

COMMUNITY BOARD #3

655 Rossville Avenue
Staten Island, N. Y. 10309

Environmental Committee Minutes

March 12, 2009

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

***denotes Committee members**

Frank Morano, Chairman of the Board
Thomas Barlotta, Chairman Environmental Committee*
Edward Canlon*
Phyllis Catania
Frank Contrera*
James Gallagher
Judy Goodstein*
Patricia Maresca
Maribel Sansone*
Frank Santarpia*
Todd Tabacco

GUESTS:

Frank Verga, Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) New York
James Garin, NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
Michael Nagy, Consulting Engineer – Staten Island Borough President’s Office
Hon. Vincent Ignizio – Councilman 51st District
Debra A. Derrico, District Manager – Community Board #2
Jack Vokral, Environmental Committee – Community Board #2
Stephen Zaderiko, Environmental Committee – Community Board #2
John LaFemina, Oakwood Civic Association
Carol Hefty, Crescent Beach Civic
Dee Vandenburg, Staten Island Taxpayers
Marie Kingsley
Kerry Sullivan, Natural Resources Protection Association

Frank Verga, Project Manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) presented the **“South Shore of Staten Island Storm Damage Reduction Feasibility Study.”** Participants in this study include the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation, and the NYC Department of Environmental Protection.

The Study area was divided into the following sectors called “Reaches” to aid in Problem Identification:

- Reach 1 – Fort Wadsworth to Oakwood Beach
- Reach 2 – Great Kills Harbor to Crescent Beach
- Reach 3 – Annadale to Tottenville

Potential Plans for “Reach 1,” the first sector - Fort Wadsworth to Oakwood Beach include:

- Buried Sea Wall & Sheet Pile Sea Wall at existing boardwalk
- Raising existing Promenade (buried seawall)
- Extend raised Promenade from Miller Field to Oakwood Beach
- Dune Reinforcement, Levees & Floodwall at Oakwood Beach

Community Board #3 members and community representatives made inquiries pertaining to pending projects in the “Reach 1” and “Reach 2” sectors including the Mid-Island Bluebelt and the expansion of the Oakwood Beach Sewage Treatment Plant.

Chairman Frank Morano opened a discussion with concerns regarding the Interior Drainage that is an integral part of the drainage in the study area. Others were concerned that natural storm drainage from the high points of Staten Island will not drain off our shoreline because the seawalls will create a dam, creating flooding in interior neighborhoods.

The South Shore community residents and civic representatives relayed their concerns with “Reach 3” - Annadale to Tottenville, the third phase of the study.

Community Board #3 members conveyed their disappointment that there is no suitable plan to addresses the protection and replenishment of the waterfront and beaches.

The Committee stressed that the most urgent priority is to replace the Jettys that once were along our beachfront. We are losing sand daily at Great Kills Park, Wolfe’s Pond Park, Conference Park, etc. Storm damage accelerates the rate of loss.

Councilman Vincent Ignizio stressed that the USACE study is years away from implementation. In the past, and today, the south shore waterfront beach remediation is ignored. This feasibility study concentrates on “Reach 1” and “Reach 2,” and does not provide solutions or address “Reach 3.” If “Reach 3” is years away due to funding, then this study offers no hope for solutions for beaches and waterfront from Annadale to Tottenville and this sector of the south shore will certainly lose what is left of the beachfront.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Barlotta, Chairman
Environmental Committee