



TOWN OF STRATFORD

WOOSTER PARK/QUAIL ST. NEIGHBORHOOD RAYMARK MEETING

May 12, 2021

MEETING MINUTES

The Stratford Health Department, in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency, Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, and the United States Army Corp of Engineers, conducted a virtual meeting on Wednesday May 12, 2021 via GoToMeetings, pursuant to notice duly posted.

TOWN REPRESENTATIVE IN ATTENDANCE

- Andrea Boissevain – Director of Health
- Alivia Coleman – Health Department Program Associate
- Laura Dancho – Town Council 10th District
- Laura Hoydick – Mayor
- Kelly Kerrigan – Environmental Conservation Superintendent
- Bill O’Brien – Town Council 9th District
- Ken Poisson – Town Council 6th District
- Raynae Serra – Director of Public Works

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Jim DiLorenzo
- Dan Keefe
- Charlotte Gray
- ZaNetta Purnell

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

- David Heislein
- Michael Looney
- Robert Vanoer

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

- Tony Allevo
- Ron Curran

- Ray Frigon

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH MEMBER IN ATTENDANCE:

- Meg Harvey

STATE REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE

- Phil Young – 120th District

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Harold Watson – Planning Commission chairman
- Various residents

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Coleman called the meeting to order at 7:32pm.

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 per Governor Lamont’s Executive Order, and reminded everyone that the meeting was being recorded.

B. RULES OF CONDUCT – Ms. Coleman reviewed meeting protocol, noting that questions would be held until the end of the presentation.

III. BRIEF HISTORY OF THE RAYMARK SITE

- Mr. DiLorenzo explained Raybestos-Manhattan Company was a 33-acre manufacturing facility which began operations in 1919 until closing in 1989. The company, which made brake pads and clutch plates, allowed liquid wastes to be discharged into unlined lagoons. The sludge/spent solids from these lagoons were used as fill material for low spots on the property. Additionally, the company gave it away as free fill around town, and was also used to fill wetlands. The site of the former Raybestos Company is now the current Stratford Crossing shopping plaza.
- Raymark Waste is a manufacturing waste material from the former Raybestos Industries Inc. facility. This material contained many chemicals known to be hazardous. The definition of Raymark Waste in soil is a single soil sample containing both asbestos (chrysotile only) above 1% and lead above 400 parts per million (ppm), and either polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) above 1ppm and/or copper above 288 ppm. Raymark Waste was historically used as fill material at various properties in Stratford, including a section of Wooster Park located north of Quail St.
- Per Mr. DiLorenzo, the EPA’s initial response began in 1993, at which time the EPA started excavating Raymark waste from 46 residential properties as well as Wooster Middle School, and the excavated material was returned to Raymark facility for storage. On 4/25/1995 Raymark was listed on the EPA’s National Priorities List, also known as the Superfund list. The first Record of Decision (ROD) was issued in July 1995, at which time the former Raymark facility was demolished. 100,000 cubic yards of Raymark Waste was consolidated with 500,000 cubic yards of existing Raymark Waste, and placed under a low-permeability cap. An additional 500 properties were tested to determine the

presence of Raymark waste. In 2003, Stratford Crossing was constructed, and from 2003-2005, vapor mitigation systems were installed in more than 100 homes that were potentially impacted by contaminated groundwater.

- Mr. DiLorenzo stated there are nine operable units for this project; the Quail St./Wooster Park site is one of the 24 known properties in OU6, in addition those on Ferry Blvd., East Main St., CT DOT ROW, lot abutting 1-95, the Public Works Dept. lot, Wooster Park, Beacon Point, Lockwood Ave. and a Third Ave. property. If additional areas are found, they will be addressed as necessary.

IV. SUMMARY OF THE CLEANUP DECISION (2016 RECORD OF DECISION)

- Mr. DiLorenzo explained the ROD for Operable Units 3, 4 and 6 involves the excavation of approximately 105,000 cubic yards of soil and sediment. While most of the waste will be brought to OU4 for consolidation, 10% is expected to be PHC (principle hazardous constituents) waste, and will be sent to an off-site hazardous waste facility. They will backfill the excavations, and restore the properties, for an estimated cost of \$95million.
- Mr. DiLorenzo explained the Quail Street area community impacts that will be mitigated as much as possible, include construction noise and vibration, and truck traffic. Measures will be taken to protect air quality. Approximately 7,000 cubic yards of material will be removed from the Quail Street site, after being wetted to prevent dust and air contamination. Work will begin no earlier than 7am, and will end no later than 6pm. There will be air and vibration monitors on-site. The trucks/containers which will be used will have a tight cover and gasketed tailgate.
- Per Mr. DiLorenzo, cleanup is necessary since there is buried waste near the surface on many properties. Over time, erosion and human activity will expose waste at Quail St., which could expose workers or anyone using the area in the future.

V. REVIEW OF CLEANUP ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Mr. Looney stated the primary Raymark Team consists of Mayor Laura Hoydick, EPA Project Manager Jim DiLorenzo, Ron Curran and Tony Allevo from CT DEEP, Robert Vanoer, Dave Heislein and himself from USACE, as well as Severson (Environmental Remediation Construction Contractor) and AECOM (Lead Remedial Design). Mr. Looney noted the following Town personnel have been instrumental in getting this project going: Mayor Hoydick, Ms. Boissevain, Ms. Coleman, Ms. Serra, Ms. Kerrigan, Town Engineer John Casey, as well as Ms. Harvey from the CT Dept. of Public Health.

VI. NATURE & EXTENT OF CONTAMINATION LOCATED NORTH OF QUAIL ST.

Mr. Heislein explained the delineation line has been established, adding it is larger (150'W x 250'L, extending to Quail Street) than was originally thought. The timeframe has changed from Summer to Fall 2021, when residents are less likely to be in their backyards while the work is being done and the park will be less active. All sampling will be done prior to digging, with a dozen more samples to be taken before June 2021. Because the expected volume has increased exponentially, it will take more than ten weeks to complete. Per Mr. Heislein, clean soil is currently covering the Raymark waste.

VII. CLEANUP APPROACH FOR QUAIL STREET AREA OF WOOSTER PARK

- Per Mr. Looney, there will be a temporary perimeter concrete barrier (steel fence with a heavy duty sound blanket on the outside) erected which will act as a visual and sound barrier while work is being performed in this area. All work vehicles will be confined to the work zone. Material collected will be brought to the consolidation area at the OU4 ballfield. Mr. Looney explained the methods used to contain dust and contaminated material. He explained wetting material continually is the easiest and best way to do this, adding the water will not leave the site.
- A Posi-Shell cover, which is a spray-on clay shell for dust suppression and erosion control, has been applied on all previously imported Raymark waste at the OU4 ballfield. The product itself is primarily clay and inert fiber material that is added for structural stability. There are no chemicals of concern in the formula. Mr. Looney explained this will be applied to material removed from the Quail Street site.
- Mr. Heislein explained the perimeter air monitoring equipment which will be used at the Quail Street site, and gave an overview of the Raymark air monitoring program. He explained there is a Dust Action Level to protect workers as well as the abutting neighbors. Since the safety threshold is set very low, work will stop before there is any potential risk to workers or the community. Per Mr. Heislein, there will also be noise and vibration monitors onsite. Additionally, there is also a separate Dust Action Level reported when the site is being restored with clean material. Mr. Heislein stated he submits weekly air monitoring, chemical and vibration monitoring reports, which are posted on the Town of Stratford Health Dept. Raymark website.
- Regarding the Traffic Management Plan, Mr. Heislein noted the full intent of the route is to avoid residential street, school and parks whenever possible, including bus routes and bus times. The average work day is 7am – 4:30pm Monday – Friday (no nights or weekends). The trucks will be sealed, washed and labeled with a white “Raymark Waste” sign. Per Mr. Heislein, there is coordination with other construction projects being done by the Town, United Illuminating and the DOT, as well as others.

VIII. SCHEDULE

Mr. DiLorenzo stated of the 24 properties in OU6, 7 are completed or ongoing. He noted the following:

- 380 East Main Street (Glynn Manufacturing) --- Mr. DiLorenzo stated this was the first of the OU6 removals, and was completed by Sept. 17, 2020. It was estimated 40 yards of material would be removed, and 42.30 yards (4 trucks) was actually removed.
- 190 Ferry Blvd. (Karate Studio) – Per Mr. DiLorenzo, this work was completed in December 2020. It was estimated 100 yards of material would be removed, and 104.57 yards (10 trucks) was actually removed.
- 200 Ferry Blvd. (Liquor Store) – Mr. DiLorenzo explained this work was done in December 2020, It was estimated 500 yards of material would be removed, and 497.91 yards (64 trucks) was actually removed.
- DOT Exit 33 – Per Mr. DiLorenzo, work began Jan. 19 and is ongoing. The estimated volume is 420 yards. To date, 345.57 yards (19 trucks) has been removed via the Haul Road.
- 250, 304 & 340 East Main Street (Ashcroft - front, Dry Cleaner and Hair Salon) – Mr. DiLorenzo stated work at these locations began Feb. 2, and will continue through

May. It was estimated there would be approximately 5,000 yards (700 trucks) with approximately 700 yard (80 trucks) of the total contained PHC (worst of the worst) waste going offsite. To date, 2,928 yards (251 trucks) has been removed. 869.38 yards (60 trucks) of the PHC waste has been removed.

The following is the tentative remediation schedule:

- May – Sept. 2021: Rear of the Ashcroft building and small isolated areas on East Main St. and Ferry Blvd.
- **Oct. 2021 – Feb. 2022: Remediation of Quail St. area**
- Nov. 2021 – Oct. 2022: Remediation of select OU6 properties in Town
- Oct. 2022 – late 2023: Remediation of Ferry Creek and Ferry Blvd. properties
- 2021 – 2024: Construction of a stormwater control system and in impermeable OU4 cap

IX. QUESTIONS

- 10th District Councilwoman Laura Dancho, on behalf of 9th District Councilman Bill O’Brien, 6th District Councilman Ken Poisson and herself, thank everyone for coordinating this meeting and providing information to residents.
- Has any sampling been done south of Quail Street? Mr. DiLorenzo stated approximately 500 properties were sampled in the 1990’s and early 2000’s, including property south of Quail Street, and no Raymark waste was found there.
- Years ago, inferior topsoil was used on the Wooster ballfields. Will the material used at Quail Street be good soil? Mr. DiLorenzo explained the clean soil is a granular fill material, which is good for compaction and drainage for the bottom three feet. The top foot is good organic loam for replanting trees and grass.
- Regarding the granular fill, is it able to sustain tree and plant nutrients that will be necessary for them to mature? Mr. DiLorenzo stated the top one-foot of material will be an organic loam to sustain plantings.
- What is the contingency should a hurricane or Nor’easter hit during the Fall/Winter project timeframe? Mr. DiLorenzo explained they would secure any work area, including covering any exposed Raymark waste with the posi-shell cover and shut down operations. Workers would remain in Town to respond quickly to any problem, should one arise.
- Does the remediation schedule mean that the Raymark field/Contracting Plating site will not be available for development for several years? Mr. Looney explained the Raymark ballfield (OU4 consolidation area) and Contract Plating are separate sites. The ballfield will not be able to be developed until the remediation work is complete. They tentatively date for the ballfield to be capped and fully complete in 2024. The Town would determine how and when Contract Plating will be developed. Ms. Kerrigan explained while remedial actions are ongoing, the Town will continue to pursue funding for the investigation and cleanup for Contract Plating. The Town is also engaged in marketing studies and plans to ultimately secure a developer for that property.
- How did the EPA determine what sites will be tested? Per Mr. DiLorenzo, locations were found through records of drivers who distributed waste, as well as residents and business owners who suspected they had Raymark waste on their property stepping forward.

- How long has the Town of Stratford been aware of the presence of toxic material in Town? Ms. Harvey explained it was coming to light in the later 1980's and early 1990's. Health testing activities (e.g. lead screening) was done to determine what, if any, exposure occurred. There were no elevated levels of diseases or illnesses found, based on exposure to Raymark waste. Ms. Boissevain noted in the early 1990's, a study was done regarding testicular cancer, and there was no evidence found linking it to Raymark waste. Per Ms. Harvey, there were also time trend studies done regarding various cancers. There were no increasing trends disease related to Raymark waste that persisted over time.
- Since water erosion will continue to expose more waste, how will that affect the silt in Wooster Pond? Has it ever been tested? Mr. Heislein stated he does not expect the contamination to reach Bruce Brook, as they are digging 4-feet deep. Mr. DiLorenzo noted historically, many samples were taken from Bruce Brook, but no Raymark waste was found. Ms. Coleman explained that Wooster Pond was sampled, but no Raymark waste was found.
- Is there non-Raymark waste identified at this site? Mr. Heislein explained Raymark waste has four specific parameters, and they also test for other chemicals. If it is mixed with Raymark waste, they will remove it. If it is not, they will notify the property owners as well as the Town.
- Mr. Heislein stated the air monitors provide immediate feedback, and all data is posted on the Town of Stratford's website. Per Ms. Coleman, exceedances and descriptions are also posted online.
- Can additional fencing be added while work is being done? Mr. DiLorenzo stated no visible dust will leave the worksite, so no additional fencing is needed.
- Is there Raymark waste on the playground side of Wooster Park? Per Mr. DiLorenzo, there is not.
- Will police control the traffic at the corner of Quail Street and Nichols Avenue? Mr. Heislein explained the discuss traffic plans with the Town and Police Dept. He will discuss this again before work begins at this location.
- Why are detailed measures being taken at this location? Ms. Coleman explained that there is only a risk of an adverse health outcome when an individual actually comes in contact with the material. Right now, with the material covered, there is no exposure. However, if the work is not done, it may become a hazard in the future. When the cleanup is occurring the material becomes exposed, so these measures are taken to protect the workers and the community.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DiLorenzo noted there will be another neighborhood meeting prior to work beginning at the Wooster location. Ms. Coleman then adjourned the meeting at 9:33pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Aileen Marsh
 Recording Secretary