



# TOWN OF STRATFORD

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## RAYMARK COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

January 25, 2023

### MEETING MINUTES

The Raymark Community Advisory Group, in conjunction with the Stratford Health Department, Environmental Protection Agency, Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, and the United States Army Corp of Engineers, conducted a hybrid meeting on Wednesday January 25, 2023 in-person at Raymark Headquarters, 300 Ferry Blvd., Stratford CT and via GoToMeetings, pursuant to notice duly posted.

#### TOWN REPRESENTATIVE IN ATTENDANCE

- Andrea Boissevain – Director of Health
- Alivia Coleman – Health Dept. Program Associate
- Laura Hoydick – Mayor
- Raynae Serra – Director of Public Works

#### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Jim DiLorenzo
- Darriel Swatts
- Taylor Cairns
- Dan Keefe
- Aaron Shaheen

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

- Michael Looney
- Rachel MacPhee
- Carl Niemitz
- Robert Vanoer

#### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Meg Harvey

#### OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Various residents

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Coleman called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

- II. INTRODUCTIONS -- Ms. Coleman introduced herself and others in attendance.
- A. OVERVIEW OF HYBRID MEETING STRUCTURE – Ms. Coleman explained the process of conducting a hybrid meeting, and reminded everyone that the meeting was being recorded.
- B. RULES OF CONDUCT – Ms. Coleman reviewed meeting protocol, noting that participants would be allowed to ask questions after each individual presentation, if they were pertinent to the presented material.
- C. PERIODIC UPDATE – Ms. Coleman explained that periodic updates are emailed to those who requested such, adding that those who would like to receive updates can provide their email addresses, and updates can also be found on the Town’s website: [www. StratfordCT.gov/Raymark](http://www.StratfordCT.gov/Raymark).

III. STATUS

A. OU6 PROPERTIES UPDATE

- Beacon Point Area - Per Mr. DiLorenzo, there are three distinct areas of concern (AOCs) at this location. AOC-1, located at the end of Birdseye Street, is mostly on Town property with a small portion on a private boat yard. AOC-2 has no active cleanup since the Raymark waste there is 8-feet below the pavement per the 2011 Record of Decision for this location. AOC-3, which is between the Water Pollution Treatment Plant and condos, is a large area and extends to the parking lot. Per Mr. DiLorenzo, they plan to protect or replace the dock, and remove the pavement nearest the wetlands. There are approximately 11,000 cubic yards (700 trucks) of Raymark waste at this location, as well as 250 cubic yards (20 trucks) of PHC waste. Mr. DiLorenzo explained they will be building in coastal resiliency at the site by increasing the parking lot elevation by one foot. They will excavate the area to three feet and replace it to four feet. Work at this location is expected to be done by May 2023, starting with AOC-1 and then AOC-3. Excavation at AOC-1 began on November 28, using a temporary haul road at this location to avoid the boat ramp. A recreational dock will be removed and replaced, and the rip rap will be enhanced. The parking lot, which will be reconfigured to pull back from the wetlands, will be raised one foot for coastal resiliency. Work at this site is scheduled to be done in March 2023 prior to the start of the boating season.
- OU6 Remediation Tracking Table

Mr. DiLorenzo stated to date, 47,450 cubic yards (4,092 trucks) has been removed from 20 properties and 5,197 cubic yards (464 trucks) was PHC waste removed from 9 properties.
- Remaining OU6 Properties
  - *Lockwood Avenue* – Most of this location, which is wetlands, contains Raymark waste. They will need to do key piling or build heading along the edge. This is an area where they will build coastal resiliency, so they will excavate 3-feet and put back 4-feet, so the finished elevation is a foot higher as a buffer against ongoing sea rise. Work is tentatively scheduled to be done Summer 2023.
  - *Third Avenue ROW* – Per Mr. DiLorenzo, there was only one area containing approximately 100 cubic yards of Raymark waste found in the front part of the driveway, which will be remediated as it includes the Town ROW. Most waste

found was below the four-foot level in other areas, and will be left alone. Work is tentatively scheduled to be done in Spring 2023, and will take 2-3 weeks to complete.

- *635 Ferry Blvd.* – This location, previously called “DOT Right of Way”, had been remediated. Upon further sampling, however, it was determined there is an additional 150 cubic yards of Raymark waste which needs to be removed. This is not yet scheduled as there is a drainage ditch that runs through this property and drains on the other side of East Broadway and continues in a culvert to Ferry Creek. They want to protect any sedimentation from coming down from that future property known as Morgan Francis. Work will probably be done in the later half of 2023 and take approximately one week to complete.
- *280 Ferry Blvd. (Blasius South)* – Mr. DiLorenzo stated work at this location is expected to be done in Fall 2023.
- *300 Ferry Blvd. (EPA Office)* – Per Mr. DiLorenzo, this will be the last property to be done, and is tentatively scheduled for late 2023/early 2024. It will also be a lay down area for the Ferry Creek cleanup.

### OU3 FERRY CREEK

Mr. DiLorenzo explained they will be remediating Ferry Creek from a culvert that comes out at Ferry Blvd. down to the Broad St. tidegate pumpstation. There are two components to this cleanup: the creek channel and the banking. Two feet of material has to be removed from the channels. There is also Raymark waste along the bank, as well as behind some commercial properties that were previously remediated. This will be a substantial cleanup, and the total volume estimate is approximately 12,000 cubic yards of Raymark waste. Work is scheduled to begin in April 2023, and will take approximately nine months to complete.

- *Morgan Francis (576/600 East Broadway)* – Mr. DiLorenzo explained a cleanup decision was made in 2011 separate from the current cleanup, to cap the Raymark Waste in place on this property. There is approximately 50,000 cubic yards of Raymark waste buried on this property from the time Raymark had been filling in wetlands. The approach will be to cap in place and take some of the Raymark waste from the upper portion of Ferry Creek to the I-95 culvert and cap it at the Morgan Francis property. The 2014 cap design is therefore being updated to incorporate that consolidation to recreational use. Mr. DiLorenzo explained they plan to consolidate Raymark waste from abutting OU6 and OU3 properties (DOT lot and Uppermost Ferry Creek). Since both of those areas have approximately 5,000 cubic yard of Raymark waste, it will be capped at Morgan Francis rather than trucking it across Town to the ballfield. They expect to have a remediation Record of Decision for this property, as well as the cap design, done by December 2023.

### B. RAYBESTOS MEMORIAL FIELD (OU4) UPDATE

- Work Completed or Ongoing Since November 2022

Mr. Looney noted approximately 48,000 cubic yards of material has been consolidated, compacted and covered to date. A Posi-shell cover has been applied on all Raymark waste which has previously been brought to the ballfield. Any waste that was handled is covered at the end of the day with either an approved cover system, such as poly or plastic sheeting, but typically it is Posi-Shell, which covers

the material and keeps it secure from releasing any dust or eroding. The active consolidation area is accepting material from Beacon Point, and will be consolidated there during the Winter.

Mr. Looney stated there are five air monitors at OU4 which are operating daily. The stormwater conveyance line construction is underway, as well as the pumpstation preparatory work. The original ballfield site camera can be viewed online at <https://www.ipcamline.com/5fc7c13309700>. A second camera overlooking the former Contract Plating site can be viewed at <https://www.ipcamline.com/5fc7c1899d5a3>. The active expanded consolidation area is accepting Raymark waste from 250 Ferry Blvd. (Wiz Auto). Mr. Looney explained material will be stockpiled in Winter, and the 95% compaction will be done in Spring when the weather is warmer.

### C. STORMWATER CONVEYANCE SYSTEM AND PUMP STATION

Mr. Looney stated once the impermeable cap is on at OU4, rainwater will no longer be able to infiltrate into the site. It will instead be collected in a stormwater retention basin and carried by a stormwater conveyance system which will be approximately 1/3 mile box culvert, to an open channel that is behind Ashcroft, and will then go to a new pump station being constructed. Both components of this system are underway.

Mr. Looney explained the first phase of the work was the open channel behind Ashcroft. Since that area is very spongy and needed to be widened, they excavated unsuitable material from there and lined the channel with concrete block in Summer 2022. Since then they have mobilized to the DPW to install the first section of box culvert. They are doing it this way based on their need to install helical piles at the lower end of the conveyance line. The helical piles support the box culvert because below the surface in that area there is a thick layer of unsuitable peat material. The helical piles are rotated into place and will support the box culvert. While they finish installing in that section of the conveyance line, the subcontractor Brennan has installed 800' box culvert to date across East Main Street. They will then continue to move through the DPW and to the OU4 ballfield. That work is expected to be done by Summer 2023, and they will then move to the Ashcroft parking lot area to continue installation of the box culvert.

Per Mr. Looney, the contract for the new pump station was awarded to P&S Construction. Site preparation is underway, and is expected to take 24 months to complete. It will have four axial flow pumps and 200 cubic feet per second capacity, and will operate only during significant storm and high water events. It will be housed by a masonry pump house with underground pump channels. This is a significant system which should help improve some of the drainage issues in the general area.

Mr. Looney noted site access and preparation at the new pumpstation site is complete. Installation of sheet piles and a dewatering well point are complete. There will be minor clearing and installation of a crane pad. There will be a generator and pump operating 24/7 for several months, albeit at low decibels. Erosion controls and limited grading are also complete. Blasting will be required to remove approximately 5'-12' of underground ledge (rock) within the pumpstation footprint. This will be controlled underground blasting. The contractor (Maine Drilling and Blasting) has submitted a blast plan, which will undergo a thorough review by USACE, DEEP, EPA

and the Town of Stratford. The approach is to minimize the ground vibrations as much as possible. EPA and USACE will coordinate the inspections of homes in the vicinity of the work site. Vibration monitors will be deployed. Each blast event will generally occur between 10am – 11am. Mr. Looney estimates there will be approximately ten blast events over a period of three weeks. Multiple 6,000-lb. blasting mats will be utilized. Work is expected to begin this Winter pending approval of the blast plan. Site access will be secured from the public.

#### D. AIR MONITORING

Ms. MacPhee explained air monitoring is done at the various Raymark cleanup sites to protect workers and the abutting community. The Dust Action Levels are based on the property and type of work being done. In OU4, the Dust Action Level is set at 0.014mg/m<sup>3</sup> and at 0.019mg/m<sup>3</sup> in the OU6 properties where Raymark Waste is being handled. When only clean soil is being handled, the Dust Action Level is set at 0.150mg/m<sup>3</sup>. Ms. MacPhee stated chemical samples are collected for lab analysis when Raymark Waste is handled. She noted the thresholds are set very low, and work is stopped before there is any potential risk to workers or the community. Vibration monitoring is conducted during the work. The threshold is 0.5 inches/second, and work is stopped if there are any exceedances. There are dust meters and chemical sample collection systems in operation, as well as one personnel chemical sample collection system. She added Ms. Coleman is posting weekly air monitoring reports, chemical data and vibration monitoring reports on the Town Raymark website.

- Monitored Tasks – OU6

Per Ms. MacPhee, at Beacon Point there are three dust meters, three chemical collection systems and no vibration monitoring. At this location, Raymark waste will be excavated, and backfilled with clean imported material. Since excavation is not being done within 50-ft. of a building, vibration monitoring is not required as yet. She noted no work was conducted Dec. 26-30, 2022 due to a holiday break.

- Monitored Tasks – OU4

Ms. MacPhee noted at OU4 there are five dust meters, five chemical collection systems and five vibration stations. She explained Winter operation, adding new PHC soil is being accepted and treated for offshore transport. Material from Beacon Point is being stockpiled at OU4, with a Posi-Shell covering. No work was conducted Dec. 26-30, 2022 due to a holiday break.

- Monitored Tasks -- Stormwater Conveyance System (SWC)

Ms. MacPhee stated at the Stormwater Conveyance System (SWC) there is no intrusive work in Raymark waste, so there are four vibration stations but no dust monitoring was done.

- Air Monitoring Results – Since the November 30, 2022 public meeting, there were no exceedances of the OU4 or OU6 Dust Action Level criteria. At no time were there any health and safety risks to workers or residents. There were no chemical action level exceedances. On December 1, 2022 the stormwater channel vibration meters were moved to new locations as work began in new areas. Between November 28 and December 1, two vibration meters failed sensory checks. Ms. MacPhee explained this was caused by the technician resetting the system during installation of the new SWC units, adding no exceedances were identified.

#### E. PROJECT SCHEDULE

Per Mr. DiLorenzo, the following is an estimated schedule of work to be done:

##### OU6

- Cleanup Ongoing: Beacon Point
- 2023 Summer: Lockwood Avenue
- 2023 Fall: Blasius car dealership (280 Ferry Blvd.)
- Fall 2023 – Winter 2024: EPA Headquarters (300 Ferry Blvd.) – This will be done last.
- To be scheduled: Third Avenue ROW and 635 East Broadway

##### OU3

- 2023 April to December: Ferry Creek (East Broadway to Broad Street)

##### OU4

- 2024: Construction of cap

Mr. DiLorenzo noted construction of the stormwater conveyance system and pump station will happen concurrently with the aforementioned schedule, as well as the Morgan Frances design and remedial action.

#### IV. QUESTIONS

- Mayor Hoydick asked if they are working on the blasting permits. Mr. Looney stated they are working with the Fire Marshall on such.
- Mr. Rohaly stated if any trees need to be removed behind his property, he has no objections. Mr. Looney explained trees will be removed when the permanent cap is installed.
- (*question unclear regarding the box culvert*) Mr. DiLorenzo stated they will be moving the existing utilities. Per Mr. Looney, this work will take approximately one month to complete.
- Paul Rohaly thanked Mr. DiLorenzo for all the hard work that is being done correctly on this project.

Ms. Coleman noted anyone who has further questions may contact her via email. Mr. DiLorenzo stated the next meeting will be held on March 29, 2023 at 6:30pm.

#### IX. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DiLorenzo stated the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday March 29, and questioned if residents would prefer to meet monthly rather than every other month. Anyone may email him or Ms. Coleman regarding their preference. Ms. Coleman adjourned the meeting at 7:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Aileen Marsh*  
Recording Secretary