



# TOWN OF STRATFORD

---

## RAYMARK COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

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

#### TOWN REPRESENTATIVE IN ATTENDANCE

- Andrea Boissevain – Director of Health
- Alivia Coleman – Health Dept. Program Associate
- Kelly Kerrigan – Environmental Conservation Superintendent

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

- Jim DiLorenzo
- Dan Keefe
- Aaron Shaheen

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

- Michael Looney
- Rachel MacPhee
- Carl Niemitz

#### 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
- Joe Gresko – 121<sup>st</sup> District

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Various residents

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Coleman called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

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. STATUSA. 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. Mr. DiLorenzo stated there was Raymark waste found in “Stepped-Out Areas”. Work began on AOC-1 and AOC-3 on Nov. 27, 2022; waste removal is expected to be complete in March 2023. They have removed 11,484 cubic yards (925 trucks) of Raymark waste at these locations, as well as 457 cubic yards (53 trucks) of PHC waste. The excavation is done; the significant restoration is yet to be done. At AOC-1, 9,095 cubic yards (727 trucks) of Raymark Waste was removed as well as 131 cubic yards (13 trucks) of PHC was. Mr. DiLorenzo explained 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. They will excavate the area to three feet and replace it to four feet. This location is expected to be reopened by Memorial Day. At AOC-3, 2,389 cubic yards (198 trucks) of Raymark Waste was removed as well as 326 cubic yards (40 trucks) of PHC waste. The hurricane barrier was replaced, and rip rap enhanced. Work will be done by Memorial Day.
- OU6 Remediation Tracking Table

Mr. DiLorenzo stated to date, 52,597 cubic yards (4,486 trucks) has been removed from 20 properties and 5,564 cubic yards (529 trucks) was PHC waste removed from 10 properties. He noted not all properties had PHC waste, which is shipped off-site for final disposal.
- Remaining OU6 Properties

- *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 scheduled to be done the week of April 3 and take approximately one week to complete.
- *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.
- *Lockwood Avenue* – Most of this location, which is a big wetland and upland area, 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.
- *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 done, and is tentatively schedule 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 (approximately ½ mile). There are two components to this cleanup: the creek channel and the banking. Two feet of material has to be removed from the channels and 4 feet from the banks. There is also Raymark waste 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 9-10 months to complete. Mr. DiLorenzo stated clearing has begun, and mobilization will begin next month. Sections of the creek will need to be dried out as they work, so they will need a dewatering system for the shallow groundwater to get to the sediment. This will be a high activity project.

- *Morgan Francis (576/600 East Broadway)* – Mr. DiLorenzo explained this 6-acre property is owned by the Town. 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 for 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 Remedy Decision for this property, as well as the cap design, done by December 2023.

#### MAJOR QUALITY CONTROL ISSUES

Mr. DiLorenzo noted, in the interest of full transparency, there were three instances of quality control issues:

1. On Feb 20<sup>th</sup> dust and air monitors were not deployed. He explained they were working in the aforementioned “Step-Out” areas on a holiday when most if not all the project leaders were not working. Additionally, Mr. DiLorenzo stated they were working at the Beacon Point Marsh, an area with no residential homes nearby. The material being excavated was saturated, so there was no dust in the air. There were no receptors, and the work was done in less than two hours.
2. On Feb 27<sup>th</sup> there was a truck hauling Raymark Waste with a tarp that was not fully secure, although the roll bar on top was secure. Mr. DiLorenzo stated they are working with the contractor to ascertain this will not happen again.
3. On March 4<sup>th</sup>, the fence gate at OU4 was not secured. They are working with the contractor to ascertain this will not happen again.

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

- Work Completed or Ongoing Since January 2023

Mr. Looney noted approximately 53,000 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, adding the 95% compaction will be done in Spring when the weather is warmer.

Mr. Looney stated there are six air monitors at OU4 which are operating daily. Construction is underway for the stormwater conveyance line as well as the pumpstation. 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>. Mr. Looney explained the OU4 consolidation area has been reconfigured for stormwater purposes. There is a new primary access road, two new stormwater infiltration basins, and new stormwater storage tanks.

#### 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. Construction 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 pump station site is complete. Installation of sheet piles and a dewatering well point are complete. The dewatering system setup is complete and running. Excavation of the building footprint is underway. Blasting will be required to remove approximately 5'-12' of underground ledge (rock) within the pump station footprint. This will be controlled underground blasting. The contractor is Maine Drilling and Blasting. 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 Spring. Site access will be secured from the public.

#### 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 personnel chemical sample collection systems. She added Ms. Coleman is posting weekly air

monitoring reports, chemical data and vibration monitoring reports on the Town Raymark website.

- Monitored Tasks – OU4

Ms. MacPhee noted at OU4 there are six dust meters, five chemical collection systems and five vibration stations. A new 6<sup>th</sup> dust monitor was placed in the center of OU4 on 3/22/23. Mr. DiLorenzo stated the main engineering control is watering material to keep dust levels down, adding this was not needed in the past few months.

- Monitored Tasks – OU6 (Beacon Point)

Per Ms. MacPhee, at Beacon Point there are three dust meters, three chemical collection systems three vibration stations. At this location, Raymark waste is being excavated, and backfilled with clean imported material. The town dock was also demolished to allow for remediation and will be replaced when remediation is complete. Sheet piles were installed to support excavation near the coastline, and vibration monitoring was conducted during this work.

- Monitored Tasks – Stormwater Channel

Ms. MacPhee stated at the Stormwater Channel, they monitored work being done for the box culvert installation, helical pile installation, and excavating to pour helical pile caps.

- Air Monitoring Results – Since the January 2023 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.

- Vibration Results – Ms. MacPhee explained the vibration threshold of 0.5 inches/second was exceeded once on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Work was stopped as soon as the threshold was exceeded. It was determined the exceedance was caused by equipment being used to move material at 390 East Main Street. She noted corrective action was taken, and crews will work more carefully in the future, especially close to structures. Ms. MacPhee stated there were no additional vibration exceedances for the remainder of the reporting period.

#### D. PROJECT SCHEDULE

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

OU6

- Restoration Ongoing: Beacon Point
- Week of April 3: 635 East Broadway
- May 2023: Third Avenue ROW
- 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.

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

- Are you concerned with contamination draining from Upper Ferry Creek while work is being done on the lower part of the creek? Mr. DiLorenzo stated that is a concern, which is why temporary coffer dams are being used.
- Regarding the two places where water goes underneath Ferry Blvd., is any work being done on the actual road itself? Mr. DiLorenzo stated all three box culverts will be cleaned out as part of this action. They will build some temporary coffer dams on the headwall to keep the sediment above them. The road does not need to be ripped up to do this.
- Will you be ripping out the road? Per Mr. DiLorenzo, this will not need to be done, since the culverts just need to be cleaned out.
- Will there be any road closures while the work is being done? Mr. DiLorenzo does not expect there will be any road closures.
- Where will you be crossing East Main Street, and what is the traffic plan? Per Mr. DiLorenzo, the crossing will be across the DPW building to the corner of Avery Street. They will keep one lane open on East Main Street. The traffic plan will be sent to everyone on the email list. Ms. Coleman will also post the traffic plan online.
- There seems to be several mature trees that will come down to accommodate the new pump station on Platt Street. Mr. DiLorenzo stated new trees will be planted, adding there is a robust plan to rebuild a natural canopy.

Ms. Coleman noted anyone who has further questions may contact her via email. Mr. DiLorenzo stated the next meeting will be held on May 31, 2023 at 6:30pm.

#### IX. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Coleman adjourned the meeting at 7:36pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Aileen Marsh*

Recording Secretary