

Minutes of the Environment and Sanitation Committee of Bronx Community Board 8
January 16, 2019

Attendees:

Committee Members: Bob Fanuzzi, Chair, Laura Spalter, Bob Bender, Michael Frishman, Steven Froot, Martin Gluck, Karen Argenti, Rob Spalter

Guests:

Capt. Emilio Melendez 50th Precinct, P.O. Juan Ventura 50th Precinct

Meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm. The presence of a quorum was acknowledged.

- I. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the Environment and Sanitation Committee meeting of December 19, 2018 were approved with the following changes: at IV, change to “DSNY” in second sentence and second paragraph first sentence; at end add “We agreed to send a letter.”

II. Chair’s Report

- A. Chair welcomed Captain Melendez, precinct commander of the 50th Precinct and Community Affairs Officer Juan Ventura. Report that DDC contractors have been receptive to police requests to move vehicles during DEP water main replacement in area.
- B. Committee member were asked to attend one of three events on Thursday January 17:
 - a. Traffic and Transportation Committee to discuss staging of the Palisade Avenue pumping station reconstruction project;
 - b. Bronx Council for Environmental Quality Visioning event for DEP/DPR redesign of the Van Cortlandt Village Hilltop “Grove”;
 - c. Riverdale Nature Preservancy annual meeting and presentation on DCP proposed changes to Special Natural Area District rules and guidelines
- C. Committee members were advised to present FY 2021 budget priorities at February meeting, with committee approval by March.
- D. L. Spalter summarized the Hansen Report known as the DEP 311 calls for December 2018-January.
- E. Committee members were advised to sign up for the NYS DEC Newsletter and/or the Environmental Notice Bulletin, reporting activity under State and City Environmental Quality Review, (see link <https://www.dec.ny.gov/public/65855.html>).

III. Report of the Water Working Group (WWG)

- A. Community Committee member and WWG Chair, Karen Argenti, presented a Power Point on the progress of the working group since 2015. Along with the E and S Committee the WWG formed an “Action Plan;” maps of “high flow” and flooded areas based on the survey of residents; walk through tours of reservoir area;
- B. Water Working Group also proposed a new “2019 Action Plan” (attached and included in these minutes) which included these Goals and Next Steps
 - 1. Continue to document the need for Green Infrastructure (GI) in Bronx Community Board 8;
 - 2. Continue to work with organizations such as Bronx Council on Environmental Quality (BCEQ) and its Harlem River Working Group (HRWG), the Gaia Institute, the New York City Soil and Water Conservation District (NYCSWCD), Storm Water Infrastructure Matters (SWIM);
 - 3. Continue to advocate for timely inclusion into DEP’s Long Term Control Plan which includes the Green Infrastructure Grant Program with appropriate agencies and elected officials;

4. Proposal to work on a NYC Clean Water Advocate publicity campaign to encourage community to call 311 to report flooding and catch basin clogging. Messaging was proposed as follows:

How to be a NYC Clean Water Advocate

1. Call 311 to report all clogged catch basin, flooding, etc.
2. Call CB 8 to report tracking number
3. Follow up with the CB if it is not cleaned within x time?

Committee members supported 311 Clean Water Advocate publicity campaign, working with DEP and 50th precinct.

C. Bronx Council Environmental Quality Updates

1. BCEQ wrote to NYS DEC concerning the NYC DEP's request to delay submission of the Open Waters Citywide Long Term Control Plan, which includes the Bronx, including all of CB8. After discussion, Committee members were directed to www.bceq.org to read the document. (see small link: <http://bit.ly/2MyD1KI>)
2. BCEQ is holding Visioning meeting at Vladek Hall on January 17, 2019 to engage Amalgamated Housing and other area residents with the potential to redesign "the Grove," DEP property between Dickinson, Van Cortland South, and Sedgwick Avenues. "The Grove" is one part of the larger Hilltop Green Infrastructure created in partnership with the Bronx Community Board 8 Environment and Sanitation Water Working Group, Riverkeeper, the New York City Soil and Water Conservation District, Storm Water Infrastructure Matters, and local community members. Objective of redesign is to incorporate green infrastructure, native plants, and other features to turn runoff into infiltration and prevent Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO). Hilltop plan, distributed at December 2018 E and S meeting, can be found at BCEQ website at <http://bit.ly/2rUDflk>

IV. New Business

- A. Committee discussed DEP letter dated July 11, 2018 regarding the water and sewer infrastructure analysis of the Hebrew Home/River Spring Environmental Assessment Statement. Memorandum notes an "increase of 9% sanitary flow in the adjacent sewers based on the proposed populations rates/dwelling unit" and concludes that the "regulator R-3 (with peak flow) and the 254th Street/Riverdale Pump Station will not have enough capacity considering the latter increase." Committee seeks more information about July 11 memorandum future projects involving 254th pumping station. N. B. Department of City Planning did not require applicant to complete an Environmental Impact Study based on these findings.
- B. Committee members and community members voiced concerns about flooding and trash on 238th and Summit Avenue step streets. Committee will place issues on future agenda.

V. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Fanuzzi, Chair

Storm Water Action Plan 2019-20

Introduction: The Environment and Sanitation Committee 2014-15 began identifying serious local water issues, its impact on the land, air and water, and potential solutions in Bronx Community Board 8. The Water Working Group was established in September 2015. The Bronx Council for Environmental Quality (BCEQ) is working with the Environment and Sanitation Committee of Community Board 8 on the Storm Water Action Plan. The plan was developed and adopted by the Environment and Sanitation Committee in June, 2015. Water Working Group Members are: Karen Argenti (BCEQ), Robert Fanuzzi, Laura Spalter, Robert Spalter, Christina Taylor, Deirdre Burke

The Problem: We are in the largest Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) discharge area in NYC; sewer outfalls discharge even in dry weather which indicates a dysfunctional system; storm water runoff and flooding causes broken catch basins, depressed street corners or torn up streets, floods in our basements; this increases the pollution of the Hudson and Harlem Rivers; direct discharges at river's edge cause pollution, as well (referred to as MS4).

Committee Activities, 2014-2018 (See minutes for details)

1. Established a Water Working Group that will report quarterly on issues and progress to the Environment and Sanitation Committee on water issues.
2. Communication: Letters, meetings, and phone calls with DEP representatives re Broadway Sewer and need for Green Infrastructure;
3. Worked with environmental groups on a Graphic Information System (GIS) to research Green Infrastructure sites and estimate high flow/flooding in CB8
4. Developed a survey of Stormwater Runoff to identify flooding conditions. The impacts of storm water will show where Green Infrastructure in Community Board 8 is needed. Received 24 responses to the survey. Acknowledge emails were sent; and created a map of current responses. BCEQs Vista Volunteer Phoebe Mankiewicz prepared a draft. She used Graphic Information System (GIS) technology and compared areas where flooding has been noted.
5. On 10/23/15, Working Group Members met with DEP officials to get a briefing on the new policy. The new program is called a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). The purpose is to reduce flooding and water pollution.
6. On 11/4/15, DEP toured Community Board 8 flood prone areas. They also walked through parts of Van Cortlandt Park.
7. DEP to Environment and Sanitation meeting to brief committee on the MS4 policy. Attended City Council Hearing on the Long Term Control Plan
8. Met with the agencies, elected officials, and constituents at Amalgamated Housing Corporation to discuss the Hilltop Project

9. Traveled to Albany to Visit with NY State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of
Water concerning Daylighting

Goals and Next Steps

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- Continue to advocate for timely inclusion into DEP's Long Term Control Plan which includes the
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