



TOWN OF STRATFORD

RAYMARK COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

May 31, 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 May 31, 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
- Raynae Serra – Director of Public Works

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Jim DiLorenzo
- Taylor Freeman
- Dan Keefe
- Aaron Shaheen

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

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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.

III. STATUS

A. OU6 PROPERTIES UPDATE

- 635 Ferry Blvd. - This location, previously called “DOT Right of Way”, had been remediated. Upon further sampling, however, it was determined there was additional 277 cubic yards (30 trucks) of Raymark waste which needed to be removed. This was done in April, and took two weeks to complete. Per Mr. DiLorenzo, no PHC waste was found, and all material went to the OU4 ballfield consolidation area. He noted the water in the drainage ditch on this property has high levels of iron draining from the Morgan Francis property at 600 East Broadway. Mr. DiLorenzo explained the sewer crossing there is acting as a temporary dam. The culverts under East Broadway and Ferry Blvd. are mostly blocked, and will be cleaned up and remediated as well.
- 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. Work began on AOC-1 and AOC-3 on Nov. 27, 2022; waste removal was completed March 23, 2023. They removed 11,484 cubic yards (925 trucks) of Raymark waste at these locations, as well as 457 cubic yards (53 trucks) of PHC waste. After the dock is complete, the parking lot will be repaved.

OU3 FERRY CREEK

Per Mr. DiLorenzo, this is the most significant area to be done this year. He explained they will be remediating a 1/3 mile section from Ferry Blvd. to the Broad St. bridge. Two feet of sediment will be removed from the entire channel, and 4 feet from the banks at some locations. 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. Mobilization began in March 2023, and will take approximately 9-10 months to complete. A groundwater treatment plant is being built in the vacant lot behind the Blue Goose Restaurant. A large bypass pipe has been installed to dewater the creek. It will extract surface water upstream of Broad Street and bypass it through the pipe, down through the pump station and into the lower part of Ferry Creek. This will reduce the amount of water in the creek. There will also be a secondary system to dewater each active area being remediated. Excavation is expected to take 6-9 months to complete.

- OU3/OU6 Remediation Tracking Table

Mr. DiLorenzo stated to date, 52,874 cubic yards (4,516 trucks) has been removed from 23 properties and 6,525 cubic yards (585 trucks) of PHC waste was removed from 14 properties. He noted not all properties had PHC waste, which is shipped off-site for final disposal.

- Remaining OU6 Properties

- *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. Work is tentatively scheduled to be done in Summer 2023, pending access approval from the property owner, and will take 2-3 weeks to complete.
- *Lockwood Avenue* – This location includes three parcels – one of which is hydraulically connected to wetlands. It is estimated there is 22,000 cubic yards of Raymark waste at this location. 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 2023-2024.
- *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 scheduled for late 2023/early 2024.

B. RAYBESTOS MEMORIAL FIELD (OU4) UPDATE

- Work Completed or Ongoing Since March 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 consolidation area has been reconfigured to accommodate expansion. This includes a new primary access road, new stormwater basins and a water treatment plant. There

are also new dump ramps, which allow trucks from OU3 and OU6 to enter the ballfield without having to drive through hazardous waste.

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>. Summer operations include grading, compaction and increased wetting.

C. STORMWATER CONVEYANCE SYSTEM AND PUMP STATION

Mr. Looney explained 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. Mr. Looney stated most of the culvert is done. Approximately 30' in the Ashcroft parking lot remains to be done, as well as the portion crossing East Main Street. That will be the last section of the conveyance line to be done and will take 4-6 weeks to complete. This work will involve a lane closure and/or detour, adding they are working closely with the Stratford Police Dept. and local businesses regarding such. Although it is a small area, Mr. Looney noted it involves 15'-20' BGS and significant utilities.

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 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 noted site access and preparation at the new pumpstation 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 pumpstation 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 Summer. Site access will be secured from the public.

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/m³ and at 0.019mg/m³ in the OU3 and 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. 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.

Monitored Tasks – OU4

Ms. Leonardi noted vibration and dust monitoring were done when appropriate at OU4 while workers were spreading and compacting Raymark Waste, as well as management of the Raymark waste in the treatment facility structure.

- Monitored Tasks – OU3

Per Ms. Leonardi, dust monitoring was done while workers were excavating PHC soil along Ferry Creek.

- Monitored Tasks – 635 East Broadway

Ms. Leonardi stated dust monitoring was done during the excavation and restoration at 635 East Broadway.

- Vibration Results

Ms. Leonardi explained the vibration threshold of 0.5 inches/second was exceeded in three short intervals on May 30. Work was stopped as soon as the threshold was exceeded. It was determined the exceedances were caused by moving equipment in the vicinity of the meter. She noted corrective action was taken, and crews will work more carefully in the future, especially close to structures and the monitors. Ms. Leonardi stated there were no additional vibration exceedances for the remainder of the reporting period.

- Air Monitoring Results

Per Ms. Leonardi, on April 19-20, there was an exceedance of the lead perimeter criteria at OU4. She explained the detection was upwind of the excavation work, adding it is likely that the source was offsite. She noted the average lead concentration for OU4 was four times under the NAADQ 90-day rolling average. There are therefore no immediate concerns for nearby residents. They will continue to review the air monitoring data and to track the average lead concentration for the site as work progresses. Ms. Leonardi stated on May 16, sample location AMS-2 at OU4 had fiber detection on the PCM analysis. TEM was run on that sample and came back negative for asbestos fibers.

One asbestos sample at OU4 from April 11-12 was lost during transport to the lab. The rest of the media at station 1 (copper, lead and PCB's) were all not detected. Asbestos did not exceed reporting criteria at other stations for the April 11-12 period, or the remainder of the week. Per Ms. Leonardi, there was a visible dust complaint at OU4 from a nearby resident to EPA. It was determined a tree subcontractor was dragging logs from along the barrier across the consolidated material (non-Raymark waste) to a waiting truck near the dump ramp. On that day, winds were gusting 20-25mph and variable. No mitigation was undertaken since the tree-moving work was complete immediately after this incident. Ms. Leonardi also explained the monitors picked up haze caused by the Canadian wildfires on May 30.

D. MORGAN FRANCIS UPDATE

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. 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, and is at the 60% design phase. Mr. DiLorenzo explained they plan to consolidate Raymark waste from abutting OU6 and OU3 properties (DOT lot and Upper 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.

E. EXPLANATION OF SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES (ESD)

Mr. DiLorenzo stated that an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) documents significant changes to previous EPA cleanup decision document, known as a Record of Decision (ROD). This first ROD was done in 1995. There was a second ROD in 2011 for OU6 – Morgan Francis. Since then, changes have been made to the cap design. There are also plans to consolidate Raymark Waste from the abutting portion of the DOT property and Ferry Creek. There was also a 2016 Record of Decision, which needs to be revised to incorporate additional properties, non-excavation properties and stormwater changes. Mr. DiLorenzo noted there will be an informational public hearing regarding this in Summer 2023, as well as a 30-day comment period.

F. PROJECT SCHEDULE

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

OU6

- o Restoration Ongoing: Beacon Point
- o June 2023: Third Avenue ROW (possibly)
- o 2023 Summer - 2024: Lockwood Avenue (possibly)
- o 2023 Fall: Blasius car dealership (280 Ferry Blvd.)
- o Fall 2023 – Winter 2024: EPA Headquarters (300 Ferry Blvd.) – This will be done last.

OU3

- o 2023 April to December: Ferry Creek (East Broadway to Broad Street)

OU4

- o 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 Francis design and remedial action, the ESD and a Record of Decision for OU5 (Housatonic Boat Club property and adjacent Shore Road).

IV. QUESTIONS

- Is there a rat control plan in place? Mr. DiLorenzo stated Orkin has been hired to deploy mouse traps along Ferry Creek, will monitor the activity, and make any necessary adjustments as the work progresses.
- Will Morgan Francis waste not be capped in place? Per Mr. DiLorenzo, it will be capped in place, but there is an area of Ferry Creek that runs along and abuts that property. The original plan was to excavate that part of Ferry Creek and bring it to the ballfield. With the redesign of the cap, as well as a change in the tidal floodplain regulations, they can now spread the cap over the entire Morgan Francis property, which allows them to include a small amount of waste from adjacent properties.
- What is the purpose of the structure behind the Blue Goose restaurant? Per Mr. DiLorenzo, it is a temporary treatment system to treat contaminated groundwater from Ferry Creek. When the project is done, it will be removed.
- How do you access the pump station? Mr. Looney explained an easement was negotiated with Ashcroft to use the access road through their property.
- Who has domain over the access road? Mr. Looney stated USACE and EPA will have domain during the project. Afterward, it will then be transferred to the Town.
- Were any hazards created due to the hazed caused by the Canadian wildfires? Per Ms. Leonardi, there were none.
- If this were to happen again while work was being done, what would happen? Ms. Leonardi stated that if any thresholds were crossed, work would shut down.
- When work begins on Lockwood Avenue, how will you get equipment in the wetlands? Per Mr. DiLorenzo, there is an ongoing discussion regarding this. Since a plethora of this is a tidal wetland, they should be able to access it from Lockwood Avenue, keeping in mind the tide cycle. The use of a barge also remains a possibility.
- What is happening with the Ferry Blvd. northern wetland? Per Mr. DiLorenzo, this is a 1.5 acre wetland located across from Ubertis Restaurant. During the investigation work, they identified a potential culvert that connects the lower Ferry Creek area at Lockwood Ave. to the wetland area. They will be taking some sediment samples in late August to determine if remediation is needed there.
- What will you do about the blocked culvert tidegate? Mr. DiLorenzo explained if they see Raymark waste there, the DOT has regulatory authority over that area, so if it is not handled as part of the Superfund project, it will be handled by DOT.
- Mr. Keefe stated there will be an OU5 Public Outreach. Since it will be a remedy decision (ROD), it will also include a Public Hearing in addition to informational meetings. A hearing will occur during the public comment period specific to OU5 and allow residents to submit their comments on record by way of their oral comments. They will also accept formal comments by email and USPS mail. All comments received will be responded to in a “Responsiveness Summary” prepared by EPA.
- Is consolidation from OU5 to OU4 off the table? Mr. Keefe stated while some high-level qualitative discussion about in-Town consolidation is mentioned, the alternatives evaluated all consider out of Town disposal. Mr. DiLorenzo added it will definitely not be brought to the OU4 ballfield.
- On Frog Pond Lane, the plantings need to be replaced. Per Mr. DiLorenzo, there is no current plan to do so, but he will speak with the landscaper regarding such.
- When will there be a financial overview? Mr. DiLorenzo will address this at the July 26 meeting.

Ms. Coleman noted anyone who has further questions may contact her via email. Mr. DiLorenzo stated the next meeting will be held on July 26, 2023 at 6:30pm.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Coleman adjourned the meeting at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Aileen Marsh

Recording Secretary