



The City of New York

Queens Community Board 11

Serving the Communities of Auburndale, Bayside, Douglaston, Hollis Hills
Little Neck and Oakland Gardens

Eileen Miller Chairperson / **Joseph Marziliano** District Manager

COMMITTEE REPORT

TO: Board Members
FROM: Henry Euler, Chair
Environmental Committee
RE: Multiple Items
DATE: January 30, 2020

On January 28, 2020, at 7:30 p.m., the Environmental Committee met to discuss multiple items. Present was committee Chair Henry Euler, Board Chair Eileen Miller, 1st Vice Chair Christine Haider, Committee Members, Mary Bandziukas (community member), Ocelia Claro, Mary Donahue, Joan Garippa, Roy Giusetti, and Jyothi Sriram, Board Member John Kelly, and District Manager Joseph Marziliano.

Mr. Euler called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and introduced the agenda items. The first agenda item was a letter to Commissioner Kathryn Garcia of the Department of Sanitation (DSNY), written in conjunction with and already passed by the CB 11 Transportation Committee. The proposed joint committee letter specifies and requests an ongoing dialogue with DSNY regarding the current DSNY snow removal policy. Currently, the DSNY plows to the right and plows snow curb-to-curb. In the past, the full Board has asked the department to change this policy in favor of narrow sidewalks in residential areas, which are plowed in multiple times during a snow event. Ms. Donahue shared a story of a neighbor who was struck by snow being pushed by a DSNY plow that landed up on the sidewalk where the person was walking. Other DSNY snow removal issues were also discussed. The letter requests that a Sanitation spokesperson attend a joint meeting of the Transportation and Environmental meeting to begin to discuss our concerns and how to resolve various problems with snow removal.

A motion to send the proposed letter was made by Ocelia Claro, seconded by Joan Garippa. The motion passed unanimously.

The Committee then discussed a list of items, which the everyday person can incorporate into their life, which would reduce their carbon footprint. After a lengthy discussion about how useful the list would be to the Board Members, Ms. Miller decided that the list would be distributed with the Board Members' packets at the February 3, 2020 Board meeting. Mr. Marziliano volunteered to put a tip or two as an ongoing section in the CB 11 newsletter indefinitely. Finally, the NYS Plastic Bag Ban / Tax will be going into

effect in March. The Board will be giving away both DSNY reusable tote bags and CB 11 agency tote bags for people to begin using at grocery stores to avoid the tax and to 'go green'.

Next, a flyer prepared by the New York League of Conservation Voters was passed out that described five new bills that had been passed recently by the New York City Council aimed at preventing exposure to dangerous lead hazards. The bills strengthen lead laws and will help prevent childhood lead poisoning as well as lead poisoning in adults. The Committee felt that this flyer should be included in the Board Members' packets at the February 3, 2020 Board meeting, and be available to the general public as well.

Under New Business, Mr. Kelly brought up that he read a recent article naming certain NYC Parks fountains, which had been independently tested for higher than normal levels of lead in the drinking water. Discussion ensued as to what might be the best way to deal with this problem with Parks fountains in our area. Mr. Marziliano suggested forwarding a list to the office of Parks fountains in our area, and offered to follow up in the spring, when the water fountains are turned back on, requesting inspections by the NYC Department of Environmental Protection.

Lastly, Mr. Euler mentioned that the Association for Energy Affordability, Inc., a not for profit organization, had expressed an interest last year in offering a presentation before the full Board. This organization, working together with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), works to offer lower-cost and higher-efficiency energy plans for homeowners basically through energy audits of homes. Mr. Euler has reached out to reengage the Association for Energy Affordability so that they can send a representative to an Environmental Committee meeting to discuss how their organization can assist homeowners with energy related concerns. After hearing from the organization at an Environmental Committee meeting, the Committee will decide if a full Board presentation is appropriate.

The Committee Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Joseph Marziliano
District Manager
January 31, 2020*