



## **ALPINE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT DECEMBER 2010**

The Alpine Environmental Commission (EC) is made up of volunteers dedicated to the goal of protecting all natural resources. We are especially involved in protecting our magnificent trees to perpetuate our very special green treed community so close to Manhattan. The EC interacts closely with and is supported by the Mayor and Council, all Borough Officials and employees to achieve our goal. EC members serve on committees and maintain open and informed communication with elected officials and the public.

The EC's direction is to influence development to minimize tree removal in order to prevent a negative impact on the environment. This is accomplished by conducting site inspections prior to the removal of any regulated tree on developed or undeveloped properties. The inspection findings and reports are in accordance with the recently revised Alpine tree ordinance.

The EC meets routinely on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month to either have a formal meeting or to conduct site inspections. This past year the EC has:

- Held 5 formal EC meetings
- Conducted 5 site inspections for tree removal, one site required 3 visits
- Conducted 5 site visits for Tree Bond return

An official report of the EC site inspections is submitted to the Alpine Building Official. See attached meeting minutes and Site Inspection reports for tree removal or Tree Bond Return.

The EC has worked with the building dept to update and revise Alpine's Tree Removal application.

The Borough Engineer has now added a new section to the official site development report to encompass tree removal application fee, tree bond fee and tree replacement requirements according to the updated tree ordinance.

One of our huge accomplishments of the year has been to create an Alpine EC web site, which I must say is outstanding, thanks to a very creative member. The web site took numerous hours of work and close communication workshops between members.

The EC has also been active in creating a public park. An area that was an eye sore where a condemned gas station was has been transformed into a lovely green area. This area had been void of trees as well as source of pollution, it is now pleasant to the eye. The park was initially started with a letter to the M&C requesting that the old gas station land be acquired and beautified.

The Arbor Day celebration is coordinated by the EC

- The Mayor's proclamation designating an Arbor Day is posted in Borough Hall
- Seedlings are distributed to the Alpine school children with a planting guide bookmark created by the EC.
- Seedlings are also distributed to Alpine residents at borough Hall
- The Arbor Day flag is hung for 2 weeks
- There are posters announcing the celebration of the event displayed in borough hall