



# TOWN OF STRATFORD

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## **RAYMARK COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP**

**November 29, 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 November 29, 2023 in-person at Raymark Headquarters, 300 Ferry Blvd., Stratford CT and via GoToMeeting, pursuant to notice duly posted.

#### TOWN REPRESENTATIVE IN ATTENDANCE

- Alivia Coleman – Health Dept. Program Associate

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

- Jim DiLorenzo
- Taylor Freeman
- Dan Keefe
- Jeff Saunders
- Darriel Swatts

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

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

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

- Tony Allevo
- Abigail Plungis

#### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Meg Harvey

STATE REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE

- Allison Dodge for Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro’s office

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. OU3/OU6 UPDATES

- OU3 Ferry Creek Remediation - Per Mr. DiLorenzo, Ferry Creek has been completely remediated from Ferry Blvd. to the Broad St. bridge. Two feet of sediment was removed from the entire channel, and 4 feet from the banks at some locations. The total volume removed was 12,100 cubic yards of Raymark waste, and was replaced with clean material. 277 cubic yards of PHC waste was removed first, and was processed to be sent out-of-state. Restoration of the creek banks has begun. The first phase along the banking, completed November 29, involved putting down a layer of rip rap along the entire length of the creek that was remediated. A core log to control erosion was then placed at the bottom and staked to the ground. Up the side of the bank, a thick layer of top soil was placed and seeded. It was then covered with a coco mat to hold it in place. 8,500 live stakes were inserted in the ground and will start to root themselves in the Spring. The second phase is restoration for the top of the bank. Mr. DiLorenzo explained no sediment was removed along the residential side. Along the commercial side, however, most of the bank was removed. That will get a robust mixture of local species of trees and shrubbery, which will be ordered in Winter and planted in Spring 2024.
- OU3/OU6 Remediation Tracking Table – Mr. DiLorenzo stated to date 72,178 cubic yards (6,103 trucks) has been removed from 24 properties and 8,149 cubic yards (762 trucks) of PHC waste was removed from 14 properties. He noted additional contaminated material was found at Hitchcock Marine and Big Jim’s Galley.

- Remaining OU6 Properties

- *280 Ferry Blvd. (Blasius South)* – Mr. DiLorenzo explained every square foot of the Blasius Car Dealership had Raymark waste in it, as well as some PHC waste. The Raymark waste will be sent to OU4 for consolidation; the PHC waste will be treated in the OU4 tent structure and then shipped out of state. Approximately 8,500 cubic yards of material (Raymark and PHC waste combined) was removed, and is now complete, with paving to be done with week of December 4.
- *300 Ferry Blvd. (EPA office)* – Mr. DiLorenzo stated almost every square foot of the parking lot needs to be removed and excavated to 4-feet, replaced with clean material and then repaved. Excavation is expected to be done by Christmas. They estimate 5,010 cubic yards of Raymark waste and 1,090 cubic yards of PHC waste will be removed.
- *Third Avenue ROW* – Per Mr. DiLorenzo, there is only one small 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. Work is scheduled to be done in the Spring 2024.
- *Former Blue Goose Restaurant* – Mr. DiLorenzo explained there are two small areas in the parking lot containing approximately 100 – 150 cubic yards of Raymark waste, which will be removed the week of December 4.
- *Lockwood Ave (Lower Ferry Creek)* – Per Mr. DiLorenzo, This will be excavated January – June 2024, with an estimated 15,000 cubic yards of Raymark waste to be removed.

The estimated remaining volume of Raymark waste to be removed from the OU6 properties is 21,760 cubic yards and 1,090 cubic yards of PHC waste will be removed. The estimated final volume at OU4 is 93,938 cubic yards of Raymark waste. The estimated final volume of PHC waste is 9,239 cubic yards.

## B. LOCKWOOD AVENUE UPDATE AND SCHEDULE

Mr. DiLorenzo noted there is an estimated 15,000 cubic yards Raymark waste at this location, but no PHC waste. This this will be remediated in two phases. Phase 1 of this work will be cleanup of the tidal wetlands, which will be excavated between 1-2 feet and covered with a minimum of two feet of clean material. It will be excavated and sent to OU4 for compaction and consolidation. Work will begin in January, with clearing to start the week of December 4. Some additional sampling will also be done with week of December 11. Phase 2 will be cleanup of the upland/inland wetland section. Clearing will also be done the week of December 4, as this will be a lay-down area for equipment needed to remediate Phase 1. Trucks will therefore be able to avoid the residential area. There will be a temporary bridge to span the trucks out to Phase 1. During this effort, there are some channels that will be remediated and culverts that will be cleaned out because they probably will have some level of Raymark waste in them. There are four distinct culverts: one feeds Selby Pond; one feeds stormwater drains off Stratford Avenue; one feeds stormwater drains off Ferry Blvd. and Stratford Avenue; and one, which is almost completely blocked, connects the northern wetland across the street. There will also be a marine bulkhead that will be constructed as a result of this effort. There will also be marine piers put in along

the coastal front, since they have to remove the existing ones that have decayed. Phase 2 remediation is scheduled to begin in March, and is expected to be completed by June 2024.

### QUESTIONS

- Are you coming right up to the back yards of homes on Selby Pond Road? Mr. DiLorenzo explained they are, based on sampling data, but they have not found any need to go onto the private properties as there are clean demarcation lines. Additionally, they will put up a chain link barrier as the cleanup work is being done.
- Why are you doing a bulkhead and pilings? Per Mr. DiLorenzo, they are doing so because they have to remove the existing ones as part of the cleanup and need to replace in kind.
- What will be planted when you are done? Mr. DiLorenzo stated Phase 1 will be replanted with desirable wetland type vegetation. This area will stay a wetland marsh area. Phase 2 is mostly upland. Since a majority or all of the trees will need to be removed, they are working with the property owner to replant the border along Lockwood Avenue and will probably grass seed the rest of it.
- Will the remediation help basement flooding for homes on Selby Pond Road, or make it worse? Mr. DiLorenzo explained they are going to raise the elevation of the entire property by a foot for coastal resiliency, so that will help because it will take a higher tide to get over that and should abate the problem from most storms.
- Will Selby Pond be cleaned out? Per Mr. DiLorenzo, more sampling is being done, so no decision has been made yet, but will probably be made in the next 1-2 years.
- Is the June date for planting final? Mr. DiLorenzo replied they plan to be completely demobilized by June 2024.
- Was testing done at Lower Ferry Creek? Mr. DiLorenzo stated there has been much testing done over the years. He added that is all OU7, and includes Selby Pond. Decisions on that area will be made at a later date.

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

- Work Completed or Ongoing Since September 2023

Mr. Looney noted approximately 72,000 cubic yards of material has been consolidated, compacted and covered to date. A temporary Posi-Shell cover has been applied on all previously imported Raymark waste at the ballfield for erosion control. The stormwater treatment plant has been established at the consolidation area. The stormwater conveyance line construction is complete, and the pumpstation construction is underway. Winter operations are underway and all material from OU6 is being compiled. Since the material contains moisture and the weather is cold, the material cannot be compacted to 95%. This will be done late Spring/early Summer when all the material has gotten to the ballfield. All trucks containing Raymark waste access the ballfield via the haul road. The employee parking lot, currently at the Frog Pond entrance, is being shifted to the OU4 haul road entrance. Mr. Looney explained this is being done because the footprint of that parking lot will be the long-term stormwater detention basin. That is where all the clean runoff, once

the site is capped, is going to run to, collected and then taken through the conveyance line and stormwater control system and out to the Housatonic River.

Per Mr. Looney, the material handling structure is used to treat PHC waste for lead. That is the most contaminated material and will be shipped off-site. Everything else that goes through the structure is either saturated, wet or needs additional handling. They amend it with cement or other materials to take the water out and make it a more solid, compactible type of material they can use. The structure is connected to two air handlers that pull the air out of the structure and then scrub it through heap filters. Therefore, all the air in the structure and any air discharged is clean before it goes out. He also noted the current stormwater detention basin is temporary; the excavation of that may start over the Winter. All of the current features will be removed and pushed out. That is where all of the waste will be consolidated and capped. Final grading for the cap replacement will begin in Spring 2024 and into early Summer before construction begins.

Mr. Looney stated there are six air monitors at OU4 which are operating daily. The original ballfield site camera can be viewed online at <https://www.ipcamline.com/5fc7c13309700>. A second camera can be viewed at <https://www.ipcamline.com/5fc7c1899d5a3>. He showed a 3-D model based on the current design for the future reuse of the OU4 ballfield. At the end of the haul road cul-de-sac, they will be constructing a permanent access road that runs along the railroad. There will be a secondary road on which you can go to the top of the cap. The purpose of that is post-closure use by the Town. Most of the cap will be 4-feet, while the portion to be used by the Town in the future will have a 5-foot thickness to allow for utility construction to support features of the site, including foundations.

Mr. Looney explained what the cap construction will look like. After the waste is consolidated and graded, there will be several layers as part of the engineered cap. There will be a clay layer, and then a geosynthetic clay liner, which is relatively thin initially and thickens up when it is hydrated. On top of that will be a geomembrane, which is a polyethylene, layer. There will then be several layers of sand and gravel drainage, and then a vegetative layer. The purpose of this is to secure the waste, as well as preventing rainwater to flow into the Raymark waste. Instead, once the water hits the membrane, it is shut off. It will therefore generate a significant amount of runoff which will then go to the on-site detention basin, which is connected to the stormwater system currently being constructed. The cap design is being slightly modified to account for a lower final elevation. When it was originally designed, they anticipated approximately 125,000 cubic yards of Raymark waste going into the ballfield. They now project it will be closer to 100,000 cubic yards of Raymark waste, so the top of the cap will be lowered approximately two feet.

#### D. STORMWATER CONVEYANCE SYSTEM AND PUMP STATION

Per Mr. Looney, the first phase of the stormwater collection system was the 1/3-mile box culvert which will pick up stormwater at OU4, bring it through the DPW yard, across East Main Street and through an open channel that is behind Ashcroft. Part of that included excavating the open channel since it was loaded with muck and invasive species known as phragmites, to facilitate flow. It was then lined with

articulated concrete block. The box culvert was then built, connecting it to OU4. That work is now complete, and the new stormwater pump station is under construction.

Per Mr. Looney, the contract for the new pump station was awarded to P&S Construction. Construction is underway and is expected to be complete by December 2024. 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 pumphouse with underground pump channels. This is a significant system which should help improve some of the drainage issues in the general area. It will be powered by electricity with a backup diesel generator.

Mr. Looney noted all the rock was blasted successfully, and excavation of the broken rock and foundation prep is underway. The transformer pad and duct bank will be installed at the end of Platt Street in conjunction with UI. Concrete work for the new pump station will begin in January.

### QUESTIONS

- Who owns the property at the OU4 ballfield? Per Mr. Looney, it is currently under EPA and USACE for the cleanup, but it is Town-owned property.
- Does the Town get back taxes from Raymark? Mr. DiLorenzo stated the Town took the property from them in lieu of back taxes.
- If the Town sells the property, who gets the money? Mr. DiLorenzo noted the Town owns the property. Whether they lease it, develop it themselves or sell it, it is completely under Town control. When the cap is complete, EPA will turn the property over to the Town. Under the Superfund law, CT DEEP is responsible for maintaining that cap indefinitely, even if the site is sold to a developer under an Environmental Land Use Restriction.
- When you excavate during Phase 1 and Phase 2 at Lockwood, what happens to the contamination below 2-4 feet? Mr. Looney explained they only excavate to 2-feet in the wetland and 4-feet in the upland area. This is part of an EPA Record of Decision and deemed protective. Mr. DiLorenzo explained it eliminates exposure, as there are no plans to ever go deeper. Additionally, CT DEEP will be responsible for ensuring these sites remain effective.

### AIR MONITORING

Ms. Leonardi 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 OU3 and OU6 properties where Raymark Waste is being handled. The Dust Action level is 0.075 mg/m<sup>3</sup> at the OU4 Early Detection Station. When only clean soil is being handled, the Dust Action Level is set at 0.150mg/m<sup>3</sup>. Ms. Leonardi 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.

- Air Monitoring Results

Per Ms. Leonardi there were no exceedances of the applicable Daily Dust Action levels during this period. There were no elevated chemical concentrations above the action level criteria during this period. Ms. Coleman noted air monitoring will be done during the Lockwood Avenue work.

- Vibration Results

Ms. Leonardi explained a series of vibration exceedances were observed on September 25 at 170 Ferry Blvd. in the southwest corner. These exceedances were due to thunder and not site activities. On Oct. 4, the geophone for the vibration meter at 170 Ferry Blvd. was hit from above by direct contact, which caused an exceedance. Vibration monitoring criteria were exceeded on several dates this period due to vibrator roller machines and other heavy equipment.

- 170 Ferry Blvd. – Exceedances on Oct. 24 (max 1.27 in/sec), Oct. 31 (max 0.68 in/sec) and Nov. 6 (max 7.38 in/sec)
- 280/300 Ferry Blvd. – Exceedances on Oct. 11 (max 0.6 in/sec), Oct. 23 (max 0.56 in/sec), Nov. 15 (max 2.89 in/sec), Nov. 16 (max 6.43 in/sec) and Nov. 17 (max 3.08 in/sec)

Per Ms. Leonardi, these exceedances did not result in complaints or concerns from abutters, and use of roller machines and other heavy equipment near buildings is being limited as much as possible.

#### E. NINE OPERABLE UNITS

Mr. DiLorenzo explained this Superfund project is divided into nine operable units:

- OU1 – Former facility (2005 ROD)
- OU2 – Groundwater/Vapor Intrusion (2016 ROD)
- OU3 – Upper Ferry Creek (2016 ROD)
- OU4 – Raybestos Memorial Ballfield (2016 ROD)
- OU5 – Shore Road Boat Club (2023 ROD – to be issued in Oct. 2023)
- OU6 – Additional Fill Properties (2011 and 2016 RODs)
- OU7 – Lower Ferry Creek – mostly wetlands
- OU8 – Beacon Point Boat Launch – mostly wetlands
- OU9 – Short Beach Park/Stratford Landfill

Per Mr. DiLorenzo, there is a pending ROD for OU5 – Shore Road Area, which is expected to be finalized by the end of 2023. It proposes excavating and capping about 9,500 cubic yards of Raymark waste, and coastal resiliency will be built-in 1-2 feet. The cleanup would start in 2025.

#### OPERABLE UNIT 9

Jeff Saunders, who is the EPA Project Manager for OU9, explained this study area is approximately 94 acres and includes the former Stratford Landfill (northern ~ 30 acres) and Short Beach Park (southern ~ 64 acres). There will be a continuation of Remedial Investigation (RI) activities, including portions of Short Beach Park, the Stratford Landfill and the Marine Basin. This investigation includes geophysics, borings/well, landfill gas survey, conductivity testing, tidal study and ecological

evaluation. They are developing a Remedial Investigation report, Feasibility Study and a decision document. The anticipated OU9 schedule is:

- Cleared and completed surface geophysics in Oct. 2023
- Data collection is underway now through May 2024

#### F. PROJECT SCHEDULE

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

##### OU6

- Nov. 2023 – Jan. 2024: Blasius dealership & EPA office
- Winter/Spring 2024: Third Ave. & Blue Goose
- Jan. – June 2024: Lockwood Avenue
- Morgan Francis: 2024 contracting & 2025 cleanup

##### OU4

- 2024: Construction of cap
- 2025: OU4 final restoration
- 2025: Complete stormwater pump station

##### OU5

- 2024: Remedial design for cleanup
- 2025-2026: Contracting & conduct cleanup

##### OU7/OU8/OU9

- 2024-2026: Complete investigations and feasibility studies/issue proposed RODs.

#### IV. QUESTIONS

- Was sampling done at OU9, or just an examination of historical records? Mr. DiLorenzo explained regarding the landfill, historic records showed Raymark waste was disposed there and mixed in with municipal waste. With regard to Short Beach Park, there has been sampling that was done before. He noted there are pockets of Raymark waste under parts of Short Beach Park. The landfill and basins have not been tested, so the data that Mr. Saunders is collecting is in the basins and marine proper, and will be the first comprehensive look at that. Mr. DiLorenzo added there is a robust cover that EPA placed there a long time ago. Mr. Keefe stated it was significantly evaluated in 2003-2004, doing multiple borings down to 4-feet. Where there was any Raymark waste, it was covered by the State as an interim measure. They also found a significant amount of Raymark waste in what looks like a landfill today. Mr. Saunders noted the specific cells of Raymark waste were immediately south of Dorne Drive. This is where a significant portion of the State's work was done to cap that area. He added those cells were well defined and well documented where the material was located. Mr. Keefe explained there was Presumptive Remedy Guidance that guides EPA when evaluating landfills and that presumptive remedy is a landfill cap. The question remains where is there other Raymark waste that might potentially be put under the cap.
- Mr. DiLorenzo stated EPA maintains an active FaceBook page for the Raymark cleanup. On there are a series of one-minute videos they created during the cleanup. Mr. Swatts



noted the address is Facebook.com/EPARaymark, and added the videos highlight various aspects of the cleanup. Per Mr. Swatts, they also do weekly and bi-weekly status updates. Ms. Coleman will link that FaceBook address to the Stratfordct.gov/Raymark page.

Ms. Coleman noted anyone who has further questions may contact her via email. The next meeting will be held on January 31, 2024 at 6:30pm.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Coleman adjourned the meeting at 7:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Aileen Marsh*

Recording Secretary