



TOWN OF STRATFORD

RAYMARK COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

July 27, 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 hybrid meeting on Wednesday July 27, 2022 in-person at Raymark Headquarters, 300 Ferry Blvd., Stratford CT and 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
- Chris Tymniak – CAO

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Jim DiLorenzo
- Aaron Shaheen
- Darriel Swatts

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

- Scott Bucek
- Pat Devine
- David Heislein
- Michael Looney
- Rachel McPhee

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

- Tony Allevo

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Meg Harvey

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Allison Dodge, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro’s Office
- 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 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. STATUS

A. PROJECT OVERVIEW

Mr. DiLorenzo explained EPA in Washington granted this a “mission critical project” status during the pandemic. Construction of the haul road and installation of the OU4 barriers began in March 2019 and was completed in November 2020.

Through USACE, Severson was hired to demolish the grandstands, remove debris and small outbuildings. Work began in July 2020 and was completed in November 2020. In Spring 2021, a temporary fabric structure was installed on the edge of the property. It is a negative pressure structure whereby any separation or dewatering will happen in that tent prior to placement in its final point of consolidation. There are now two live-stream cameras at OU4 – one overlooking the consolidation area and one overlooking the paved area where the stormwater collects.

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. 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.

- 380 East Main Street (Glynn Manufacturing) – Mr. DiLorenzo stated this was the first of the OU6 removals, took two days to excavate, and was completed by Sept. 17, 2020. It was estimated 40 yards of material would be removed, and 52 cubic yards (4

trucks) was actually removed. He added they accessed some of the waste through a neighboring property.

- 200 Ferry Blvd. (Liquor Store) – Mr. DiLorenzo explained this work expanded onto 190 Ferry Blvd. as well as the DOT Right-of-Way, took eight days to excavate, and was done December 2-21, 2020. It was estimated 500 yards of material would be removed, and 679 cubic yards (85 trucks) was actually removed. The breakdown is as follows: 190 Ferry Blvd. – 87 cubic yards; 200 Ferry Blvd. – 483 cubic yards; and DOT – 109 cubic yards.
- DOT Exit 33 – Per Mr. DiLorenzo, pockets of Raymark waste was removed by CT DOT Jan. 19-20, 2021. In total, 346 cubic yards (19 trucks) were removed via the Haul Road.
- 250, 304 & 340 East Main Street (Ashcroft - front, Dry Cleaner and Hair Salon) – Mr. DiLorenzo stated excavation at these locations was done in 40 days (Feb. 16 – April 19, 2021). It was estimated there would be approximately 5,000 yards (700 trucks) with approximately 750 cubic yards of the total contained PHC waste going offsite. In actuality 2,785 cubic yards (251 trucks) was removed, and 795 cubic yards (60 trucks) of the PHC waste was removed.
- Ashcroft Rear – Mr. DiLorenzo stated this was one of the most logistically challenging sites done on this project. The excavation at the rear of Ashcroft began June 9, 2021 and was done by November 3, 2021. The original estimated volume was 1,500 yards with no PHC waste. However, 9,259 yards (745 trucks) of Raymark waste was removed, as well as 377 cubic yards (35 trucks) of PHC waste. Per Mr. DiLorenzo, the high water table at this location also complicated the cleanup, as well as a record amount of rain and storms. Additionally 551,589 gallons of groundwater was treated. He explained they had to work around the Ashcroft loading docks, which also delayed the project, as well as continued growth in the remediation area.
- DOT Right-of-Way Along Ferry Blvd – Per Mr. DiLorenzo, there are three distinct areas: two by the intersection with East Broadway, and one at 171/191 Ferry Blvd. (strip mall, private property and DOT ROW). Work on the two areas by East Broadway began on Sept. 20, while work on 171/191 Ferry Blvd. began Oct. 1. The work was complete by March 31, 2022. They estimated there would be approximately 900 cubic yards (60 trucks) of material to be removed, none of which is PHC waste. In actuality, 867 cubic yards (94 trucks) was been removed.
- Quail Street/Wooster Park
Mr. DiLorenzo stated public hearings were held in May and Sept 2021 for nearby residents. Work began on Nov 9, 2021 and was completed on January 5, 2022. The design estimate was 1,500 cubic yards of waste. In total, 4,872 cubic yards (433 trucks) of Raymark was removed, as well at 130 cubic yards (15 trucks) of PHC waste. A series of pressure-treated boulders were placed along the Quail St. curb, and will be reused by the Town. The site restoration was completed in May 2022, with loam, grass seed, shrubs and trees, which were wrapped to retain moisture.
- Vacant Lots Behind Blue Goose Restaurant
Mr. DiLorenzo stated work began on January 18, and was completed on May 11, 2022. 9,622 cubic yards (905 trucks) of Raymark Waste was removed as well as 1,362 cubic yards (121 trucks) of PHC waste. There was an abandoned foundation, which had to be removed. There was also a wetland area in the rear of this property.

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.

B. OU6 PROPERTIES UPDATE

- Hitchcock Marina (230 Ferry Blvd.) & adjacent drainage ditch

Work began on June 13, 2022 since there was a minimal amount of boats on the property. Approximately 50% of the property has Raymark waste under it. Mr. DiLorenzo explained they originally estimated there would be 5,000 cubic yards of Raymark waste and 500 cubic yards of PHC waste. To date 3,820 cubic yards (360 trucks) as been removed, and the PHC waste is currently being removed. Crews are also working to repair the drainage ditch at this location. Remediation should be complete by early August.

- OU6 Remediation Tracking Table

Mr. DiLorenzo noted the OU6 excavation of Raymark waste began in Sept. 2020. To date, 32,063 cubic yards (2,784 trucks) has been removed from 17 properties and 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, and shipped out of state for final disposal.

- Remaining OU6 Properties – Per Mr. DiLorenzo, seventeen properties have been done and nine properties, which are the hardest and most complicated, remain.
 - *Beacon Point Area* - Per Mr. DiLorenzo, work at this area will begin 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 August and will be done by October 2022. 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 January - April 2023.
 - *Car Dealership & EPA Office* – This is not yet scheduled, as it will be the last property to be done.
 - *Lockwood Avenue* -- This includes an area of wetlands by Shelby Pond, and is tentatively scheduled to be done in Summer 2023.
 - *635 Ferry Blvd.* – There is a dry cleaners shop at this location. Work will tentatively be done in late 2022 or early 2023, and will take approximately two weeks to complete.
 - *35 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. Work is tentatively scheduled to be done in Fall 2022.

- *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 wanted to buy the site to develop 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 reuse, which the site can support, such as soccer and/or lacrosse fields. The EPA will work with the Town to do a more formal reuse assessment, and work with the USACE to update the design for that property. 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 would be capped at Morgan Francis rather than trucking it across Town to the ballfield.

- OU6 Air Monitoring Results

Ms. McPhee discussed the air monitoring results for the soil excavation that has done at Hitchcock Marina (230 Ferry Blvd.) since June 20, 2022. The Daily Average Dust Measurements were 0.001 to 0.012mg/m³. There were no exceedances of the OU6 Dust Action Level criteria (0.019 mg/m³). There are three dust meters and chemical sample collection systems in operation, as well as one personnel chemical sample collection system. Per Ms. McPhee, there were no health or safety risks to workers or residents. There were no chemical action levels exceeded. On July 13, chemical analysis found wood fibers, but no asbestos, in the dust sample. There is a dedicated water truck at OU6 to manage dust. She 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 May 2022

Mr. Looney noted approximately 32,000 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. There is a clean material processing area located off the active consolidation zone, where they are accepting material from 230 Ferry Blvd. 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 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 original ballfield site camera can be viewed online at <https://www.ipcamline.com/5fc7c13309700>. A second camera overlooking the former Contract Plating site can be viewed at <https://www.ipcamline.com/5fc7c1899d5a3>.

- OU4 Air Monitoring Results

Ms. McPhee stated since the May 25, 2022 public meeting, the Daily Average Dust level was 0.004 to 0.010mg/m³. There were no exceedances of the OU4 Dust Action Level criteria (0.014 mg/m³). Per Ms. McPhee, 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. Due to the expansion of the work area, they are adjusting the location of some of the meters. They will be adding a new meter in the middle of OU4 for early detection and to monitor worker exposure. This allows for a better representation of the perimeter and interior work area. Ms. McPhee 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 a 3'x5' box culvert that will take clean stormwater that is shed from OU4 to a 3'x10' open channel. Mr. Looney explained that helical piles will be installed to support the culvert, and will be rotated into place where necessary.

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. Crews are doing an open channel excavation to remove unsuitable soft and organic material. It will be backfilled with crushed stone and geotextile. The channel will be armored by placing Articulating Concrete Blocks (ACB) along the sides. This work is tentatively scheduled to begin the week of Aug 8. Restoration will include adding native plants and shrubs along the bank.
- 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.

Per Mr. Looney, the goal is to have this project complete by the end of 2024.

The contract for the new pump station was awarded to P&S Construction. Work is expected to begin in August 2022, 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. Mr. Looney noted this is a significant system which should help improve some of the drainage issues in the general area.

E. PROJECT SCHEDULE

- ✚ Shore Road: Mr. DiLorenzo noted sampling has been done through the years at this property, which is by the former Shakespeare Theater. There are areas that will need to be addressed and will probably be added as an OU6 property. There will need to be more public discussion on this area, which may not be done by next year, Mr. DiLorenzo stated the contaminated material may be added to either the ballfield or the Morgan Francis property.

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

OU6

- 2022 Summer/Fall: Hitchcock Marina, Beacon Point AOC-1 and Wiz Car dealership
- 2023 Winter/Spring: Beacon Point AOC-3
- 2023 Fall: Blasius car dealership
- Fall 2023: EPA Headquarters (300 Ferry Blvd.)
- To be scheduled: Third Avenue, 635 East Broadway, Lockwood Avenue, and possibly Shore Road

OU3

- 2023: Upper Ferry Creek (East Broadway to Broad St. bridge) – They will reach out to residents prior to the work being done.

OU4

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

OU5, OU7, OU8 and OU9: These are all in the remedial investigation stage.

VIII. QUESTIONS

- How much material has been moved to OU4? Mr. DiLorenzo stated the total to date is 32,063 cubic yards.
- A resident was concerned that material from Morgan Francis will be capped at that location. Mr. DiLorenzo explained in 2011, the Record of Decision indicates the material will be capped in place due to the large volume present. Ms. Coleman noted it will be capped safely. Ms. Boissevain stated those properties with waste left in place will have long-term maintenance and monitoring. Mr. DiLorenzo added it will be a robust monitoring program.

- Is there other waste besides Raymark at Morgan Francis? Per Mr. DiLorenzo, there is probably Tylo waste comingled with Raymark waste, but they can legally proceed with the remediation at this site since it is predominantly Raymark waste.
- Will there be a risk of flooding if the OU4 cap is done before the pump station is complete? Mr. Looney explained the conveyance line will be done and the pump station is expected to be finished when the cap is done at the end of 2024. If there is a large storm event prior to that, there will be temporary pumps to support the system. Mr. DiLorenzo added the conveyance line itself is a gravity-fed system to the pump station so it will not be needed during storms. The conveyance line should be done by Fall 2023, even before they start building the cap, and the pump station is scheduled to be done a few months before the cap is complete. He therefore does not anticipate flooding. Mr. DiLorenzo reminded those in attendance the current pump station pumps at 12 cubic feet per second, while the new pump station will pump at 200 cubic feet per second.
- There is a chronic flooding problem on East Main Street by the railroad underpass. Will the new system tie into that, or will the DOT take advantage of the new system being constructed and tie into that? Mr. DiLorenzo explained since this is a Superfund project, they cannot spend extra money to tie into the new line. That segment of the system, however, drains through the front of Ashcroft and then to their rear parking lot, and will end up tying into the new system.
- Does the water from Ferry Creek drain through Morgan Francis? Per Mr. DiLorenzo, there is a pipe that comes out from Schock's Auto Body, which drains the Walmart/Home Depot complex. That culvert is still the primary route. There is also a finger that drains from behind Morgan Francis. This large wetland complex comes from somewhere under I-95 through Route 1 and by Burlington Coat Factory.
- How were properties containing Raymark waste identified for this project? Mr. DiLorenzo stated in the 1990's, approximately 500 properties in Town that were thought to contain Raymark waste were sampled. Ms. Coleman stated she can identify the properties that were tested via a database.
- Will foundation inspections be done prior to blasting for the pump station? Mr. Looney stated there is no blasting schedule yet, but it will tentatively be done in late Fall. More information on this will be provided at the Sept 28 meeting. Most of the blasting will be vibratory as it will happen deep underground. They are not planning to do anything too intrusive to the neighborhood. Per Mr. Looney, foundation inspections will be done for anyone in a 100'-150' radius. Mr. DiLorenzo added those inspections will be done both before and after the blasts.
- Resident Paul Rohaly was disappointed to hear some OU5 waste may be placed in the OU4 ballfield, and would like to keep OU5 shelved. Mr. DiLorenzo stated he understands the historical sensitivity of the area, and will have a separate meeting for this. He stated they will not let possible OU5 work slow down the current OU4 schedule.

Ms. Coleman noted anyone who has further questions may contact her via email. Mr. DiLorenzo stated the next meeting will be held on September 28. Mr. DiLorenzo added they will send out an update at the end of August.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Coleman adjourned the meeting at 7:59pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Aileen Marsh
Recording Secretary