



TOWN OF STRATFORD

RAYMARK VACANT LOTS CLEANUP QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION

January 19, 2022

MEETING MINUTES

The Stratford Health Department in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency, Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, and the United States Army Corp of Engineers, conducted a virtual Question & Answer Session on Wednesday January 19, 2022 via GoToMeeting, pursuant to notice duly posted.

TOWN REPRESENTATIVE IN ATTENDANCE

- Andrea Boissevain – Director of Health
- Alivia Coleman – Health Department Program Associate
- Raynae Serra – Director of Public Works

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Jim DiLorenzo
- Darriel Swatts

UNITED STATES ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS (USACE) MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

- David Heislein
- Michael Looney
- Carl Niemitz
- Robert Vanoer

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEEP) MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Tony Allevo

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Various residents

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Coleman began the session at 6:30pm.

II. CLEANUP APPROACH FOR VACANT LOTS

- Mr. DiLorenzo gave a brief overview of this project. The first step will be removal of the trees. There will be a temporary perimeter barrier (Jersey barriers with a chain link steel fence on top with a heavy duty sound blanket on the outside) erected which will act as a visual and sound barrier while work is being performed in this area. They will set up air monitors to prevent dust, which is typically seen in construction zones.
- Mr. DiLorenzo explained cleanups in Town began in 2020, and to date fourteen have been finished. This project will be the fifteenth. This project is expected to take 3 – 4 months to complete. Excavation will begin the week of Jan 31st. The remediation work will start at the far South section of the area. Trucks will use the extreme right side of the restaurant parking lot. Material collected will be brought to the consolidation area at the OU4 ballfield and eventually capped, similar to what was done at Stratford Crossing. Mr. DiLorenzo noted the cap will be monitored in perpetuity.
- Mr. DiLorenzo stated excavations are backfilled daily so no excavations are left open at night. The site will be dressed with topsoil and grass seed, with a ledge of trees behind the property.

III. QUESTIONS

- How will you access the lots? Mr. DiLorenzo stated there is a legal Right Of Way through the Blue Goose Restaurant parking lot.
- How far down Housatonic Avenue does this project extend? Mr. DiLorenzo explained that from Ferry Blvd. to Willow Ave. the vacant lot runs behind the first 8 – 10 houses.
- How far down does the cleanup go? Mr. DiLorenzo stated this part of the cleanup is behind the Blue Goose restaurant only. At a later date, Ferry Creek needs to be cleaned up as well as areas behind Ferry Blvd. businesses. Those sites will be done next Winter.
- How safe is the soil and Housatonic River? Mr. DiLorenzo explained the chemicals in groundwater are different than Raymark waste, so that situation is stable. The soil issue stems from the former Raymark facility, whose owners would mix their waste with sludge to create fill for their own property, and then give it away for free to properties in Town. Mr. DiLorenzo stated most soil in town is fine, adding they know where the contaminated soil is located. He added the Town has a database listing properties that were tested and those on which Raymark waste was found.
- Is it safe for people to use Short Beach? Per Mr. DiLorenzo, Raymark waste was found at the former landfill; work will be done at that location by the end of 2024. He stated it is safe for people to be at Short Beach, and use of the park does not pose a health risk.
- Is the soil safe in the Ferry Blvd. residential neighborhood properties? Ms. Coleman stated residents can call her (203-385-4090) or email AColeman@townofstratford.com to determine what testing if any was done for the property.
- Will the “Hazardous Waste” sign at Ferry Creek be removed? Mr. DiLorenzo noted it will eventually be removed when the work between the I-95 culvert and Broad St. bridge is complete. Mr. DiLorenzo explained the issues the Housatonic River has unrelated to Raymark, but noted it is safe to recreate in it (e.g. swimming and boating). Ms. Coleman stated there are shellfishing restrictions in Stratford for various reasons.
- Is it safe to garden in Stratford? Ms. Coleman stated the Health Dept. suggests using raised beds and bringing in your own soil from a safe source. She stated various properties in town had soil testing done. Lead and other contaminants can be found in residential soil due to past practices unrelated to Raymark, such as use of lead paint.

- Ms. Boissevain noted the EPA will have an office on Ferry Blvd. (site of the former Rotary Ski Shop). Mr. DiLorenzo stated they anticipate moving in by mid-February. Ms. Boissevain also stated there is a Raymark Community Advisory Group meeting every other month, which anyone can attend and will provide a broader perspective of the overall project. Additionally, in the months there is no meeting, the EPA provides a written update which can be found on the Town website stratfordct.gov/Raymark.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Coleman adjourned the session at 7:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Aileen Marsh

Recording Secretary