

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SANITATION COMMITTEE OF BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8

October 16, 2019

Board Office, 5676 Riverdale Avenue

In attendance:

CB8 Board Members: B. Bender, R. Fanuzzi, S. Froot, E. Garcia, L. Spalter, C. Tepelus, D. Travis;
Community Committee Members: K. Argenti, R. Spalter; Guests: K. Brendlen P. Alvarez (NYBG); J. Colon (NYBG); A. Gumas (DSNY)

Meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm.

I. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of September 17, 2019, were accepted as amended; spelling of “veterinary” corrected. In favor: B. Bender, R. Fanuzzi, E. Garcia, L. Spalter, C. Tepelus, D. Travis, K. Argenti, R. Spalter

II. Chair’s Report

- A. Petroleum spill at 6161 Broadway has been reported by DEP and is being monitored by NYS DEC.
- B. DEP inspectors visited 2395 Palisades Avenue construction site on September 23 at request of CB8 to ascertain status of construction and safety of asbestos. DEP did not issue violations.
- C. As directed by committee, Chair requested an extension of deadline for DEP Water Conservation and Reuse Grant Pilot Program. DEP extended deadline from October 1 to October 15.
- D. DEP plans for Jerome Park North Basin were not on the Croton Filtration Monitoring Committee meeting of October 2. BXC8 June 2019 calls for DEP to present full scope of work impacting north basin and alternative plan to CFMC and BxC8. CFMC demands that north basin plan be placed on its next meeting agenda. Committee will send letter to DEP requesting the project number for the construction project relating to the north basin.
- E. DEP sent community advisory on September 27 noting that the construction at JPR will require the use of chlorine.
- F. DSNY issued its Draft Borough-Based Snow Plan for 2019-20. Committee will review for November meeting.
- G. DSNY is commencing E-Waste—electronic refuse—curbside collection in BxC8.
- H. At the request of Fort Independence community concerns about rat infestation, District Manager asked DSNY about garbage on step streets and Cannon Place vicinity. DSNY collects garbage on MWF and reported area relatively clean. Committee will connect with Fort Independence Preservation to ensure 311 calls and sanitation services.

- I. DOB proposes to amend rules for the reporting of energy and water use by “covered buildings.” Public hearing is on November 25 at 280 Broadway, 3rd floor at 10: am.
- J. The Center for Creative Land Recycling holds a one day symposium on urban redevelopment of brownfield sites along waterways on November 7, 1 Metrotech Center in Brooklyn.
- K. Committee will review responses to FY 2021 committee budget priorities at the Budget Consultations at its next meeting.

III. DSNY/New York Botanical Gardens Compost Project

- A. Ms. Allie Gomez of DSNY reported on the agency’s major initiative, “Make Compost Not Trash.” This initiative is tied to the agency’s organic recycling program, and seeks to enlist community members to serve as volunteer “ambassadors” for organic recycling on their block or in their building DSNY is holding “Make Compost Not Trash” outreach meetings to enlist community members and is encouraging yard waste recycling by distributing large brown bags for residents. The program is designed for 1-3 family buildings. The Bronx Community Board 8 office has agreed to serve as a distribution site for the bags, as BxCD8 is a target site for the “Make Compost Not Trash” program.

Committee expressed interest in hearing more from DSNY about composting and other waste-stream-diversion programs for larger buildings in BxCD8.

- B. Ms. Jodie Colon reported on the outreach of the DSNY-supported NYBG Compost Project within BxCD8, with 63 organizations currently participating in programs. DSNY/NYBG Compost project is launching “Keep Your Leaves Out of the Landfill” organic recycling education project, and hosting Leaf Crunch events locally on October 19 at Church of the Mediator/231st and Brust Park/Manhattan College Parkway. Volunteers are needed and welcome at events. In the spirit of Halloween, NYBG Compost Project hosts a Pumpkin Smash at Lehman College on Wednesday November 6 from 3:30 to 5:30 pm.

- IV. Citywide Open Waters Long Term Control Plan/Daylighting Tibbetts Brook
DEP announced at its October 2 Public Meeting that it will submit proposal for the Daylighting of Tibbett’s Brook in March 2020 to NYS DEC. DEP is required to report to NYS DEC on the progress of the DEP Long Term Control Plan for Citywide/Open Waters. Daylighting Tibbetts Brook is the primary “green infrastructure” investment in Citywide/Open Waters and the only project planned for BxCD8 under LTCP. DEP scoped four options for daylighting with the help of a geotechnical survey of the “Putnam South” area will be submitting the second of four: a “baseline” flow from Van Cortlandt Lake in an open channel to 225th street.

DEP is required by NYS DEC to invest in green infrastructure to alleviate Combined Sewer Overflow and estimates a capture of 1.67 billion gallons citywide by 2030. The Daylighting

of Tibbetts Brook is estimated to save 228 million gallons of CSO per year. DEP estimates that the cost of the project will be \$63 million dollars, not including acquisition and park/greenway design and construction, and is among the most cost effective of its proposed CSO reduction projects in the Citywide Plan. Option 2 currently calls for a “natural bottom” to the channel for Tibbetts Brook, with covered areas at sewer line crossings at VC Park South, W. 233rd Street, and W. 225th Street. “Intake” to the channel will occur underground within Van Cortlandt Park, diverting water from the weir and channel to Broadway sewer, and the potential “tie-in” to the sewer line and Wards Island 056 treatment plant will occur near 225th Street.

DEP Long Term Control Plan for CD8 also includes newly designed weir at the south end of Van Cortlandt Lake and a new flow orifice at the top of the lake. These improvements are intended to reduce the amount of water entering the Broadway sewer and the proposed open channel for Daylighting Tibbetts Brook.

Committee members inspected the plan carefully and will be submitting questions for clarification to DEP for review at the next committee meeting.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Fanuzzi
Chair, Environment and Sanitation Committee