

Meeting of the Environment and Sanitation Committee of Bronx Community Board 8
December 19, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

I. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of E and S meeting of November were approved ()

II. Chair's Report:

- A. Service interruptions and street construction projects due to DEP work in CB8 are being reported to the Board office by DDC. Consult Facebook. Recommend that e-newsletter include DDC-issued "look ahead."
- B. As per request of the Office of Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, DSNY has suspended alternative side parking street cleaning in the Greystone Ave/Manhattan College Parkway/Waldo Avenue/Dash Place area between 236th St. and 240th Street to accommodate residents inconvenienced by DDC/DEP construction project and staging.
- C. DSNY suspends all curbside services on Christmas Day.
- D. NYC DEP has requested extension from NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to file its remaining Long Term Control Plans (LTCP), including ones affecting Bronx CD 8. Bronx CB8 sent letter on behalf of E and S committee, dated November 14, 2018, affirming support for February 13, 2018 resolution, calling for green infrastructure and daylighting Tibbett's Brook, as primary focus, and requested constructive engagement with committee for community-based planning.
- E. Chair attended city-wide public review of DEP Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) on December 6, 2018. DEP has concluded 9 of 11 LTCPs, including Hutchinson River, Westchester Creek, and Bronx River in the Bronx. Community District 8 is included in "Open Waters" Long Term Control Plan—the only project without a geographically delineated "drainage basin" from which to measure and control runoff. DEP is mandated by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to build green infrastructure into 1.5% of coverage areas of LTCP by 2015, a milestone it did not meet, and 4% by 2020, still pending. \$187 million is dedicated to Green Infrastructure unit for LTCP under DEC mandate, with \$5 billion additional DEP city-wide projects. DEP acknowledged receipt of CB8 letter of November 14 and confirmed that DEP will exceed its 1.5% coverage area in the Open Waters Long Term Control Plan in the area. DEP confirmed that both Green Infrastructure and LTCP divisions of agency are researching daylighting Tibbett's Brook. When pressed for commitments to additional, immediate projects, DEP noted need for Green Infrastructure grant applications, particularly from large institutions, in CD8.

III. DSNY Storm Response

DSNY Community Affairs Officer Iggy Terranova reported on the response of the agency to November 15 storm. Confirmed that DSNY is lead agency for ploughing and salting response. Order was given by DSNY to salt streets at 1:20 pm but streets were already clogged with traffic and unforeseen accidents on George Washington Bridge, controlled by NYNJ Port Authority, making trucks ineffective. Officer Terranova believes that announcement from NYC Office of

Emergency Management urging early dismissal, cancellations, and work departures would have lessened pedestrian, transit, and car traffic load during rush hour, the peak time of storm. As result of City Council hearing, salting will begin with every inclement weather forecast. Current DSNY policy is for ploughing to commence at 2" snowfall.

Chair reported on severe local impact of storm in CB8 and noted that E and S committee will make use of Local Law 28, permitting comments on winter season Draft Snow Plans.

Acknowledged receipt of briefing of City Council hearing on DSNY response to storm, provided by Office of Councilman Fernando Cabrera.

IV. DSNY Commercial Waste Zone Environmental Impact Draft Statement

NYC DSNY is proposing that the City of New York adopt new Commercial Waste Zones to replace current commercial waste collection policy and practice. Under the City Environmental Quality Review law (CEQR), the NYC DSNY is required to prepare a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) because Commercial Waste Zones will have an environmental impact on its communities. Officer Terranova advised that the legislative proposal may reach the City Council by June, 2019.

NYC DSNY is required to accept comments on its Draft Scope of Work for its EIS until January 4, 2019. Concern was raised that the Board office did not receive earlier notice; Officer Terranova confirmed CB-based outreach. The committee reviewed the draft scope of work and recommended that the following areas of environmental impact be added to the final Scope of Work for the Commercial Waste Zone EIS: Transportation; Neighborhood Character; and Alternatives, if environmental impacts are determined to be adverse. In addition, the E and S committee urged that the legislation adopt Community Districts under the City Council article on "coterminality" to ensure CB oversight of service delivery in Commercial Waste Zones. Concerns about draft scope were summarized in letter sent to DSNY.

V. New Business

- A. Residents of 3751 Riverdale Ave. contacted Board office and Land Use committee regarding flooding on 3741 Riverdale Ave, vacant building site. E and S committee does not have liaison with city agency overseeing vacant building sites; recommends contact with Department of Buildings via Board office or Land Use committee.
- B. NYS DEC has granted NYC DEP extension for filing of its Citywide/Open Waters Long Term Control Plan until March 2020. The extension is conditional upon DEP public hearings in April and September 2019 to report on plans and measurable impacts affecting the LTCP in CD8. Chair urged committee engagement pursuant to CB8 February 2018 resolution on following areas: daylighting of Tibbett's Brook; the adoption of a watershed/sewershed to conform with CD8 topography; local, smaller demonstration projects to measure and extrapolate impact of Green infrastructure on CSO reduction, including the Harlem River Watershed/BCEQ Hilltop Green Infrastructure; an accurate percentage of area in CD8 committed to Green infrastructure, inclusive and exclusive of Van Cortlandt Park and daylighting.

E and S Water Working Group member Karen Argenti noted importance of additional DEC condition for DEP extension: a best management practice for preventing “floatables,” or litter that clogs catch basins, sewerlines, and leads to local flooding. Office Terranova described inter-agency initiative between DEP and DSNY called Clean Streets/Clean Beaches, designed to prevent waste from entering waterways and sewers, that will be “ramped up” in response to DEC condition. Committee expressed interest in future meetings based in Kingsbridge and Marble Hill focusing on collaboration between DEC and DEP to address littering, storm basin clogs, and flooding on Broadway.

VI. Old Business

- A. New fencing at Jerome Park Reservoir: held over till future meeting.
- B. Step Street clean ups and runoff: held over till future meeting.

VI. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Fanuzzi
Chair