



# TOWN OF STRATFORD

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## RAYMARK COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

January 26, 2022

### 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 virtual meeting on Wednesday January 22, 2022 via GoToMeetings, pursuant to notice duly posted.

#### TOWN REPRESENTATIVE IN ATTENDANCE

- Andrea Boissevain – Director of Health
- Alivia Coleman – Health Dept. Program Associate
- Laura Dancho – Town Council 10<sup>th</sup> District
- Laura Hoydick – Mayor
- Kelly Kerrigan – Environmental Conservation Superintendent
- Raynae Serra – Director of Public Works

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

- Jim DiLorenzo
- Dan Keefe
- Darriel Swatts

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

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

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

- Tony Allevo

#### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Meg Harvey

STATE REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE:

- Phil Young – 120<sup>th</sup> District

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 VIRTUAL MEETING STRUCTURE – Ms. Coleman explained the process of conducting a virtual meeting, and reminded everyone that the meeting was being recorded.

B. RULES OF CONDUCT – Ms. Coleman reviewed meeting protocol, noting that based on suggestions she received, 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

- Quail Street/Wooster Park

Mr. DiLorenzo stated this area is now completely remediated. The first neighborhood meeting was held on 5/12/2021, and a second meeting occurred on 9/22/2021. Work began on 11/4/2021, and after a two-week break for the holidays, was finished on 1/6/2022. Before the holiday break, there were a few exceedances of the air monitoring criteria. Mr. DiLorenzo emphasized there was no health issue, as the criteria is set very low to help determine if action needs to be taken and adjustments need to be made before there is any type of chemical release. There were some elevated levels of lead, but they were well below any type of health threshold. The project was shut down one day early before the holiday break when there was an exceedance.

Mr. DiLorenzo explained they first created a roadway based on a foot of gravel for a temporary road, so trucks never drive on Raymark waste. This road is pulled out as the property is remediated. Per Mr. DiLorenzo, all soil is dug to a depth of 4-feet per the Record of Decision (ROD). An orange demarcation fabric is placed at the bottom of the excavation to separate the soil from the Raymark waste. Although Raymark waste can be found further than 4-feet, the orange fabric will serve as a warning if any excavation is done in the future. He stated 4,872 cubic yards (433 trucks) of Raymark waste was removed. Of that, 130 cubic yards (15 trucks) was Principal

Hazardous Constituent (PHC) waste, which was shipped off-site for out-of-town disposal.

The area has been backfilled and graded, and a series of boulders have been placed along the Quail St. curbing to prevent people from driving onto the property. These boulders have been pressure washed, and will be re-used by the Town. In the Spring, Severson will return with topsoil and approximately three dozen trees of various varieties will be planted, along with grass and loam.

- Vacant Lots Behind Blue Goose Restaurant

Mr. DiLorenzo stated the first neighborhood meeting was held on 1/12/2022, and a second meeting occurred on 1/19/2022. Crews began clearing trees on 1/18/2022. Mobilization has begun, which includes a jersey barrier around the work area, with a chain link fence on top of which they will mount sound and visual barriers. They will also lay a gravel road to keep the trucks from driving on Raymark waste. Excavation will begin the first week of February. All the trees and wood chips have been removed. Per Mr. DiLorenzo, the original estimate for Raymark waste was 4,440 cubic yards; it has now been determined that there is approximately 10,000 cubic yard (500 trucks). Of this, approximately 1,400 yards is PHC waste, which was originally estimated to be only 660 yards. Work is expected to be complete in April.

- OU6 Remediation Tracking Table

Mr. DiLorenzo noted the OU6 excavation of Raymark waste began in Sept. 2020. To date, 18,573 cubic yards (1,593 trucks) has been removed from 14 properties. Of that, 1,302 cubic yards (110 trucks) was PHC waste removed from 5 properties.

- Beacon Point

Per Mr. DiLorenzo, then work at the Ferry Blvd. vacant lots is complete, Severson is then expected to begin work at Beacon Point. They originally estimated there would be 2,400 cubic yards (200 trucks) of Raymark waste. This has now been expanded to approximately 3,000 – 4,000 cubic yards (250 trucks) of waste, of which 250 – 300 yards (20 trucks) is expected to be PHC waste. Mr. DiLorenzo explained there are three distinct areas of Raymark waste. They need to do more sampling in Beacon Point Area 3, which will be done in early February. Per Mr. DiLorenzo, work is expected to begin sometime in April and will be done mid-June, when the boating season starts.

- Hitchcock Marina

After Beacon Point, crew will return to Hitchcock Marina on Ferry Blvd. Mr. DiLorenzo explained there are currently an estimated 300 boats on the property. By Summer, there will be less than two dozen boats there, so work is expected to begin in mid-Summer. The Raymark waste in this area is limited to one side and half of the back property, and is estimated to be only a few cubic yards. Some additional sampling will be done to refine that area. Per Mr. DiLorenzo, the two car dealerships next to Hitchcock Marina have 100% Raymark waste, and will be much more difficult. Those properties, therefore, will be remediated at a later date along with Ferry Creek.

- OU6 Air Monitoring Results

Mr. Heislein discussed the air monitoring results for the soil excavation and restoration at Wooster Park. The Daily Average Dust Measurements were 0.000 to 0.006 mg/m<sup>3</sup>. There were no exceedances of the OU6 Dust Action Level criteria

(0.019 mg/m<sup>3</sup>). There are two dust meters /chemical sample collection systems in operation, as well as one personnel chemical sample collection system. Per Mr. Heislein, there were no health and safety risks to workers or residents. There were action level exceedances for lead on 11/29/2021, 12/8/2021 and 1/3/2022. On Nov. 29 and Dec. 8, these exceedances were found inside the fenced work area, while the Jan. 3 exceedance was found at outside the fence. It was determined that the Jan. 3 exceedance was detected upwind of the work site. They added a third meter outside the work area near homes on Dec. 20, 2021. Mr. Heislein explained to ensure everyone's safety, the 90-day action level is very low (0.00015mg/m<sup>3</sup>), and added the actual 90-day average was 0.000021mg/m<sup>3</sup> (20%). Town officials, CT Dept. of Public Health, CT DEEP and EPA are notified immediately if there are any exceedance, and all work together to determine if any changes need to be made. He added Ms. Coleman is posting weekly air monitoring reports, chemical data and vibration monitoring reports on the Town Raymark website.

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

• Work Completed or Ongoing Since Nov. 2021

Mr. Looney noted approximately 18,500 cubic yards of material has been consolidated, compacted and covered. All material consolidated to date has been spread and compacted to 95%. A Posi-shell cover has been applied on all Raymark waste which had previously been brought to the ballfield. Material (approximately 9,000 cubic yards) collected from the Ferry Blvd. vacant lots will be stockpiled at the ballfield in Winter. Due to the cold and wet conditions, crew cannot get the required compaction that they eventually will need at the ballfield, so in the Spring, this material will be spread and compacted to 95%. Mr. Looney explained the PHC material that is brought to the tent is treated with a material called Maectite, which binds up lead and makes it un-leachable, prior to being sent off-site. He noted there are five air monitors at OU4 which are operating daily. Mr. Looney stated the site cameras can be viewed online at <https://www.ipcamline.com/5fc7c13309700>.

• OU4 Cap and Site Design

Mr. Looney explained the 95% design is complete, adding there were some adjustments made to the design. He expects to be at the or close to the 100% design stage by March. Per Mr. Looney, the changes made were relative to the access haul road on the southern edge of the site that runs along the railroad tracks. There, the access road was raised approximately 18" to allow for a bit more volume within the consolidation area itself. It also eliminated the need to put a retaining wall in that area. The design incorporates future use for the Town.

In the center of the consolidation area, after the material is consolidated, there will be a building pad approximately 200'x300'. This will give the Town a variety of uses on which to build. He added there are no definitive plans yet for what is going to be there.

Mr. Looney stated there will be a low permeability cap. After all the material is brought to the ballfield, consolidated, graded and compacted to 95%, a cap will be built on top. The cap will consist of a geotextile fabric, followed by a geosynthetic semi-permeable clay layer. On top of that is a 40-mil low-density polyethylene membrane, another impermeable membrane and then a geocomposite layer on top of that, and then approximately 48" of vegetative soil on top of that.

Mr. Looney noted there are two access points from Frog Pond Lane, and an entrance and egress to the haul road. The cap will have a maximum elevation of 37-feet at the rear corner near Frog Pond Lane and Patterson Avenue. The typical final elevation will be almost level with the sound barrier and will grade off toward the railroad tracks at a 2% slope. Per Mr. Looney, the side slopes going down will be 3:1.

- OU4 Air Monitoring Results

Mr. Heislein stated since the November 15, 2021 public meeting, the Daily Average Dust level was 0.003 to 0.013mg/m<sup>3</sup>. There were no exceedances of the OU4 Dust Action Level criteria (0.014 mg/m<sup>3</sup>). Per Mr. Heislein, all five dust meters and sample collection systems are in operation, as well as one personnel chemical sample collection system. At no time were there any health and safety risks to workers or residents. Ms. Heislein noted on 11/6/2021 and 12/7/2021 the action levels for asbestos were exceeded. Chemical analyses that were done determined these exceedances were caused by wood fibers rather than asbestos. He stated on 12/3/2021, there was a lead level exceedance. Mr. Heislein explained to ensure everyone's safety, the 90-day action level is very low (0.00015mg/m<sup>3</sup>), and added the actual 90-day average was 0.000017mg/m<sup>3</sup> (10%). Town officials, CT Dept. of Public Health, CT DEEP and EPA are notified immediately if there are any exceedance, and all work together to determine if any changes need to be made. Mr. Heislein noted Ms. Coleman continues to post weekly air monitoring reports, chemical data and vibration monitoring reports on the Town Raymark website.

C. **STORMWATER CONVEYANCE SYSTEM AND PUMP STATION**

Mr. Looney stated the OU4 stormwater system is complete for both the pump station and the conveyance system. He explained the conveyance system is an approximately 1/3 mile long box culvert that will take clean stormwater that is shed from OU4. That stormwater collected at the ballfield in a retention basin will be carried via the stormwater conveyance line through the DPW lot, across East Main Street, and then through the Ashcroft parking lot to an open channel, where it will be discharged and taken to the new stormwater pump station. Mr. Looney explained the current design is complete. They are expecting to award this construction contract to Severson, who is the prime contractor for this project. Work is expected to begin in Spring 2022. Per Mr. Looney, the new pump station will have four axial flow pumps and will have 200 cubic feet per second capacity, and will operate during significant storm and high-water events. He noted the masonry pumphouse will be built on the banks of the Housatonic River. This is going out as a separate contract, which they hope to award sometime in Spring 2022. Construction of the pump station is expected to take 18 months, and nine months for the conveyance system.

D. **OVERALL PROJECT SCHEDULE**

Mr. DiLorenzo noted the following:

- Sept. 2020 – All East Main St. properties have been remediated, along with several Ferry Blvd. properties. Quail Street/Wooster Park remediation began.

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

- Feb. – Mid-April 2022: Remediation of vacant lots behind Blue Goose restaurant. This work will take approximately three months to complete. By mid-February, they will have an office on Ferry Blvd. in the former Rotary Ski Shop.

- April – Nov. 2022: Beacon Point and Hitchcock Marina. Possibly Third Ave. and/or Lockwood
- 2023: Remediation of Ferry Creek and the remaining Ferry Blvd. properties. Morgan Francis (576 and 600 East Main St.) abuts the uppermost Ferry Creek. They are looking at jump starting that in 2023 and moving the material under the cap at Ferry Creek rather than hauling it to the ballfield.
- 2024: Construction of OU4 cap

Mr. DiLorenzo noted the following:

- What is in the ballfield now behind the former home plate is as high as it will be.
- The pump station will take two years to construct.
- Funding for the entire project is in place and on track.

### VIII. QUESTIONS

- Is the marsh area of Ferry Creek being filled in? Ms. Coleman explained it is not, but the sediment along the creek will be excavated and then the creek will be restored. There is Raymark waste in Ferry Creek between Housatonic Avenue and the properties along Ferry Blvd., and that will be cleaned up towards the end.
- How will this area be zoned? Ms. Coleman explained that regarding the lots behind the Blue Goose restaurant, there are two parcels, and the current zoning will most like not change. Future applicants would need to go through the Town application process if they wanted to change the zoning use of the property. They would also have to get any development proposal approved. The cleanup therefore does not affect what the future use of the property would be. Mr. DiLorenzo added there is a very large foundation on that property that was at one time going to be a hotel. Removal of that large foundation will be part of the remediation.
- What will be the traffic disruption when laying the new conveyance line? Mr. Looney explained they expect minimal disruption, adding anytime they have to make a crossing on a major street such as East Main Street, they work with the Stratford Police Dept. to determine what the alternate routes are going to be. He noted there will be a formal Traffic Management Plan once that award is made. Mr. DiLorenzo stated in the design, the cuts across Frog Pond Land and East Main St. are perpendicular. Those are the minimum cuts that could be made. They have avoided Avery St. by entering into an agreement with a private property owner. Per Mr. DiLorenzo, they have tried to minimize disruption in the design phase, and will address the issue more fully when the design is finalized.
- East Main St. is travelled heavily by Sikorsky employees. Will you take that into consideration? Mr. DiLorenzo explained that will work with local officials to determine the best method to minimize disruption in those two areas. He added they will also need to get a permit at the East Main St. crossing from the CT DOT, who will look at the traffic patters and will put limitations on their efforts based on what they know about the traffic in that area. Mr. Heislein explained then they are running through either the DPW property or along the backside of the DPW building, they are not in the road. There is a grass strip between the back of the building and the edge of the road. They have therefore minimized any road crossings as much as possible. Per Mr. Heislein, they will be working either in the DPW property or the Ashcroft private property, so it is limited to just the crossing of Frog Pond and East Main Street.

- Regarding the OU4 ballfield air monitoring results, a resident noted some of her neighbors have been burning wood outside. Mr. Heislein explained some of those organic fibers could cause false positive results from the air monitors. He stated three air monitors were used at the Wooster Park work area. They will also be used by Willow Ave. /Housatonic Ave., with two inside the fence and one outside of it, when the digging begins at the Ferry Blvd. vacant lots. Mr. Heislein also noted they have pest control on staff to track and manage pests in the area that is being disturbed.
- Is there any update on OU5 (Shore Road & boat Club)? Mr. Keefe explained the contract with Novis expired. The work to be done there has now been combined with work to be done at OU7 and OU8. He added that conversations are ongoing with the contractors. Mr. Allevo stated the EPA has done additional sampling and is developing remediation goals for OU5, OU7 and OU8.
- Is there an OU9? Mr. DiLorenzo explained this is the former landfill and areas adjacent to it. Mr. Keefe noted the need to determine if there are any responsible parties to contribute to the cleanup. He added conversations with various groups are ongoing.

Ms. Coleman noted anyone who has further questions may contact her via email. She stated the next will be held on March 30. Mr. DiLorenzo added they will send out an update at the end of February.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Coleman adjourned the meeting at 7:53pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Aileen Marsh*  
Recording Secretary