



TOWN OF STRATFORD

RAYMARK COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

May 25, 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 May 25, 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 10th District
- Laura Hoydick – Mayor
- Kelly Kerrigan – Environmental Conservation Superintendent
- Bill O’Brien – Town Council 9th District

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Jim DiLorenzo
- Darriel Swatts

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

- David Heislein
- Michael Looney
- Carl Niemitz

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

- Tony Allevo

STATE REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE:

- Phil Young – 120th 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 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. NEW EPA STRATFORD OFFICE – Mr. DiLorenzo stated the new EPA office/Raymark Cleanup Headquarters at 300 Ferry Blvd. (former Rotary Ski Shop) opened in mid-March. 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. This fulfills the EPA’s 2016 promise to provide public access to those working on this project. He added there are approximately twelve people working in the office daily. There is a sewer line that is partially collapsed, so some cleanup needs to be done in the parking lot. 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.
 - B. OU6 PROPERTIES UPDATE
 - Vacant Lots Behind Blue Goose Restaurant
Mr. DiLorenzo stated work began on January 18, and was completed on May 11. 9,622 cubic yards (905 trucks) of Raymark Waste was removed, of which 1,362 cubic yards was PHC waste. The parking lot was repaved and striped, and the fence replaced. The gravel on the site was compacted. In the rear of the property, especially near residential homes, approximately 40 border trees and arborvitaes were planted.
 - DOT Right-Of-Way
This area, directly across the street from the EPA office, was remediated last Fall. Mr. DiLorenzo explained post-remediation sampling indicated additional material needs to be removed, including some on the dry cleaners’ property located 635 Ferry Blvd. A second excavation was done on 3-31-2022, at which time 48 cubic yards (6 trucks) was removed. The southern and northern ends were done, leaving only a grassy wetland area in the middle area to be remediated. A third excavation will be

done in July 2022 at 635 Ferry Blvd. to remove approximately 150 cubic yards (20 trucks) of Raymark waste, and will take 3-4 days to complete.

- Quail Street/Wooster Park

Mr. DiLorenzo stated this project was completed on 1-6-2022. 4,872 cubic yards (433 trucks) of Raymark was removed, as well as 130 cubic yards (15 trucks) of PHC waste. The site restoration was completed on May 6, with loam, grass seed, shrubs and trees, which were wrapped to retain moisture.

- Third Avenue

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 of 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.

Mr. DiLorenzo explained an unexpected situation arose when Aquarion was installing a water line in this area. EPA was concerned there was Raymark waste under this stretch of road. All of the homes on the odd-numbered side of the road had Raymark waste removed in the 1990's, which extended to the Town ROW and pavement at several locations. The EPA field crew was mobilized, as well as the mobile laboratory. They completed ten sample borings, nine of which did not contain Raymark waste. Aquarion has since finished installing the water line, and are making sub-connections under the roadway rather than going into the yards where there might be Raymark waste.

- OU6 Remediation Tracking Table

Mr. DiLorenzo noted the OU6 excavation of Raymark waste began in Sept. 2020. To date, 28,243 cubic yards (2,434 trucks) has been removed from 16 properties. Of that, 2,664 cubic yards (231 trucks) was PHC waste removed from 7 properties. This was sent to the ballfield to be treated for lead in the fabric structure. It is then shipped out of state for final disposal.

- Hitchcock Marina (230 Ferry Blvd.)

After Beacon Point AOC-1 and before AOC-3, crew will return to Hitchcock Marina on Ferry Blvd. Approximately 25-30% of the property has Raymark waste under it. 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-June. This will provide crew greater access to the area and will have a minimum impact on the business. There is approximately 3,500 cubic yards of Raymark waste there, as well as 500 cubic yards of PHC waste. Remediation should be complete by late August.

- Beacon Point

Per Mr. DiLorenzo, work at this area will begin after Labor Day following completion of the marina. There are three distinct areas of concern (AOCs) at this location. AOC-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 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 they are still trying to find the edge as it extends to the parking lot. 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. Work at this location will be done in the Sept. 2022, after the boating season ends, and will be completed by May 2023.

- Morgan Francis (576/600 East Broadway)

Mr. DiLorenzo explained this wooded property, which is located at 576/600 East Broadway and backs up onto Blakeman Place, is an OU6 property. 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, but it did not include any type of re-use since the property contains a significant amount of peat, which makes it unable to support any type of building or structure. There was a developer interested in the property, however, so EPA negotiated with the developer for almost five years regarding a plan to share costs to do things such as putting in the piles, since Superfund monies cannot be used to pay for such. This cost-sharing arrangement would allow the cleanup to continue, and allow the cap to proceed to support development by the private developer, who was contemplating using the site for a storage unit facility. In that five-year timeframe, two other storage unit facilities were built, and negotiations with the developer ended. Given that failure, the status of the current cleanup, and the influx of infrastructure money the EPA recently received, the 2014 cap design is being updated for passive re-use, which the site can support, such as soccer and/or lacrosse fields. The EPA will work with the Town to do a more formal re-use assessment, and work with the USACE to update the design for that property. Mr. DiLorenzo explained this property abuts two other areas that need to be remediated – the upper-most part of Ferry Creek (from the I-95 culvert to the East Broadway culvert) as well as an area behind it that is owned by DOT (lot abutting I-95 North). Since both of those areas have approximately 5,000 cubic yard of Raymark waste, it would be capped at Morgan Francis rather than trucking it across Town to the ballfield.

- OU6 Air Monitoring Results

Mr. Heislein discussed the air monitoring results for the soil excavation that was done through April 28, and restoration at the vacant lots through May 20. The Daily Average Dust Measurements were 0.001 to 0.006mg/m³. There were no exceedances of the OU6 Dust Action Level criteria (0.019 mg/m³). There are three 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 were no chemical action levels exceeded. On April 13, chemical analysis found wood fibers, but no asbestos, in the dust sample. There is 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 March 2022

- Mr. Looney noted approximately 28,000 cubic yards of material has been consolidated, compacted and covered to date. Although almost half of the scheduled properties have been completed, this figure is 1/3 of the total volume which will go to the ballfield. Some of the bigger OU6 properties and Ferry Creek (ou3) have some of the most significant volume, which will be brought to the ballfield. A Posi-shell cover has been applied on all Raymark waste which has previously been brought to the ballfield. Any waste that was handled during the day 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. Per Mr. Looney, landscaping maintenance has recently been completed along the sound barrier. Previously, trees and shrubs had been planted along the residential side of the sound barrier to screen the barrier. Recently 5-10 trees that were stressed or had recently died have been replaced. Substantial weeding and clearing was also done along the entire length of the barrier. Additional tree clearing has also been done at OU4 for the expansion of the consolidation area. There is, however, a vegetative buffer along the edge of the property – a row of trees at the barrier where the residences are, and toward Contract Plating there is a row of trees. They hope to maintain as many trees as possible rather than clear-cutting the entire site. Anywhere the cap ends up going, however, will require trees to be removed. The stormwater conveyance line construction has begun, and the pumpstation contract has been awarded. As noted previously, the former ballfield/OU4 site and cap design is complete. Mr. Looney stated there are five air monitors at OU4 which are operating daily. The site cameras can be viewed online at <https://www.ipcamline.com/5fc7c13309700>.
- **OU4 Air Monitoring Results**

Mr. Heislein stated since the March 30, 2022 public meeting, the Daily Average Dust level was 0.002 to 0.012mg/m³. There were no exceedances of the OU4 Dust Action Level criteria (0.014 mg/m³), adding a higher value (0.075mg/m³) is used for workers in the middle of the field. 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. There were no chemical action level exceedances. If there were ever three consecutive 5-minute exceedance events, all work will immediately stop to determine a better way to proceed. Due to the expansion of the work area, they will relocate some of the meters. Two will remain at the first base line, as will the one closest to home plate. One of the meters on the first base line will be moved closer to the outfield. The one currently in center field will be moved to the border of Contract Plating. The air monitoring station by Metro North will remain, as well as the one on Frog Pond Lane. A sixth meter within OU4 will be added in the middle of the work area to monitor for dust, as well as for worker exposure and safety. 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 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. The system will be constructed in three phases.

- For Phase 1, construction in the open channel has begun, specifically preparation including clearing and access roads. This phase will continue until Nov. 2022.
- Phase 2 will overlap Phase 1. Brennan will begin work in July and continue through Nov. 2022. This work will go from OU4 through the DPW yard and stop at East Main St.
- Phase 3 will begin in Fall 2022 – Spring 2023. This work involves the middle portion of the conveyance system across the East Main St. intersection through Ashcroft.

Mr. Looney explained the reason for this sequence is due to the need to relocate a watermain line under East Main St. The pipe needed to do that work has an extremely long lead time to get it manufactured and delivered. The entire project is expected to take a year to complete.

The contract for the new pump station was awarded to P&S Construction. Work will begin sometime in Summer 2022. Work is expected to take 18-24 months to complete. It will have four axial flow pumps and a 200 cubic feet per second capacity, and will operate only during significant storm and high water events, and will be housed by a masonry pumphouse. Per Mr. Looney, this is a significant system which should help improve some of the drainage in the general area.

E. OVERALL PROJECT SCHEDULE

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

OU6

- 2022: Beacon Point and Hitchcock Marina, Third Ave. and 635 East Broadway
- Jan. 2023: Blasius South and The Wiz car dealership properties
- Spring/Summer 2023: Lockwood Avenue
- Fall 2023: EPA Headquarters (300 Ferry Blvd.).
- Part of Morgan Francis – DOT lot abutting I-95 North

OU3

- 2023: Upper Ferry Creek (East Broadway to Broad St. bridge)

OU4

- 2024: Final grading and construction of cap, as well as restoration.

VIII. QUESTIONS

- Regarding the drainage system on East Main St., will the culverts in the area be cleaned? Are you coordinating with Metro North on the bridge replacement? Per Mr. Looney, there is no specific tie-in at that location. They expect drainage will generally improve in the area because those lines will connect either into the new system being built or one nearby. Per Mr. Heislein, they are not allowed to connect at that part per the DOT. That

area drains off through the Ashcroft property, so where that line discharges, they are connecting in at the lower end. By putting in the needed box culvert and fixing the drainage channel downstream, they are providing a better discharge point that allows, once DOT corrects their point and fixes their lines immediately at and around East Main St., better flow from the East Main St. bridge to get through the pipe, out and down through the head wall and swale to the pump station. Mr. DiLorenzo explained the new pump station will be a significant improvement over the current one, as those pumps click on in major storm event and pump at 12 cubic feet per second. The new plant will be 200 cubic feet per second. Water should therefore flow more smoothly through the new system with that increased capacity.

- There is a Town-owned culvert under East Broadway. Will that be replaced as part of this project, or is that the Town's responsibility? Mr. DiLorenzo explained it will be assessed and cleaned as part of this project, but there is no current plan to replace it. Per Mr. Heislein, the stormwater associated with that is all part of the Morgan Francis property. When that design is getting revised, that consolidation area will be evaluated, including the stormwater system.

Ms. Coleman noted anyone who has further questions may contact her via email. Mr. DiLorenzo stated the next meeting will be held on July 27, possibly at the new EPA office. Mr. DiLorenzo added they will send out an update at the end of June.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Coleman adjourned the meeting at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Aileen Marsh

Recording Secretary