



TOWN OF STRATFORD

RAYMARK COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

MEETING MINUTES

August 25, 2021

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 August 25, 2021 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
- Raynae Serra – Director of Public Works

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Jim DiLorenzo
- Dan Keefe

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
- Ron Curran

STATE REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE:

- Joseph Gresko – 121st 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.TownofStratford.com/Raymark.

III. STATUS

- A. ONGOING REMEDIATION AT EAST MAIN ST. – Mr. DiLorenzo stated the excavation at the rear of Ashcroft began June 9 and was originally scheduled to be done by the end of August. The original estimated volume was 1,500 yards; the current volume estimate is 8,500 yards, as well as 380 yards of Principal Hazardous Constituents (PHC) waste. Per Mr. DiLorenzo, the high water table at this location also complicated the cleanup. Through the sampling process, they have finally found clean soil. He explained they have had to work around the Ashcroft loading docks, trash centers and recycling centers, which also delayed the project. Additionally, Raymark waste was found under the water treatment plant. Mr. DiLorenzo explained that near the side loading dock, they were unable to excavate to a depth of 4-feet; rather the excavation was done by hand to a depth of 1-foot to maintain structural integrity. They are excavating through the shallow groundwater, but at times they need to pump it out. Mr. DiLorenzo noted the frac (holding) tank and treatment system being used, as they have found Raymark waste on the whole area, which needs to be picked up and moved. Any very wet material goes into a container truck rather than a dump truck. The revised completion date is now mid-September. Additionally, Mr. DiLorenzo stated the area will be repurposed with a new stormwater conveyance system.
- DOT Right-of-Way Along Ferry Blvd – Per Mr. DiLorenzo, there are three distinct areas and approximately 900 cubic yards (60 trucks) of material will be removed, none of which is PHC waste. The excavation will take 4-6 days, and should be done by mid-September. This work will begin sometime in mid-late Summer.
 - 302/360 East Main Street – Mr. DiLorenzo stated there are two small areas – one at 302 East Main St. (75 cubic yards) and one at 360 East Main St. (160 cubic yards). These will be done when Ashcroft rear is done. The total expected volume is approximately 235 cubic yards (15 trucks).
 - Wooster Park South – Mr. DiLorenzo explained this is a strip of undeveloped land off Quail Street. The delineation line has been established, adding it was originally thought to be 1,500 yards, but the current estimate is now 5,000 yards (350 trucks). Per Mr. DiLorenzo, there is also approximately 500 yards of PHC waste (35 trucks) at this location. Because the expected volume has increased exponentially, work will begin in

the beginning of October, and will take approximately twelve weeks to complete. There was a virtual neighborhood public meeting on May 12 regarding this matter, and there will be another meeting 2-3 weeks prior to the work commencing – tentatively scheduled to be held Sept. 22, 2021 – to discuss the project details, including transportation routes to be used.

- Vacant Lot Behind Blue Goose Restaurant (326 Ferry Blvd.)– Mr. DiLorenzo noted this is a large wooded area that runs from the Blue Goose parking lot to Ferry Creek and expands to some backyards along Willow Avenue and some on Housatonic Avenue. The original estimate was 4,400 yards (400 trucks) and 660 yards (60 trucks) PHC waste. The revised estimates are now approximately 10,000 yards (500 trucks) and 1,400 yards PHC (90 trucks). Work at this location is tentatively scheduled to begin in January 2022, and will take approximately sixteen weeks to complete. Per Mr. DiLorenzo, they will host a public meeting for the residents of Willow Avenue, and some on Housatonic Avenue and residents of the condo at the intersection of Ferry Blvd. and East Broadway in Dec. 2021, prior to the start of the work.
- Beacon Point – Per Mr. DiLorenzo, there are three distinct areas of Raymark waste. One is along Beacon Point Road facing the waterfront opposite the water treatment plant. This is the primary area where there is Raymark waste at this location. The second area is behind the condo complex, as there is an area of Raymark waste in the grassy area between rear of condo complex and the parking lot for boat ramps, which they are still chasing as it may be expanded. There is also a third small area by the boat ramps which entails gaining access to private property. It was originally estimated there would be 2,400 cubic yards (200 trucks) of Raymark waste and 250 cubic yards (20 trucks) was expected to be PHC waste. Current estimates are now 3,250 cubic yards (210 trucks) of Raymark waste and 250 cubic yards (20 trucks) of PHC waste. Per Mr. DiLorenzo, the issue at this location is the work needs to be completed before boating season (early June 2022). Work will probably start in Spring 2022, and will take approximately eight weeks to complete.

B. RAYBESTOS MEMORIAL FIELD (OU4) UPDATE – Mr. Looney highlighted the OU4 ballfield work that has been completed or ongoing since July:

- Approximately 9,500 cubic yards of material has been consolidated, compacted and covered.
- A Posi-shell cover has been applied on all Raymark waste which had previously been brought to the ballfield. Material is covered daily in either a plastic tarp or Posi-shell.
- The OU4 site and 65% cap design is complete. Mr. Looney explained there were significant changes that had to be made, including grading. He expects the final design to be done by late Fall.
- The stormwater control and conveyance system design is complete.
- There are five perimeter air monitors at OU4 and two at East Main Street that are operating daily.
- Mr. Looney stated the site cameras can be viewed online at <https://www.ipcamline.com/5fc7c13309700>.
- Mr. Looney noted safety is the project priority. He then explained engineering controls that are used. The first is a concrete barrier around the perimeter of the ballfield, which is a steel fence covered with a heavy duty sound blanket. A water truck is used to keep dust

down, and a “Dust Boss” is used to spray any uncovered material that needs to be wet, since the most important component of dust control is wetting. Mr. Looney noted the vibration monitors are now solar powered. Another example of erosion controls being used are silt socks, which are filled with permeable materials to allow water to go through, but not silt and other materials. Additionally, material is transported in tightly sealed trucks and/or containers with gasketed gates. Per Mr. Looney, air monitoring is done in real time, and contaminated material is covered with the posi-shell cover system.

- Mr. Looney explained the OU4 Containment Structure is meant to contain material that will be handled more than usual. Any wet material, or any material that needs additives for drying or other applications, will be handled in the containment structure. It is a temporary fabric structure, approximately 100’L x 130’W x 40’H, with an aluminum structural frame with PVC-coated fabric membrane. It is fully assembled and in use. Whenever the structure is in use, the doors are closed and the air handling units are on. There is a complete air change every ten minutes. Per Mr. Looney, the air is scrubbed for contaminants from waste as well as from the equipment. Mr. Looney explained maectite, which is an additive to bind lead, is used prior to offsite disposal of the material at a location to be determined by soil testing data. Maectite is used for PHC waste, which will be sent offsite. Approximately 10% of all Raymark waste contains PHCs.
- C. OU4 AIR MONITORING RESULTS – Mr. Heislein stated since the June 30, 2021 public meeting, the Daily Average Dust level was 0.004 to 0.0013 mg/m³. There were no exceedances of the OU4 Dust Action Level criteria (0.014 mg/m³). He noted there were two days of weather service alerts for bad air days. This was not site-related, but rather was due to the wildfires in the West, causing particulant matter in the area. This highlights the sensitivity of the meters. Per Mr. Heislein, all five dust meters and sample collection systems are in operation, as well as one personnel chemical sample collection system. He noted there were no exceedances of chemical health and safety criteria. He is posting weekly air monitoring reports, chemical data and vibration monitoring reports on the Town Raymark website.
- D. OU6 AIR MONITORING RESULTS – Mr. Heislein discussed the air monitoring results for the rear of the 250 East Main Street property where the soil excavation and site restoration work is being done. There are two meters that are moved around the site. The Daily Average Dust Measurements were 0.000 to 0.010 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. Per Mr. Heislein, there were no exceedances of chemical health and safety criteria. He is posting weekly air monitoring reports, chemical data and vibration monitoring reports on the Town Raymark website.
- Perimeter Air Monitoring Update for OU4/OU6 Restoration – Per Mr. Heislein, all imported clean soil is tested every 500 – 1,000 cubic yards. It was only during the site restoration that the Dust Action Level was raised to 0.150 mg/m³. There were no vibration monitoring exceedances since they coordinated with workers at the loading docks.
- E. STORMWATER CONVEYANCE SYSTEM AND PUMP STATION – Mr. Looney discussed stormwater system upgrades, which will improve drainage in the area. The

new system will be 1,700 linear feet, while the current pump station only pumps 1,200. The project is tentatively scheduled to being in late Fall/early Winter. Mr. Looney noted they were able to avoid using Avery Street for this project. Mr. DiLorenzo explained this will save money. The new pump station will have four axial flow pumps, and have a 200 CFS capacity. Per Mr. Looney, it will operate during a significant storm, as well as during high water events. It will be enclosed in a masonry pumphouse to mitigate sound.

IV. QUESTIONS

- There is a milestone marker at the Ferry Blvd. DOT ROW. Can it be preserved? Mr. DiLorenzo explained it does not fall in the excavation area, but will try to ascertain it is preserved.
- When work begins at Wooster Park, will any trees need to be removed? Mr. Heislein stated 6-7 large trees will need to be removed; the rest of the area, however, is low brush. He explained the trees need to be removed due to their root system mass, but he will work with Town Environmental Conservation Superintendent to develop a planting plan to replace the trees, perhaps with some native species.
- Why are the original volume estimates of Raymark waste much lower than the actual volume found? Mr. DiLorenzo explained this happens more often than not on sites, and discussed how they determine the actionable risk that warrants a cleanup. He stated the volume of waste in the ballfield will not exceed the amount that was determined in the Record of Decision. Any excess will be sent off-site.
- To what does maectite bind lead? Per Mr. Looney, maectite binds lead to surrounding soil particles. Mr. Curran explained it works at the molecular level with lead to turn it into a stable mineral that cannot be leached, adding it has proven itself in other projects very successfully.
- How is the air cleaned before being released into the neighborhood? There are large units with large hepa filters running at the same time to clean the air.
- When are the trucks that enter the OU4 containment structure inspected? Mr. Looney stated the trucks are inspected before they go to the ballfield.
- Why is material not misted in dry weather? Mr. DiLorenzo explained that once material is wet enough that it does not generate dust, it does not require further wetting. Mr. Looney noted there have been no dust exceedances in the past year.
- How often does Ms. Coleman monitor activity at the ballfield? Ms. Coleman noted she was there the previous week. While she checks air monitoring results, it is not her job to monitor the workers on-site. Ms. Boissevain that anytime residents reach out with questions via telephone, email or in-person, she and Ms. Coleman respond immediately. Ms Boissevain added she and Ms. Coleman go to the site weekly. Mr. DiLorenzo noted that due to the pandemic, direct in-person contact with residents must be limited.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Coleman noted the next meeting will be held on Wednesday September 29, and then adjourned the meeting at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Aileen Marsh, Recording Secretary