



TOWN OF STRATFORD

RAYMARK COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

November 30, 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 hybrid meeting on Wednesday November 30, 2022 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
- John Casey – Town Engineer
- Alivia Coleman – Health Dept. Program Associate
- Laura Dancho – Town Council 10th District
- Raynae Serra – Director of Public Works

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Jim DiLorenzo
- Taylor Cairns
- Dan Keefe

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

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

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

- Tony Allevo

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 6:33pm.

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.

III. STATUS

A. OU6 PROPERTIES UPDATE

- Wiz Auto (250 Ferry Blvd.)

Mr. DiLorenzo stated work began on Sept 21, 2022 by Severson. Work will be done in a phased approach, and will take approximately three months to complete. Excavation was completed on Nov 23, and crews are currently working on restoration. Per Mr. DiLorenzo, 9,431 cubic yards (687 trucks) and 1,817 cubic yards (161 trucks) of PHC waste has been removed. There is an established haul road corridor, which allows truck traffic to move from Wiz Auto, through the back of Blasius Auto, through the back of the EPA office and out to Ferry Blvd. This helps facilitate keeping disruptions at the business to a minimum. Mr. DiLorenzo explained an orange warning fabric was put down after the 4-foot excavation, adding institutional controls and deed restrictions will also be used.

- 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. It therefore has an Environmental Land Use Restriction on it to ensure that no one unknowingly excavates into that area in the future. 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 elevation by one foot. They will excavate the area to three feet and replace it to four feet. Work at this location will be done in December 2022 - 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. The truck route will be Birdseye St. to Main St. to Ferry Blvd. to Barnum Ave. Ext. to Longbrook and will be brought to the ballfield. Mr. DiLorenzo noted that the recent temporary road closures on Longbrook Ave. were not related to the Raymark cleanup, but rather improvements being made by the United Illuminating Co. 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, 41,114 cubic yards (3,568 trucks) has been removed from 18 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 are looking to building 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 June - August 2023.
- *Third Avenue ROW* – Per Mr. DiLorenzo, 35 Third Avenue was not involved in the original 1995 cleanup. Samples taken recently indicated no Raymark waste on the majority of the property. 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.

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. This will be a substantial cleanup, and the total volume estimate is approximately 16,000 cubic yards of Raymark waste. Work is tentatively schedule to begin in March 2023, and will take approximately nine months to complete. Mr. DiLorenzo stated there will be a separate meeting with the Housatonic Ave residents, Willow Ave residents, and nearby business owners before that work begins.

- *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. In 2014, a remedial design for the mounded cap was completed which would allow the cap to proceed to support development by a private developer. 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 and change the use from commercial to recreational. 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 in 2023.

B. RAYBESTOS MEMORIAL FIELD (OU4) UPDATE

- Work Completed or Ongoing Since September 2022

Mr. Looney noted approximately 40,000 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 stormwater conveyance line construction has begun, and the pumpstation contract has been awarded. 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 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 180' box culvert to date across East Main Street. They will then continue to move through the DPW and to the OU4 ballfield. That work should be done in Spring 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 pumphouse with underground pump channels. This is a significant system which should help improve some of the drainage issues in the general area.

Mr. Looney explained tree and brush clearing at the new pumpstation site is complete. 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 home inspections in the vicinity of the work. 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. Work is expected to begin this Winter pending review of the blast plan. Site access will be secured from the public.

D. AIR MONITORING

Ms. McPhee 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/m³ and at 0.019mg/m³ 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/m³. Ms. McPhee 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. McPhee, at 250 Ferry Blvd. there were five dust meters, five chemical collection systems and one vibration station. At this location, Raymark waste was excavated, backfilled with clean imported material, and site restoration done.

- Monitored Tasks –OU4 and Stormwater Conveyance System (SWC)

Ms. McPhee stated at OU4 there are five dust meters, five chemical collection systems and five vibration stations. At the Stormwater Conveyance System (SWC) there was no intrusive work in Raymark waste, so there were five vibration stations but no dust monitoring was done. A new soil sample was collected in the DPW area. Since the soil did not meet Raymark waste criteria, dust monitoring and chemical air sampling are not required for excavation in this area.

Air Monitoring Results – Since the September 28, 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. There were vibration exceedances at the stormwater channel between Oct. 31 and Nov. 10 due to sheet pile installation at the DPW excavation. Installation of a slide rail alternate shoring system was completed on Nov. 15 and is expected to eliminate future vibration concerns in this area. Ms. McPhee added there were no residential homes near the location of the vibration exceedances. They will be adding an additional meter at OU4 to monitor worker exposure.

E. PROJECT SCHEDULE

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

OU6

- 2023 Winter/Spring: Beacon Point
- 2023 Summer: Lockwood Avenue
- 2023 Fall: Blasius car dealership
- 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: Upper Ferry Creek (East Broadway to Broad St. bridge)

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.

OU5, OU7, OU8 and OU9: These are all in the remedial investigation stage.

VIII. QUESTIONS

- How can these slides be seen? Ms. Coleman stated this presentation is available on the Health Department's website www.stratfordct.gov/Raymark.
- How much sediment will be added to Ferry Creek? Per Mr. DiLorenzo, two feet of clean sediment will be added to Ferry Creek. It is probably contaminated more than 2', but they are doing this to create a clean bioactive zone.

- Mr. DiLorenzo explained the culvert under Ferry Blvd. and East Broadway has approximately 3 feet of sediment in it, as well as debris and growth that will be removed. In general, there will be better flow coming from there down to the Broad Street Bridge when this project is done.
- At Beacon Point AOC-1, how do you know that contamination does not extend into the adjacent property at the Tide Harbor condos? Mr. DiLorenzo stated a plethora of testing has been done at this site over the years. There is some Raymark waste on a small strip of land that Tide Harbor owns, but nothing comes into the parking lot. He added most of the project is Town-owned.
- Is every square inch of Wiz Auto being excavated? Mr. DiLorenzo explained they are excavating everything except for the building. There is most likely Raymark waste under many of the commercial buildings that are part of this cleanup, but the building itself provides protection. Additionally, they put institutional controls on the buildings, so if anyone in the future tears down the building or drills into the floor, there is a trigger there to ascertain they do not do so unwittingly.
- Residents of Tide Harbor condos are concerned with work being done next to it. When that remediation is complete, how will you grade that property to ensure the Tide Harbor parking lot will not get flooded anytime there is a storm surge or heavy rains? Mr. DiLorenzo noted that while part of the parking lot already floods at times of extreme high tides, the part currently being excavated does not. They are concerned with coastal resiliency and sea level rise, so they worked with CT DEEP and Town officials and decided to raise the parking lot area by one foot, which will protect that part of the parking lot. They cannot do anything about the lower part of the parking lot because they are not working on that section. The dock will also be raised one foot after they excavate and remove material under it. Regarding coastal flooding, raising a small section along the entire coast is not going to offset and flood adjacent properties. What will flood from a coastal surge is anything at that elevation. Regarding stormwater runoff, they will ascertain it is graded in such a way that no rainwater can get trapped behind the parking lot. Rather, it will go to the drainage swale to the left and to the coastal area to the right. No water will get trapped there that is stormwater related and not coastal related.
- How many pump stations are in Stratford? Per Mr. Casey, there are three stormwater pump stations in Town: Ferry Creek, Hamilton Avenue and Platt Street.
- (*question unclear*) Mr. DiLorenzo explained the cap is being built because currently, rainwater at the ballfield percolates through Raymark waste. They will be adding an impermeable cap over it to prevent the public from coming into contact with the waste, as well as to prevent any further leaching of the rainwater through the site. The rainwater will therefore collect above-ground and will need to be managed. Per Mr. DiLorenzo, there is not enough real estate to manage it on the property due to the amount of water they will be producing, and therefore need to tie into the existing municipal system. The current system in that area of Town is already undersize for existing conditions and must be upgraded to accommodate the additional water from OU4. This will make an improvement to the entire drainage area out of necessity to manage the water they are shedding.
- (*question unclear*) Mr. DiLorenzo stated for the consolidation remedy, the decision was made to excavate down to 4-feet, which makes it safe. At Beacon Point AOC-2, Raymark Waste is already 8-feet down, so it will stay in place under the parking lot. An

Environmental Land Use Restriction has been put on that property so if anyone in the future has to go out and dig deeper than 8 feet, they will know there is Raymark waste there.

- Why does contaminated waste need to stay in Town rather than sending it offsite? Mr. DiLorenzo Stated it was determined the best choice was to keep it in place due to the large volume of Raymark waste already there, as well as for economic concerns (\$100million to cap in place vs. \$350million to ship it out). He added the remediated areas will be managed by CT DEEP in perpetuity.
- How do you do the work at Beacon Point when the parking lot is flooded at high tide? Ms. Coleman noted the work is actually not happening in AOC-2.
- Is there anything you need to do in that area if it does flood? Per Mr. DiLorenzo, if AOC-2 floods, residents will still have access to AOC-1 and AOC-3.
- What does the banking of OU3 Ferry Creek entail? How long will the 2' sediment removal and banking take? Mr. DiLorenzo explained there are two issues at Ferry Creek. The first is the sediment itself was contaminated by the leaching of waste through the former lagoon system at the former Raymark facility. As waste was discharged to the lagoons, it seeped into the ground, contaminated the groundwater and also flowed in the culverts and into Ferry Creek. The sediment in Ferry Creek was not contaminated by the dumping of Raymark waste, but rather by the transporting of contaminants from surface water flow that came out of the leaching of those chemicals from the former lagoons. The sediment channel is being remediated to the top 2-feet to address ecological concerns to avoid a food chain exposure in the environment and replacing it with 2' of clean sediment. The second issue is there is traditional Raymark waste fill in portions of the Ferry Creek banks that needs to be removed as well. Those portions will get excavated down to 4'. Per Ms. Coleman, there will be a special Raymark meeting specific to the Ferry Creek cleanup when they have more details. Mr. DiLorenzo stated that work is expected to begin in March or April, and will take nine months to complete. He anticipates having a neighborhood meeting on that sometime in January or February 2023.
- Regarding the raising of the parking lot at Beacon Point and the docks, how does that affect the boat ramps? Will there be a redesign of the entire public ramp? Mr. DiLorenzo stated they will not be extending into the boat ramp area. The excavation will extend into the driveway that goes over a drainage culvert and the dock that is at the lower end – not the fishing pier. That will be excavated, and when it is put back, will be reconfigured to buffer the wetland better and raise the 1-foot for coastal resiliency. He added there will be no loss of parking spots. The area of pavement will remain the same; it will just be redesigned to be more protective of the shoreline.
- Will Ferry Creek have a cement liner or just be dredged soil? Per Mr. DiLorenzo, it will be replaced with sediment in the bottom in the channel. The banking will include planting and rip rap in some areas as needed. There will be no armoring anywhere.
- What are the tall black poles behind the Wiz parking lot close to the creek? Are these lights? Where will they be directed? Mr. DiLorenzo explained there were existing old aluminum light poles at the Wiz that had to be removed to excavate underneath them. They put in new light poles directed down toward the business.
- Are there any updated plans for OU2? Mr. DiLorenzo stated CT DEEP monitors the groundwater in OU2. Per Mr. Allevo, there are no big changes planned. The State

continues to monitor the groundwater through a series of wells that are located throughout OU2. They also continue to maintain 125 vapor mitigation systems that are installed in certain homes in that area. There are no other activities planned in the ongoing monitoring of the systems and the groundwater.

- What will Ferry Creek look like when the project is done? Will tall trees be replaced along the creek to replace all those being removed? Per Mr. DiLorenzo, there will be a replanting effort. They do not anticipate having to remove any trees along the residential side of the creek. They did, however, have to remove trees along the commercial side behind the Wiz, Hitchcock Marine, Blasius and behind the EPA office building. Those will be replanted at the end of the Ferry Creek project. The banks will also get some type of wetland vegetation to help reestablish a vegetative layer along the banking.

Ms. Coleman noted anyone who has further questions may contact her via email. Mr. DiLorenzo stated the next meeting will be held on January 25, 2023 at 6:30pm.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Coleman adjourned the meeting at 7:56pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Aileen Marsh

Recording Secretary