

# Coalition for Wetlands and Forests

Email: [SICWF2017@gmail.com](mailto: SICWF2017@gmail.com)

Website: <http://www.sicwf.org/>

We welcome all volunteers whatever your gifts and talents may be. Please contact Gabriella at the above email address. I'm looking forward to meeting you.

(Originally written in 2017. Edited in 2025.)

## Committees:

**a. Fund Raising Committee** – seeking grants, fundraiser events, donations on the street, donations from businesses.... What else?

**b. Media Committee** – Keeping the issue in the public eye at all times, connect with TV stations, newspapers, social media, contact the rich and famous, updating Facebook, our website, incorporating the arts into the movement, etc. .... What else?

**c. Education Committee** – A meeting for the communities to educate them about the seriousness of the issues, financial, educational issues. Format a panel of experts on various issues and a Q&A...We will be planning our 5<sup>th</sup> educational forum. Can you help?

**d. Research Committee** – What bank is funding the South Ave Retail Project? When we find out, we will begin a process of boycotting them. Boycotting the bank does not have to mean removing all of your accounts from that particular bank. It can mean transferring your credit cards to another bank, possibly to a lower interest rate bank.

We have gained a lot of information since we started in 2017. Most of the questions we raised then were answered, which is wonderful!

We filed several freedom of information requests and received lots of information. See that section of the website. We will be filing a Freedom of information Act request from the Army Corp of Engineers. If you are interested, I'll let you know how to get involved. There is still lots of research to be done ..... What else?

**e. Environmental Committee** – articles, letters to the editor, educational forums concerning Climate Change where we are now and what to expect in the future, the extinction of species because of the loss of habitat. Attending climate change and resiliency forums.

Those interested in this committee, will attend environmental conferences and report to others on the topic ..... What else?

**f. Outreach Committee** – to groups and organizations inside and outside Staten Island and NYC. Make connections, network, how can they help us, how can we help them, outreach to non-English speaking groups, to the people living in the mobile home community, to local businesses, to churches, social groups, unions, to celebrities. We have spent a lot of time going door to door talking to people about the loss of the wetland

forest and its impact on the community. We still need to inform many more people. Let me know if you are interested in doing that. What else?

**g. Financial Analysis committee** – what will the loss of our resiliency, the wetland forest, cost the community in loss of jobs in small businesses, flood insurance, and the cost and impact of climate change on this community? We will study those costs on Condo Associations, owners and renters of every type of housing, the mobile home community and renters and small businesses, For more information let me know and I will send you a copy of the traffic study to start with.... What else? (See section on Documents on this website)

**h. Political Committee** – visiting state officials and their reps. We have already visited State Sen. Diane Savino, Assembly Member Michael Cusick, a representative of State Senator Nicole Malliotakis, Boro President Oddo and others. We have visited current electeds. (See Actions taken on this website)

We will encourage you to attend political forums and report to us. You will work on a letter writing campaign to Gov. Hochul and to Commissioner Amanda Lefton, Commissioner of NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.....What else

**i. Leg work committee** – Handing out fliers, collecting donations on the street, petitioning, tabling at events, finding space for meetings, making copies, talking to people door to door .... What else?

**j. Legal Committee-** what laws can we invoke to stop this and/or delay the progress of the developer, research court cases, especially the Supreme Court decision Sackett vs the EPA. Find precedent regarding lawsuits from residents claiming a financial burden. Perhaps the implications of the Brown v Board of Ed case in 1954 and its impact on Environmental Justice community which is sustaining a disparate impact and burden by this project .... what else?

**k. Event Committee** –Planning the next Educational Forum.. Planning fund raising events....What else?

**l. Art Committee** – making flyers, making signs, thinking creatively and visually for rallies and demonstrations.

### **We need:**

Writers, researchers, environmentalists, media people, artists, lawyers, landscape architects, architects, engineers, people handing out flyers and petitioning and those willing to do foot work. If you or someone you know might be interested in working with us, please invite them to contact us, or keep them abreast of what is needed and when it is needed.

Thank you,  
Gabriella Velardi-Ward