



TOWN OF STRATFORD

RAYMARK COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

July 26, 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 July 26, 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
- Bill O’Brien – Town Council 9th District
- Raynae Serra – Director of Public Works

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Jim DiLorenzo
- Taylor Freeman
- Dan Keefe
- Darriel Swatts

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

- Dave Heislein
- John Hulbert
- Michael Looney
- Rachel Leonardi
- 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

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. OU3/OU6 UPDATES

- OU3 Ferry Creek Remediation - Per Mr. DiLorenzo, this is the most significant area to be done this year in terms of volume and complexity. 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. 277 cubic yards of PHC waste was removed first, and is being processed to be sent out-of-state. Severson mobilized March – June, and excavation began in late June. Work is scheduled to be done by late October/mid-November. Mr. DiLorenzo explained the dual-phase dewatering system, which uses a 24-inch bypass pipe using the treatment plant, with the water then being discharged to the Water Pollution Control facility.
- OU3 Box Culvert – Mr. DiLorenzo explained how the 10’x8’ box culvert at East Broadway and Ferry Blvd. was cleaned. He noted a construction haul road was built on the commercial side only of the bank. Temporary dams are stood up to create cells for excavation. Along Ferry Creek, approximately 4’-6’ of sediment is removed on average.
- OU3 Status – Mr. DiLorenzo stated approximately 4,000 cubic yards of Raymark waste has been removed, as well as 727 cubic yards of PHC waste. Roughly 450-feet of the creek is complete, which incorporates Ferry Blvd. to behind the Blasius car dealership. The first third of the creek is done, mostly behind the car dealerships. Mr. DiLorenzo noted that although there were four major rain events since the excavation began, there have been no significant problems. He expects excavation to be complete in November 2023.

- Beacon Point Area - Per Mr. DiLorenzo, there are three distinct areas of concern (AOCs) at this location. Work at AOC-1 and AOC-3 is 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. 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. The dock is complete, and the parking lot was reconfigured away from the shoreline while adding more spaces, and repaved.
- OU3/OU6 Remediation Tracking Table
Mr. DiLorenzo stated to date, 56,660 cubic yards (4,899 trucks) has been removed from 23 properties and 6,381 cubic yards (598 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 early September, per the wishes of the property owner.
 - *Remaining Ferry Blvd. properties* – Mr. DiLorenzo explained there is an area behind Big Jim’s Galley and Hitchcock Marine (Phase 2) which will be done in 2023. Remediation behind Blasius South is expected to be done in Fall 2023. 300 Ferry Blvd. (EPA office) will be the last property to done, and is tentatively scheduled for late 2023/early 2024
 - *Lockwood Avenue* – Mr. DiLorenzo noted this is the most significant of the OU6 properties left to be done. This 4.8-acre location includes three parcels – one of which is hydraulically connected to wetlands. It is estimated there is 20,000 cubic yards of Raymark waste at this location, but no PHC waste. Phase 1 of this work will be cleanup of the tidal wetlands, and Phase 2 will be cleanup of the upland/inland wetland area. This will include various channels and culverts, including stormwater, Selby Pond and Ferry Blvd. wetlands. 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.
 - *576/600 East Broadway (Morgan Francis)* – Mr. DiLorenzo stated 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 44,000 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. Contracting is expecting in 2024, and cleanup is scheduled to start in early 2025.

B. RAYBESTOS MEMORIAL FIELD (OU4) UPDATE

- Work Completed or Ongoing Since May 2023

Mr. Looney noted approximately 57,000 cubic yards of material has been consolidated, compacted and covered to date. The OU4 stormwater treatment plant was constructed and is operational. The stormwater conveyance line construction is complete, and the final restoration is underway. The pumpstation construction is also underway. OU4 has been reconfigured to include a new primary access road, two new stormwater retention basins, as well as a water treatment plant that is used to store and treat excess stormwater when needed. Per Mr. Looney, material from Ferry Creek is processed in the tent structure to dry it out before being added to the ballfield.

Mr. Looney stated there are six air monitors at OU4 which are operating daily. 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.

Mr. Looney showed a 3-D model based on the current design for the future reuse of the OU4 ballfield. He noted the center of the ballfield will have five feet of structural fill, and a 200' x 300' building pad for future development by the Town that will accommodate a variety of options such as a building. There is access from Frog Pond Lane and Longbrook avenue via the Haul Road. Site stormwater will be collected and carried via the new conveyance system and pumpstation.

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 the box culvert is done. Restoration work will continue for another month, including paving on East Main Street and through Ashcroft. Per State regulations, they must wait 30 days to allow the work area to settle prior to paving. Mr. Looney reiterated the purpose of the box culvert is to carry stormwater from the OU4 retention basins to the open channel, then to the new pump station and eventually to the Housatonic River.

Per Mr. Looney, the contract for the new pump station was awarded to P&S Construction. Construction is underway and is expected to be complete by December 2024. 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 is complete. The dewatering system setup is complete and running. Excavation of the building footprint is underway. Mr. Looney explained the building is approximately 100'x100', and they are excavating 30' down. There is also 5'-12' of ledge that must be removed. Part of the excavation requires an extensive dewatering system. There

have been significant delays due to managing groundwater at the bottom of the excavation site. Blasting is scheduled to begin at the end of August, and the excavation should be done sometime in the Fall.

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 – 2pm. Mr. Looney estimates there will be approximately 15-20 blast events over a period of three weeks. Per Mr. Looney, line drilling will be done prior to the blasting. 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.

Ms. Leonardi stated their goal is to better track and identify site-specific impacts of work being done during poor Air Quality days. *This applies only to OU4 when the EPA's Air Quality Index (AQI) is greater than 75.* There is one air monitor upwind and 1-2 stations downwind (based on wind direction) to consolidate the monitoring footprint around the work area. Per Ms. Leonardi, the difference between upwind and downwind stations is indicative of site-specific impacts to dust. They continue to collect chemical data from all five OU4 air monitoring stations. An Early Detection Station will continue to be used to focus on worker safety. Once the AQI drops below 75, they revert to the standard procedure.

- Air Monitoring Results

Per Ms. Leonardi, sustained high dust levels due to high AQI have been seen periodically throughout June and July. The daily average action levels at all five OU4 perimeter stations and the OU4 early detection station were exceeded on June 6, 7 and 8. The levels for the early detection station were between 0.189 and 0.231. The levels for the perimeter stations were between 0.024 and 0.036. Ms. Leonardi stated elevated dust levels were seen at all three OU3 meters as well, but the daily average action levels were not exceeded.

The new AQI procedure was implemented on June 30. The OU4 early detection station exceeded its action level on June 12 (0.076mg/m³) and on June 30

(0.145mg/m³). No exceedances, however, were identified at the perimeter stations; thus, there were no impacts to abutters. One June 12, all five sample locations at OU4, as well as S1 and S2 at OU3, had fiber detections on the PCM analysis. Ms. Leonardi explained a TEM analysis was run on all the June 12 samples collected, and all came back negative for asbestos fibers. She noted, however, that cellulose was detected in all samples.

- Vibration Results

Ms. Leonardi explained the vibration threshold of 0.5 inches/second was exceeded on June 6 at OU4 meters VM-1, VM-2 and VM-5 between 0.604 and 0.913 in/sec. On June 9, there was one exceedance at VM-2 at 0.865 in/sec. Per Ms. Leonardi, there exceedances occurred around 6:00pm on June 6 and 3:15pm on June 9, and were associated with thunderstorms. These exceedances occurred after work was concluded for the day and were not associated with site activities.

On June 12 and June 20 there were vibration exceedances at 390 East Main Street between 0.646 in/sec and 0.779 in/sec. These were caused by moving equipment, as well as work in the trench box and H Piles. They were short in duration (1-2 minutes). Ms. Leonardi noted there were no complaints by the abutters on either side of the work area. She added the stormwater channel project is now complete.

On July 14, there were exceedances at all OU4 meters between 0.5285 in/sec and 0.8959 in/sec. On July 18, there were exceedances at all OU4 meters between 0.6513 in/sec and 1.0988 in/sec. Per Ms. Leonardi, the exceedances on July 14 and July 18 were due to passing thunderstorms. Additionally, the sound level microphone for OU4 VM-1 began failing a sensor check on July 3, which may have been caused by moisture from recent storms. She stated no additional vibration exceedances were reported for this monitoring period.

D. PENDING EPA REMEDY DECISIONS

i. HOUSATONIC BOAT CLUB AND SHORE ROAD (OU5) RECORD OF DECISION (ROD)

Mr. DiLorenzo stated a Proposed Plan will be distributed soon. They recommend a combination of excavation and capping in place. The issue of Coastal Resiliency will be considered. He noted there will be a Public Information meeting on August 8 at 6:30pm. There will be a formal public hearing on September 6 at 6:30pm, after which there will be a 30-day public comment period. Ron Jennings is the EPA Project Manager for OU5.

ii. 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). These changes include floodplain changes at Morgan Francis, Beacon Point and Lockwood Avenue. A change will also be made to the plan to manage stormwater at OU4. It will also include a less than 4-foot excavation at a DOT property along I-95. Per Mr. DiLorenzo, an information flyer/draft ESD will be mailed by August 1. There will be a public meeting on August 15 at 6:30pm. There will be a 15-day comment period from August 15-30. They plan to issue the final ESD in September. Mr. Keefe noted the OU5 and ESD meetings will be held via TEAMS rather than GoToMeeting.

E. CONSOLIDATION REMEDY SCHEDULE

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

OU6

- August 2023: Third Avenue ROW (possibly)
- 2023 Fall – 2024 Spring: 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 pump station will happen concurrently with the aforementioned schedule, as well as the Morgan Frances design and remedial action, the ESD and a Record of Decision for OU5 (Housatonic Boat Club property and adjacent Shore Road).

F. RAYMARK BUDGET FOR CONSOLIDATION REMEDY – OUs 3, 4 & 6

Mr. DiLorenzo explained the 2016 ROD Cost Estimate was \$95million. The remediation costs to date are \$64million. The supporting infrastructure (barrier, haul road and stormwater) costs is \$38million. The remaining estimated costs for the OU6 properties, OU4 operations and cap is \$35-40million. The overall actual estimated cost is approximately \$140million. Per Mr. DiLorenzo, this is due to the increased volume including additional properties. There are also significant inflation increases in labor, fuel and material costs. He noted the project was made whole and fully funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill – approximately \$70million.

IV. QUESTIONS

- What is the timing for the East Main Street – Phase 2 traffic diversion? Mr. Looney will send it via email when the schedule becomes available.
- When will the pumpstation be done? Mr. Looney stated it is scheduled to be completed by December 2024.
- What is the impact to groundwater from the blasting? Mr. Looney explained the groundwater will be removed prior to the blasting. The pumps are working continuously 24/7. The drilling will not be completely dry, it will be manageable.
- Has the groundwater been tested? Per Mr. Looney, it has been tested and is not contaminated.
- How are you getting water to the pump station? Mr. Looney stated the culvert currently goes into the open channel behind Ashcroft. The water goes into the existing pumpstation. The culvert currently is not overloading the existing pumpstation. There is no flow going through the new culvert yet. When OU4 cap construction begins, flow may be diverted to the new culvert.
- Can the Town get money back from the State for the infrastructure repairs? Mr. DiLorenzo explained it cannot, but noted the State contributes 10% of the cleanup costs.

- Councilman Bill O’Brien thanked everyone for the presentation. He questioned if the administration discussed discrepancies between the Morgan Francis 60% Design and what was approved by the Parks & Recreation Committee. Mr. DiLorenzo stated it was changed, and Field Turf Director of Design & Construction Chris Hulk reconfigured the design, adding the concept and capping plan is coming together.

Ms. Coleman noted anyone who has further questions may contact her via email. The next meeting will be held on September 27, 2023 at 6:30pm.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Coleman adjourned the meeting at 7:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Aileen Marsh

Recording Secretary