



TOWN OF STRATFORD

RAYMARK COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

March 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 virtual meeting on Wednesday March 30, 2022 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
- 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
- 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:

- Ellen Graham from Senator Richard Blumenthal's office
- Phil Young – 120th District

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Various residents

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Coleman called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

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.

III. STATUS

- *Ms. Coleman noted the recent death of Stratford native Joan Joyce, a Brakettes softball player and member of the Hall of Fame, and acknowledged Ms. Joyce's contribution to Stratford's history and women's sports.*

A. NEW EPA STRATFORD OFFICE – Mr. DiLorenzo stated the new EPA office/Raymark Cleanup Headquarters at 300 Ferry Blvd. (former Rotary Ski Shop) is now open. Inside are offices for EPA and USACE, Severson and its subcontractors. They have signed a 5-year lease, with an option to renew for an additional five years. There is a public entrance, and residents may enter the building whenever Severson or government personnel are in the office. Mr. DiLorenzo explained it is a strategic location for the cleanup as it is an OU6 parcel, which will allow crews greater access to two OU6 properties (Blasius South and The Wiz car dealerships) which will both need to be completely remediated, as well as the OU3 Ferry Creek area.

B. OU6 PROPERTIES UPDATE

- Vacant Lots Behind Blue Goose Restaurant

Mr. DiLorenzo stated crews began clearing trees on 1/18/2022. They also laid a gravel road to keep the trucks from driving on Raymark waste. Excavation began February 2nd. 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 1,500 yards is PHC waste, which was originally estimated to be only 660 yards. To date, 7,600 cubic yards of Raymark Waste has been removed, of which 755 cubic yards was PHC waste.

Mr. DiLorenzo explained there was an abandoned foundation, which was removed within the past two weeks. He noted it came out easier than expected, so they are on schedule with work expected to be complete in April. Per Mr. DiLorenzo, they brought in a tire wash station to keep dirt off Ferry Blvd. The site will be restored as a grassy area with trees by the residential homes and the restaurant.

- OU6 Remediation Tracking Table

Mr. DiLorenzo noted the OU6 excavation of Raymark waste began in Sept. 2020. To date, 25,350 cubic yards (2,140 trucks) has been removed from 16 properties. Of that, 2,057 cubic yards (177 trucks) was PHC waste removed from 7 properties. Per Mr. DiLorenzo, 10-12% of all the waste to be removed is expected to contain PHC waste.

- Beacon Point

Per Mr. DiLorenzo, when work at the Ferry Blvd. vacant lots is complete, Severson is then expected to begin work at Beacon Point. Mr. DiLorenzo explained there are three distinct areas of concern (AOCs) at this location. ACO-1 is located at the end of Birdseye Street. It is mostly on Town property, with a small portion on a private boat yard. There is approximately 3,500 cubic yards of Raymark waste at AOC-1. Per Mr. DiLorenzo, work is expected to begin sometime in April and will be done by late June/early July, when the boating season starts. 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. AOC-3, which is between the Water Pollution Treatment Plant and condos, is a large area, and they are still trying to find the edge as it extends to the parking lot. There are approximately 7,700 yards of Raymark waste at this location, of which 250 yards is expected to be PHC waste. Work at this location will be done in the Fall, after the boating season ends, and will be done by the end of the year.

- Hitchcock Marina

After Beacon Point AOC-1 and before AOC-3, 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. This is expected to take six weeks to complete.

- OU6 Air Monitoring Results

Mr. Heislein discussed the air monitoring results for the soil excavation and restoration at the vacant lots. The Daily Average Dust Measurements were 0.000 to 0.013 mg/m³. There were no exceedances of the OU6 Dust Action Level criteria (0.019 mg/m³). There are two dust meters /chemical sample collection systems in operation, as well as one personnel chemical sample collection system. The meters are moved around to where the work is being done, and crews are cautious about the nearby homes. Per Mr. Heislein, there were no health and safety risks to workers or residents. There is also a dedicated water truck at OU6 to manage dust. He added Ms. Coleman is posting weekly air monitoring reports, chemical data and vibration monitoring reports on the Town Raymark website.

C. RAYBESTOS MEMORIAL FIELD (OU4) UPDATE

- Work Completed or Ongoing Since January 2022

Mr. Looney noted approximately 25,000 cubic yards of material has been consolidated, compacted and covered. Due to the cold and wet conditions in the Winter, waste was stockpiled and covered. Now that it's Spring, this material is being spread and compacted to 95%. A Posi-shell cover has been applied on all Raymark waste which has previously been brought to the ballfield. 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>. He noted the contract has been awarded for the stormwater conveyance line. Additionally, the former ballfield/OU4 site and cap design are complete.

- OU4 Consolidation Area

Mr. Looney explained the OU4 consolidation area has been expanded beyond the ballfield proper. The original area was within the baseball infield & outfield area. Material is currently being stockpiled in the area that was right field toward the fabric structure. Per Mr. Looney, work at the vacant lots should be complete by the end of April. Approximately 10,000 cubic yards of material from the vacant lots is being brought to OU4 to be spread and compacted. When work begins at Beacon Point, material will be spread to other parts of OU4. Eventually, almost the entire OU4 parcel will be capped. The new area to which material will be brought needs additional clearing, but they will leave a vegetative buffer along the edge of the barrier on Clinton and will leave as many trees for as long as they can, to provide an extra buffer and allow vegetation that was previously planted along the barrier to grow.

- OU4 Cap and Site Design

Mr. Looney explained the OU4 design is complete. 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 January 26, 2022 public meeting, the Daily Average Dust level was 0.003 to 0.013mg/m³. There were no exceedances of the OU4 Dust Action Level criteria (0.014 mg/m³). 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 there was one day with a high moisture level, which

was due to fog. Mr. Heislein noted Ms. Coleman continues to post weekly air monitoring reports, chemical data and vibration monitoring reports on the Town Raymark website.

D. STORMWATER SYSTEM AND PUMP STATION

Mr. Looney stated the OU4 stormwater system design 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 awarded this construction contract to Severson, who in turn subcontracted it to JJ Brennan of CT, who will be doing a majority of the construction. Work is expected to begin in late May, and is expected to take approximately twelve months to complete.

Per Mr. Looney, bids are currently under review for the new pump station contract. 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. Construction is expected to take 18 months.

E. 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 is also complete.

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 is nearly complete.
- April – Dec. 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. Mr. Keefe discussed an Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD) for Morgan Francis, adding they will seek public input on this area.
- 2024: Construction of OU4 cap is expected to be done by the end of 2024.

VIII. QUESTIONS

- What is the schedule for Beacon Point AOC-1? Per Mr. DiLorenzo, work is expected to begin early May and be done by the end of June.
- Will this affect the April 30 Housatonic River cleanup? Mr. DiLorenzo and Ms. Coleman will discuss this with Mayor Hoydick after the meeting.
- Regarding the Birdseye parking lot, after the work is done can the Town pave it? Mr. DiLorenzo stated there are no restrictions to prevent it from being paved.
- Was Tanners Brook previously remediated? Per Mr. DiLorenzo, that will be part of the Ferry Creek cleanup.

- Will the box culvert be exposed? Mr. Looney stated it will be underground. Mr. DiLorenzo stated it is a gravity flow system, so it will be very deep.
- Will 40% of the needed work be complete by the end of 2022? Mr. DiLorenzo explained that by the end of the year, half of the volume is expected to be removed.

Ms. Coleman noted anyone who has further questions may contact her via email. Mr. DiLorenzo stated the next meeting will be held on May 25, hopefully at the new EPA office. Mr. DiLorenzo added they will send out an update at the end of April.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Coleman adjourned the meeting at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Aileen Marsh

Recording Secretary