

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 17, 2019 MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SANITATION COMMITTEE
OF BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8**

Board Office, 5676 Riverdale Avenue

Committee Members, Community Committee Members, and Guests:

B. Bender, K. Argenti, L. Spalter, R. Spalter, M. Della, M. Gluck, P. Ellis; I. C. Levenberg

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm

I. Chair's Report

R. Fanuzzi and K. Argenti, lead for the Environment and Sanitation Committee Water Working Group, attended the April 16, 2019 DEP Long Term Control Plan held at CUNY Law School and reported to the committee. As required by New York State Department of Environmental Protection, NYC DEP presented progress of their Open Waters/City-Wide Long Term Control Plan, the last plan in series of LTCP submitted to NYS DEC and US Environmental Protection Agency for remediation of water quality in NYC waterways. Bronx CD8 is included in Open Waters-City Wide. DEP plans for preventing Combined Sewer Overflow in this plan focused on sewer line optimization, but identified daylighting Tibbett Brook as the only new green infrastructure project in the entire Open Waters/City-Wide LTCP.

DEP presented two courses for daylighting Tibbetts Brook—one northward, and one along Putnam Trail south of Van Cortlandt Park, approved as parkland since 2011 but awaiting acquisition. DEP will be conducting feasibility study, including sewer lines, geology, and underlying hydrology, along CSX property; E and S committee will seek reports when completed. DEP named Bronx Council for Environmental Quality as partner in effort to determine feasibility and CSO impact of daylighting Tibbetts Brook.

At LTCP hearing, R. Fanuzzi and K. Argenti questioned DEP relating to Bronx CB8 priorities for Green Infrastructure: does DEP exceed depth requirements used by other municipalities for Green Infrastructure excavations and installations; does DEP Green Infrastructure capture greater than 1" storms; are DEP Green Infrastructure plans in CD8 limited by DEC minimum compliance percentages or guided by land-based planning and measurement, i. e. the prevention of CSO in steep slope, high flow areas as documented by the Water Working Group of the Environment and Sanitation committee. DEP is exploring how to use Green Infrastructure in Open Waters/City-Wide and will present updated plans with alternatives in September.

II. Jerome Park Reservoir Construction

DEP has construction projects underway at Jerome Park Reservoir. At request of DEP, committee gathered questions for June meeting: type and number of contracts; phases of

contract, duration, and completion times; staging areas; construction hours; impact on community; plans for “berm” inspection within Fort Independence Park, as mandated by NYS DEC; East Wall construction of JPR.

In light of Hillview reservoir bird covering, E and S committee also sought confirmation that no bird covering is sought at JPR.

June meeting will be held at Vladek Hall on date to be determined.

III. 2021 Capital and Expense Budget Priorities.

The committee approved the following priorities in order for the 2021 NYC budget;

Expense:

1. DEP--Jerome Park Reservoir Personnel: Support full deployment of DEP staff to protect and properly maintain DEP property in and around JPR reservoir and to supervise public access to CD8 residents
2. DSNY--Motorized Litter Patrol Personnel: Support funding for adequate personnel to operate Motorized Litter Patrol vehicles to expedite cleaning in hard to access areas of CD8
3. DEP--Weir Maintenance Plan: Support interagency Tibbetts Brook weir maintenance plan that uses best practices to mitigate flooding in Van Cortlandt Lake, Van Cortland Park, and the Broadway sewer.
4. DSNY--Pooper Scooper Enforcement: Support enforcement of dog waste removal laws by posting signs and increasing ticketing
5. DSNY--Organic Recycling Expansion: Support education and outreach necessary to maximize CD8 participation in the DSNY Organic Recycling program and support
6. DEP--Air, Noise, and Asbestos Inspectors: Support and expanding staffing to enforce new NYC laws
7. DSNY--Overfilled Baskets and Illegal Dumping: Support more frequent pick up service to alleviate overfilled baskets in areas with record of frequent 311 calls and our heavily trafficked commercial districts, and to alleviate illegal dumping.

Capital:

1. DEP--Green Infrastructure: Support expenditure of DEP funds under the Open Waters/City-Wide Long Term Control Plan in CD8 in accordance with 2014 DEC NYS DEC requirements for green infrastructure coverage and expenditures and 2018 Bronx Community Board 8 Resolution calling for green infrastructure as the "primary focus" of the LTCP, and in consultation with CB8 Environment and Sanitation Committee
2. DEP--Daylight Tibbetts Brook: Support expenditure of funds necessary to daylight the freshwater wetland known as Tibbetts Brook, which currently discharges into the Van Cortlandt Lake Weir and the Broadway sewer, and reconnect it to the Harlem River to reduce combined sewer overflow.
3. DSNY -- Snow Removal Haulster: Support the purchase of an additional haulster to accommodate snow removal from the narrow streets of CD8.

IV. New Business:

DEP Long Term Control Plan also includes focus on “floatables,” or prevention of garbage from entering sewerlines and clogging sewers. E and S Committee will inquire about new programs or collaborations with DSNY intended to prevent litter, especially along Broadway corridor.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Fanuzzi,

Chair, Environment and Sanitation Committee

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