

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT & SANITATION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON NOVEMBER 16, 2011
AT RIVERDALE MENTAL HEALTH, 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE**

Board Members of the Committee present:

Rosemary Ginty, Committee Chair
Laura Spalter, Vice-Chair
Sylvia Alexander
Robert Press
Pedro Reyes

Community Board Members present:

Thomas Durham

Community Members of the Committee present:

Robert Spalter

Also in attendance:

Andrew Sandler, Council Member Oliver Koppell's Office
Brendan McHugh, Riverdale Press
Peter McKeon, DSNY, Chief of Collection Recycling Operations
Serrano Supv., DSNY, BxW 08

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.
The minutes of the September 21 meeting were approved.

Chair's Report

- Bob Bender and Bob Fanuzzi will attend the November 16th meeting of the Croton Filtration Monitoring Committee and update committee on tree removal at Jerome Park Reservoir.
- The DEP report for October 2011 was distributed. There were a total of 118 complaints made in Community Board 8. The top issues were dirty water, leaks, leaking and defective hydrants, and clogged catch basins/flooding.
- The Department of Sanitation has drafted a Snow Response Plan for every borough including the Bronx, as required by City Council legislation. A Final Snow Response Plan will be issued shortly in time for our December meeting.
- Hydraulic Fracking (Hydrofracking) - There has been a ban on hydrofracking since 2008 to allow NYS regulators the opportunity to conduct a Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DSGEIS), and draft new regulations. NYS public lands and the watershed areas for NYC and Syracuse are off the table. However, the DEP Commissioner and Mayor are calling for a

7.5 mile protective buffer zone around the underground water tunnels that carry water to the city. The fear is seismic damage. The committee discussed and approved a draft letter for inclusion to the DSGEIS process that supports several measures to protect the safety of the drinking water for over 8 million New Yorkers.

DSNY Adopt a Public Space Recycling Receptacle Program Presentation

Guest speaker, Peter McKeon, Chief of Collection Recycling Operations, addressed the committee regarding expanding public space recycling in Community Board 8. The program seeks to partner with BIDS, schools, stores, buildings, or institutions. Partners will receive free blue and green recycling containers and free plastic bags to line the containers. Partners are responsible for changing the bags when they are full, and placing the bags out for collection at the regularly scheduled pickup time.

Other Business

- Tom Durham updated the committee on the mayor's air quality mandate by DEP Rule that all heating systems be converted by the year 2030 to natural gas or #2 heating oil only. The conversion will be very expensive and will greatly impact the entire housing market. This new DEP Rule will be addressed jointly by the Housing and Environment and Sanitation Committees.
- Catch basins on Broadway, Riverdale Avenue and 238th St., and elsewhere are clogged with leaves. Homeowners must be reminded that they are responsible for cleaning 18 inches into the street, which includes the catch basins. This will facilitate drainage and alleviate flooding.

The chair thanks Laura Spalter for assisting with the minutes of the meeting.

The next committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 21 at Manhattanville Nursing Home.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Ginty
Chair,
Environment and Sanitation Committee