

**Bronx Community Board No.8, Environment and Sanitation Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 19, 2023, 7 PM
MINUTES**

Attending: in person at 5676 Riverdale Ave, Suite #100, and/or Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2114033690>

E&S Committee members: Camelia Tepelus, Debra Travis (in person); Robert Fanuzzi, Rashida Hilliard, Karen Argenti, Robert Spalter (zoom).

CB8 members: David Gellman (in person); Laura Spalter (CB8 Chair), Margaret Della, Chris Calhoun, Bob Bender.

Guests: Andrew Buder (MTA/MNR); Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz; Olivia Georgia (CALL).

Community: Dart Westphal, Mary Ellen Gibbs, Mark Stern, Dan Ranells, Chauncy Young, Christina Taylor (VCPA), Stephanie Erlich (VCPA), Neva.

Minutes:

1. Approval of Minutes E&S meeting of March 15, 2023 – unanimously approved by the committee.
2. Chairperson Report: review of important forthcoming events: Monday, April 24, 2023 TAG meeting on zoom; Thursday, April 27, 2023 Site visit on former CSX property, 9am; Wednesday, May 24, 2023, 7pm DEP presentation at CB8 Joint Meeting E&S and Parks.

3. Conversation with MNR representative Andrew Buder, Director of Government & Community Relations, led by Robert Fanuzzi, CB8 E&S Vice-Chair.

Robert Fanuzzi: inquired on MTA operations in Marble Hill, specifically the property between 225th St and 230th St; E&S worked closely with MTA on cleanups of that property in the past; there is concern of trains idling on the property, right by the Marble Hill houses; 20% of MH population below is poverty line; MH is an environmental justice community; CB8 is the site where several greenways are in process of expansion, and need connections; recent changes at Grand Central station (Madison expansion) may have put additional pressure on usage of MTA sites such as Marble Hill; CB8 is interested in the decision making process by MTA. CB8 would like to understand current usage of the site.

Andrew Buder: the tracks situated on discussed location have been there for the past 150 years; usage of trains increased compared to pre-pandemic levels; trains are preventing additional car pollution and congestion on Bronx roads; the footprint is already set and MNR inherited its track and has been using it for the past 40 years (referred to as “BN” yard); the MH site was used a lot during the Madison expansion, especially for transfers; there are no new plans to expand or build any infrastructure at this site; the site is needed as a transfer point and for switching needs; it is actively used for equipment storage and train cars switching; no trash facility is being built at this site; there are no plans to expand or build any new infrastructure at this yard. North of 230th St MN does not own tracks. Reiterating operational use of section between 225th-230th as storage and switching, with no intention of turning it over to the City.

Karen Argenti and Dart Westfal – inquired on usage of site and shared photos of tracks between 225th and 230th St from February 2023 (see Appendix 1).

Assemblyman Dinowitz – noted the considerable costs of expanding LIRR service into Grand Central, with the apparent consequence of increasing usage for trash storage in the Bronx, and making it more difficult for the Bronx greenways to be completed.

Andrew Buder – welcomed possibility of MN to work with DOT and exploring any need for easements necessary for greenways; NYC DOT did not actually reached out to MN explicitly inquiring about the greenway plans; MN is open and amenable to pursue discussions with DOT. Reiterating MN is not building a garbage station at this location; there is a switching facility that was used the past 10 years. South of 225th is where the transfer facility is; 225th and 230th space is used for storage and switching.

Bob Bender – noted availability of space for cleaning and garbage at the existing MN Highbridge facility; reiterated the importance of MH location and MN property for both the Harlem River and the Hudson River Greenway.

Andrew Buder – reiterating MN has not been approached by DOT to ask for easements or access to facilitate greenways connections. MN amenable to working with City, as long as operational integrity of the railway is being complied with. MN not abandoning site.

Chauncy Young – inquired on the potential for a tour of the MN property to understand better options of connecting to greenways.

Camelia Tepelus – observed similar concerns expressed in the DOT-led Harlem River Greenway meeting, relating to the lack of communication between DOT and MTA; DOT officials attitude appeared to be of reluctance in engaging with MTA on access/easement relating to this site and its roles in connecting to greenways.

Karen Argenti – noted that back in 2013 an agreement was made through the ULURP process, for NYC Parks to have the ability to connect planned greenways through that site. Committee to follow up and advocate with all agencies – through a letter to DOT and MTA.

4. CALL presentation from Olivia Georgia (Executive Director): presentation of work of CALL on art projects around the Daylighting Tibbett's Brook projects (slides included as Appendix 1).
5. E&S budget priorities FY 25: E&S committee revised collaboratively and finalized the list of priorities included in document to be submitted to CB8 budget committee.
6. New business, old business:

Committee conversation and review of draft resolution in preparation for the May 24 joint meetings E&S and Parks. Karen Argenti presented "Design and Construction Excellence" design guidelines used for evaluation of projects – to inform our assessment of the plans to be presented by TAG at forthcoming meeting and site visit.

Deb Travis – update on sewer connection to golf course – DEP does not have licensed plumbers on staff and it is not under their responsibility to provide connection, redirected to Parks; to be followed up;

Robert Fanuzzi – provided a live shot of a DEP flood monitor from FloodNet installed in CB8; DEP to be asked on locations of sites for flood monitors.

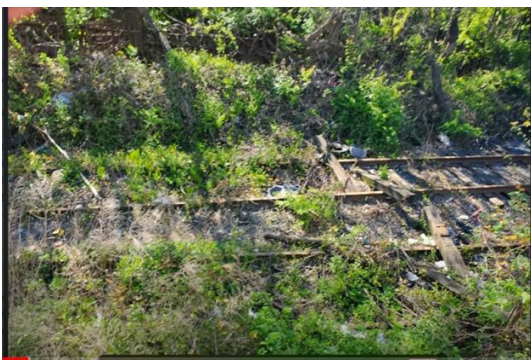
7. Adjournment: meeting concluded at 8:57pm.

Meeting recording available at: [Environment & Sanitation Committee Meeting - April 2023 - YouTube](#).

Updates on the Daylighting Tibbett's Brook project including presentation from April 24, 2023 available here: <https://www.nyc.gov/site/dep/whats-new/tibbetts-brook-daylighting-project.page>

Respectfully submitted by Dr. Camelia Tepelus, Environment & Sanitation Committee Chair

Appendix 1: Photo shared by Dart Westfal on condition of MN tracks between 225th St and 30th St.



Appendix 2: CALL Presentation to CB8 E&S Committee, April 19, 2023

