

Parks & Recreation

BOL Meeting Minutes - Final



800 Michaelian Office Bldg.
148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor
White Plains, NY 10601
www.westchesterlegislators.com

Tuesday, September 20, 2022

2:30 PM

Committee Room

CALL TO ORDER

Joint with Committee on Environment, Energy & Climate

Legislator Damon Maher will be participating remotely from 39 Broadway, Suite 1920, New York, NY 10006

Please note: This meeting will be held in person at the Michaelian Office Building, 148 Martine Avenue, White Plains, New York 10601 in the McPoland Conference Room # 824 and also remotely via WebEx. Legislators may participate in person or via video conferencing through WebEx. Members of the public are invited to attend the meeting in person at any of its locations or view it online at the Westchester Legislators website: <https://westchestercountyny.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx> this website also has links to the Agenda Packets containing documents to be discussed at the meeting.

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With a quorum present, Vice-Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 2:35 PM.

*Others in Attendance: Legislator Pierce, Legislator Williams Johnson, Beth LoBello and Jill Axelrod
Guests: Planning Dept.: David Kvinge (remote) Parks Dept. (remote): Peter Tartaglia and Jason Klein*

Present: Committee Chair Tubiolo, Legislator Barr, Legislator Nolan and Committee Vice-Chair Parker

Remote: Legislator Maher and Legislator Shimsky

MINUTES APPROVAL

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Discussion on impact of invasives on trees, such as ash and beech trees, in the County and on County properties.

Guests: Planning Dept.: Assistant Commissioner David Kvinge; Parks Dept.: First Deputy Commissioner Peter Tartaglia and Jason Klein, Director of Conservation; CE's Office: Peter McCartt, Director of Energy Conversation and Sustainability

Chair Pierce noted that trees are under attack from invasives. She said that in 2011, research by the U.S. Department of Agriculture suggested that over 17 million trees will need to be replaced or replanted in communities in the U.S., and that number has increased since then. She noted that this is coming at a time when many of the trees planted at the same time are coming to the end of their lifespan. Since trees contribute shade, water and air filtration, and flood mitigation, we must deal with this problem. Trees also contribute to the beauty of the area, so there will be negative impacts to quality of life and tourism if we don't deal with this. Many areas are experiencing and will experience power outages and increased work for road crews as sick and dead trees continue to fall down. This can cause property loss, car accidents and injuries. We will need to budget for tree stock, removal of trees, and ongoing maintenance.

Assistant Commissioner Kvinge said the County works closely with the Soil & Water Conservation District on these issues. They have education and outreach programs on trees and tree maintenance. First Deputy Commissioner Tartaglia said that we have invasives growing everywhere, and an aging tree system within the County Parks Department. They build in tree replacement in any capital project they can, but it's not enough. They will need assistance in the future to replace trees.

Chair Pierce asked Mr. Klein to explain why our existing trees have not been able to propagate in sufficient numbers to maintain our existing tree canopy. Mr. Klein said that it is partly because of invasive species and partly because of deer. Chair Pierce asked if we will be able to get the tree stock we need. He said yes, but it is more an issue of funding because of the high cost of the trees. Chair Pierce asked if we have a guideline for the number of trees we will need or what the budget will be. Mr. Klein said no because we are experimenting with different methods.

Mr. Tartaglia discussed spotted lantern flies in orchard areas. Chair Pierce asked for information to provide to residents on what to look for on tree trunks. Mr. Klein said he will send it. Chair Pierce asked if there is a place where community members can report seeing spotted lanterns. Mr. Klein said there is a website and an app. Mr. Kvinge shared the following links: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/113303.html> and <https://www.lhprism.org/>. Mr. Klein shared pictures of the spotted lantern fly.

Chair Pierce said the conversation will need to continue once we get a sense of the areas that will be hardest hit, and the budget needed to ensure that we get through the process.

If you wish to view the meeting, please refer to the link below:

https://westchestercountyny.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=1&clip_id=1608

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Legislator Nolan, seconded by Legislator Barr, the above item was adjourned at 3:18 PM. The motion carried unanimously.