

COMMUNITY BOARD #3

655 Rossville Avenue
Staten Island, N. Y. 10309

Parks & Recreation Committee Minutes

October 11, 2011

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Frank Morano, *Chairman of the Board*
John Donohue, *Committee Chairman*
Gerald Amerosi
Frank DeRosa
Sherif Farag
Thomas Zablocki

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Phyllis Catania

STAFF:

Charlene Wagner, District Manager

GUESTS:

Anthony Arcamone, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation
Maryanne Lange, Amboy Road resident
Janet Magnuson, Amboy Road resident
Debra Calabreu, Wirt Ave resident

PUBLIC CONTACT SESSION:

Maryanne Lange told the committee that her property at 6716 Amboy Road is adjacent to property in the control of NYC Department of Parks & Recreation "PARKS" and that PARKS plans to remove abandoned vehicles and debris via an easement which is next to her driveway. The front of her property is protected by a guardrail which will have to be temporarily removed for access. Ms. Lange, and her neighbors, argues it is a safety hazard to remove the guardrail even for a short period of time.

Charlene Wagner addressed the committee and reported that she spoke to Ms. Lange just prior to meeting and informed her that PARKS position is that they have a ROW agreement and easement to access the park using the driveway which was constructed partially on PARKS property. PARKS consulted their Parklands division and were advised that there is nothing in the ROW or easement language that restricts PARKS ability to access the site in this way. In conjunction with DEC, PARKS is making the boundary line very clear for the contractor and the guardrail will only be opened when they are passing through (they will close it again behind themselves on their way out).

Anthony Arcamone also discussed the issue with Ms. Lange, Janet Magnuson and Debra Calabreu and assured them he would report their issues to PARKS.

OLD BUSINESS:

Community Board 3 received a response letter from Borough Commissioner Adena Long regarding Wolfe's Pond Park. Although unable to attend tonight, the following were the PARKS responses to our questions:

1. *What will be done to eradicate the mosquito problem caused by the breach?*

While we are unable to substantiate the cause of an increased mosquito population, the agency will forward the community's concern to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH).

2. *Are short-term measures to dam-up the breach being considered? If so, explain.*

Initially, the possibility of employing a short-term measure was considered; however, after evaluating the condition of the breach, its effect on the environment and the cost associated with a mere "temporary fix," it was decided that a more inclusive and permanent solution is the preferred alternative.

3. *Describe proposed long-term measures for the restoration of the pond.*

The agency is in the process of submitting permit applications to NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). The next step is to submit a funding request to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for sand replenishment and to rebuild the berm along the coastline of Wolfe's Pond Beach. This work will serve to both re-establish the adjacent pond, as well as address the erosion incurred by storm surges associated with Hurricane Irene.

4. *Are the streams that feed the pond in need of repair?*

This is unknown at this time, but will be ascertained when the scope of work is developed.

5. *What other agencies will be involved in the restoration?*

NYSDEC serves as the regulatory agency, and work of this nature is often performed in consultation with the NYC Department of Environmental Protection.

6. *What is the anticipated time frame, for start and completion of the restoration?*

The permitting process has begun and the funding request will be submitted as soon as the agency has been notified by FEMA that they are accepting applications. Estimating a timeframe for the restoration is premature, as it is contingent on funding and other factors.

Meeting adjourned 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Donohue