runoff in 10% of impervious areas throughout NYC; no timeline given for Green Infrastructure in CB 8.
- C. March 2015 Press Release from DEP celebrating success of Green Infrastructure program in New York City high priority areas.

Committee members discussed strategies for documenting need for Green Infrastructure and for enlisting DEP in CB 8. Paul Mankiewicz, BCEQ Board Member, and Phoebe Mankiewicz, researcher for the BCEQ Water Committee provided research and described their methodologies. The committee decided on a letter to be addressed to the Director of the Green Infrastructure program with this structure:

Documenting the Tier 1 outfalls at Wards Island 056, which is fed by the Bx CB8 sewershed (note that Van Cortlandt Lake and the Broadway sewer do not feed into WI 056)

Presenting the research of the Water Committee of BCEQ, which uses Graphic Information System technologies to estimate the high flow areas, overlaying 311 flood data and contour maps

With this BCEQ research, identifying "quadrants" of BxCB8 that require further investigation and site visits by DEP and E and S committee

Identifying areas of concern throughout BxCB8 that are not within the quadrants, such as Broadway and 240th, Edsel Avenue in Spuyten Dyvil, and Douglas Avenue in Riverdale

Invoking City Council law that requires storm water runoff infrastructure for construction of new public spaces, including parks, schools, and public places

Proposing that remediation for high flow and area flooding include introducing enhanced tree pits and retrofitting existing tree pits in these areas that will capture water runoff and sustain tree growth

Proposing that DEP coordinate with DPR to introduce enhanced tree pits in affected areas for next planting cycle

IV. Budget Priorities

Chair reviewed priorities from E and S committee for FY 2016 and listed possible expense and capital expenses from meetings in 2014 and 2015:

Green Infrastructure

Waste Baskets, especially in Marble Hill

Additional Sanitation inspectors, especially in Marble Hill

Support for NYC Compost programs in CB 8

V. New Business

- A. Christina Taylor announced the North Riverdale Merchant Association is in receipt of a NYSERTA grant and that Christopher Rizzo is assisting the group formulate a "Smart Growth" strategy. Committee members asked that Mr. Rizzo and the NRMA be invited to the June Meeting.

VI. Old Business

- A. Vice Chair L. Spalter noted that the E and S committee minutes of 2001 described efforts of committee to address combined sewer overflow, water quality, and local runoff.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Fanuzzi

Chair,

Environment and Sanitation Committee