

COMMUNITY BOARD #3

655 Rossville Avenue
Staten Island, N. Y. 10309

Parks & Recreation ~and~ Environmental Committee Minutes

January 10, 2012

PARKS & RECREATION

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Frank Morano, *Chairman of the Board*
Gerald Amerosi
Phyllis Catania
Sherif Farag

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

John Donohue, *Committee Chairman*
Frank DeRosa
Thomas Zablocki

ENVIRONMENTAL

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Edward Canlon, *Committee Chairman*
Maribel Sansone

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Patricia Maresca

STAFF:

Charlene Wagner, District Manager

GUESTS:

Anthony Arcamone, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation
Christopher Cushieri, Park Director – Clay Pit Ponds State Park Preserve
Jamie Hardison, NYS Park Patrol Officer

NEW BUSINESS

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE:

- Deer Population on Staten Island
Christopher Cushieri, Director for Clay Pit Ponds State Park Preserve and Officer Jamie Hardison from the NYS Park Police spoke about the overpopulation of deer and the problems they present in our community. The problems associated with over population of deer are:
 1. Deer/Vehicle Collisions
 2. Lyme Disease
 3. Homeowner garden damage
 4. Habitat degradation, overabundant deer herds can extirpate preferred plant species, alter habitat structures, and disrupt natural succession of plant communities.
 5. Declining deer herd health, as deer populations over utilize available resources, herd health inevitably declines.

Officer Harding told the committee that the rules and regulations of the State of New York restrict the feeding of deer. He also stated that motorists could be fined for stopping and obstructing traffic to take pictures.

Board Members and guests discussed several methods to control the deer population on Staten Island, and ways in which the community can be safeguarded from the hazards. It was suggested that the Board seek information from the Department of Environmental Conservation and request that the Department of Transportation post additional deer warning signs.

OLD BUSINESS:

In response to Phyllis Catania's request for recent updates for the restoration of Wolfe's Pond, PARKS representative, Anthony Arcamone responded that they are waiting for FEMA's decision.

**NEW BUSINESS
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE:**

- NYS Department of Environmental Conservation "DEC" proposed regulation to create excessive standards regarding the discharge of ballast water from ships.

The DEC is poised to levy regulations on the absorption, treatment, filtration, and discharge of ballast water 100 times stronger than what is required under federal law. Ballast Tanks are filled with water to help maintain their Sea Worthiness on open water. Aquatic species sucked into the tanks can come from one part of the world and get dumped into another one, this can alter ecosystems. New Federal standards require ships to install Filtration systems. Despite the new regulations, NYS DEC wants a complete Ban on discharging ballast tanks in All New York waters. This would destroy 240,000 jobs and create a loss of \$2 billion in tax revenue forcing ships to dock in other ports.

MOTION: by Frank Morano *"to send a letter to NYS DEC Opposing their ban on ballast discharging because it would destroy our Maritime industry in New York State."*

SECOND: Maribel Sansone

VOTE: 3-0-0

Motion Passed

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Morano
Chairman of the Board

Edward Canlon
Chairman Environmental Committee