

Pompton Lakes Community Advisory Group

FINAL MEETING MINUTES

June 19, 2012

Meeting commenced at 7:05 PM.

Lisa Riggiola announced that Mr. Lombardo and Ruth Paez are not in attendance. Robert Spiegel is also busy and not attending.

Introductions:

Cheryl Rubino is facilitating, Dana Patterson, Lisa Riggiola, Helen Martins, Karen Dean, and Ed Meakem introduce themselves.

Approval of minutes:

Riggiola makes motion for approval of April 30, 2012 minutes. All second except for Rubino and Meakem because they were not in attendance.

Action Items:

A. CAG to send Resolution #008 to USEPA

It was done. Finalized at last meeting said Patterson. Asked to provide timeline about DuPont cleanup plan. Asked EPA respond to each finding. Provide copies of AOCs. Investigation of tunnels on DuPont site will be carried out to find out about radioactive exposure.

B. Tabled action items from March 2012 meeting:

- i. EPA monitoring Pompton Lakes drinking water wells (no response from MUA)
 1. EPA to look into MUA's failed response
 2. If possible, EPA to do spot check analysis of drinking water in Pompton Lakes residents' homes.
- ii. CAG to send final letter to Lakeside School students/PTA

Letter sent to EPA because MUA did not respond. Have not heard anything. Need to follow up, ask for update. Lombardo asked to set up wells to make sure drinking water is safe because other research shows that there is reason to be concerned and previous analysis is not extensive enough. No response from 2 months ago.

Letter drafted by Riggiola and Patterson. Letter needs to be finalized. Acid brook delta project. Parents need to know what is taking place, contaminated trucks. Letter from DuPont pushing to move forward on acid brook delta, EPA did not take into account fish and wildlife opinion. More analysis will be done based off of Rich Chapin's concern.

C. Chapin requested Bonnie Bellows (USEPA) provide CAG with A280 data summaries regarding the drinking water testing/ standards.

Still waiting, result of conversation about MUA. "Do you honestly think they will respond?" said Martens. Riggiola said yes, it's up to us to follow up within the month, another CAG member needs to step up, and Martens will follow up.

D. CAG requested for USEPA to compile a single list of contaminants from their report summaries and to then make this list available to the public.

Easy reading list of contaminants, still don't have it, have been asking for it since 2009. Need something for everyone to be able to read.

E. EPA to update repository with new documents, via CAG's resolution 001 request.

They said they would, but they haven't gotten to it. Martens will follow up with Pat Seppi.

F. EPA needs following up on formalizing on Resolution 4

EPA still needs to respond to resolution 004 did respond

G. Resolution 6 also needs following up on

Resolution 006 said no need to downstream testing, CAG thinks they need to follow up, have not received a formal response from EPA. Start drafting a response.

H. Additional Fish Signs

Riggiola is very concerned; no signs left on bridge, brought to Mayors council several times, nothing has been done. They said they would replace them and nothing has been done. Meanwhile they're hosting a fishing tournament. Patterson suggested putting the signs in the water in cement buckets. Said they were waiting for money from DuPont, people may be consuming fish that may be contaminated. Signs need to be in English and Spanish.

I. Acid Book and other Power Point Presentations to be listed Online

Patterson hasn't seen anything. Meakem thinks he saw on EPA website. Patterson said not all presentations from the meeting were posted. Riggiola sent our Acid Brook PowerPoint on CCPL email. Meakem thinks they're under additional documents on EPA website. Riggiola said people should have access to any documents concerning contamination whether they're on the computer or not. They should be in the library as well. Residents concerned, but documents are not made in Spanish so some residents can't read them.

J. Closure of New Park

Patterson said she asked around, originally called New Park. Riggiola said it is known as New Park, not formally. Also called soccer field. Riggiola said they gave Pat hints on things about where to go to look for things. Meakem said test results from soccer field showed high levels of cadmium, arsenic. Soccer fields closed around last year. Children playing on this field, infiltration bed pumps got clogged with magnesium, when they dug up the field the fields were closed. Last time Riggiola was there, the grass was very high. Riggiola questions why they were closed, when they were closed and why the information was not made public to families who had children playing on this field. Community member said kids still play back there. Riggiola said she's heard about kids getting flesh eating infections from being back on that field. Field is not blocked off. There is fencing on Barbara Drive by wells.

Rubino wraps up action items. Moves onto technical advisor.

Technical advisor, Rich couldn't attend. Patterson said it's too expensive for EWA to pay Chapin to attend every meeting. Trying virtual communication. Possibly Skype. Elks just got Wi-Fi. Video conference people in. Riggiola said community members could get involved through virtual meetings. Riggiola said please ask any technical questions they will ask Chapin and he will answer your questions. Chapin is one of the most highly noted environmental engineers in NJ, so he is not cheap.

Rubino asks any technical questions for Chapin? Anything you want to push the EPA to do?

Martens said stopping contaminants at the site is important but there is so much stuff in the community, within in our homes and property that she would prefer them to take action in the neighborhoods before they clean up the site to residential standards. She said she has changed her point of view when she found out how long cleanup of the site would take, Martens calls for more support. Asks them to come to council meetings and just show support because Riggiola and Martens are getting attacked.

Dean offers idea for t-shirts; she is taking orders so that they can be a unified front at council meetings.

Riggiola said she has been calling council men and she said she needs help. She will no continue going to meetings alone anymore. Councilman Simone gave her so much trouble at last meeting. She has been calling Senator Menendez for a meeting.

Martens said last council meeting that Greyberg asked our council if they could overrule planning board for the soil removal.

Dean said she lost everything because her job relocated and she cannot move with them because no one will purchase her house because she lives in a contaminated area. Forced to retire.

Martens said Geraldo did a segment but there still isn't enough awareness. They talked to Erin Brockovitch.

Dean said when they were first proposing the cleanup of the lakes, three gentlemen were sitting near her, one said "do they actually think they're going to clean that whole lake up?" And they laughed. People are dying, how is that funny? When Dean spoke to someone, they could not help her because Dean wanted they whole community to be helped not just herself. Dean said she's lucky if she's gets maybe 200 for her house.

Riggiola said houses in surrounding communities are selling for much higher prices. Health and real estate are being negatively affected.

Riggiola said senator Menendez asked for a list of banks who would not give mortgages. There were like 6 at the time. These banks know that their property is not a safe investment.

Community member moved here 2003. Said it's almost impossible to refinance. 6 months trying to get house appraised. He asks, how are they raising my taxes when my property is devaluing?

Riggiola said he would have to file a property tax appeal.

Another community member said she has not heard back from attorney for similar problem. Nothing in 2 years. Attorney's name Rob Eckler, he's being put off by the town, not enough sells.

Rubino reiterates that if community members have any questions for Chapin. Question

Meakem said, when he was a councilman excavation was being done in Hershfield Park around the beach area. He noticed down 5 ft. you could see layers of sand and every so often a black mark/ line. That could be a timeline for

releases from DuPont. Our children play there would it be wise to ask EPA through Chapin's technical advice to show proof of flooding?

Riggiola said flooding is causing a problem. That's why they called for that resolution. Every time it floods, sewage levels are exceeded.

Community member, George talks about topography of lands which will lead to flooding. He has seen decline in EPA activity for example they have withdrawn from the CAG.

Riggiola said Bonnie Bellows has plans to do something in the summer, Riggiola thinks EPA is rather stepping away from community politics.

Riggiola said they attended an EPA meeting in January, asked by high level EPA people to merge with other CAG. Backdoor bullshit. Riggiola does not want to merge with those people who break their own rules. The other CAG supports acid brook delta.

Meakem said they uncovered email that proved Barry Tornic (member of EPA working with DuPont) tried to keep vapor intrusions secret and he disappeared after Meakem made it public. Nobody asked any questions. EPA signed off on documents, DuPont was certifying that testing was under control. Untruths in documents. Neighbor was paying taxes like his property value was still 300 grand, he just foreclosed and it sold for around 100 grand. Conversations 2002-2008 DuPont and DEP were talking about contamination in Pompton Lakes. Never said anything to residents. Until a law suit was filed. Common sense isn't so common in this town.

Meakem said EPA has handbook about how to run a CAG. Where was the EPA at the public hearing? We're paying the price for a corporate polluter's mistake.

Patterson said Barry went to work for TRC-remediation company- the polluters, even though he used to work for the EPA. He was on PL site for 25 years letting NJDEP run things and then he disappeared.

Rubino brings up addressing the letter from May 31st hat Pompton lakes CAG sent in response to EPA press release

Patterson reads letter.

Riggiola said the letter is being CC'd to Lisa Jackson, Senator Menendez, Lautenberg, and NJDEP.

Riggiola said she will be having a conference call with Lois Gibbs regarding strategy, brainstorming, etc. Rubino welcome to participate in call.

Rubino brings up template thank you letter

Riggiola said template thank you letter to EPA is almost final. Copies can be given to residents and sent in. EPA gave statement to newspaper saying that the other CAG is not the only voice of the community. They should be thanked. It was their politically correct way of saying they screwed up by saying that the other CAG is not the only voice in the community. Patterson said residents should write their own personalized letters.

Meakem tells a story about his trip to DC and a meeting he attended and he asked two DuPont reps where they worked previously and they said the EPA and the DEP. Meakem notes that corporate polluters vary a history of hiring people who worked on the EPA or DEP. How can the DEP put DuPont scientists on the board of groundwater contamination analysis?

In 82 Martens said, Pompton Lakes was ranked on the list of highest contamination, and nothing was done. DuPont was allowed to continue for 10 more years before residents were notified.

Rubino brings up update on vapor mitigation systems.

Rigliola said some people are still getting readings. Methylene chloride in ambient air at an unsafe level in her own yard.

Community member, Pat, cancer survivor. Lives by railroad tracks. Has two boys. Ramp under house has some of the highest readings for TCE and PCE in Pompton Lakes. Tested by DuPont in 2007 -08, nothing came up. When tested more recently hit in bedroom for PCA, she has a level of PCA 5 in the bedroom and a 1 in the basement. Higher levels than EPA allows. Invited EPA to house, they came in. The EPA reps had never seen the data before, they said they talked to their scientists, in 70 years PCA won't do that much damage. PCA is a carcinogen that causes liver problems. They told her it wouldn't hurt her. She had liver cancer. It's going to take 2 months for EPA to get results. Independent company took 3 weeks. Will not sleep in bedroom because PCA levels are so high. Won't sleep in bedroom. EPA rep said DuPont didn't use PCA, but community member knows that that chemical degrades from TCE.

Community member thinks the EPA should start fining DuPont.

No reports until 1992 when Riggiola and Meakem started asking questions.

Martens questions why DuPont can't pay their taxes.

Abe Call part of developer, showed Meakem the blueprints for a golf course for DuPont. Said to Meakem if you help me get this through he could get him elected.

Rubino opens public comments

Rigliola said her and Meakem both received letters (while Meakem was running for mayor) from department of community affairs, complaint filed against Meakem. Somebody filed a false complaint saying Riggiola for representing residents by talking about DuPont and Meakem because he sued DuPont in the 90s. Tim Troast filed the complaint, on board of Meakem, sat on other CAG.

Rigliola said CCPL website was held hostage because someone would not turn off recorder at meeting.

Meakem admits he sued DuPont because there were high levels of lead on his property and his children's' health suffered for it.

Martens said other CAG didn't represent "us" the people of Pompton Lakes, and that they would have gotten rid of us one-by-one that is another reason why they didn't merge.

Rigliola said the other CAG only made one resolution and it was Patterson who did a majority of the work for it.

Rigliola reads statement by Tina Marsh. Who had worked for DuPont. She grew up in DuPont village. Family is very sick. Statement about her medical trials-sick all the time as a child diagnosed with cancer at age 17, bloody noses, developed chronic insomnia and migraines.

Rubino notes that it is still an open comment portion.

Question

For Rich, he gave something to Ariel about groundwater treatment? Whatever it is they were mixing.

Rigliola said they think they're doing another pilot study.

Patterson said they tried remediation biologically and it wasn't working, are trying chemical injection.

Rubino questions if they should ask Rich for an update.

Meakem said residents should be notified by DuPont about new pilot study.

Martens asks community members if they have received letter, they have not.

What's the next step if we're still getting readings on our mitigation units at our homes?

Riggiola said Pat's case is the first time the EPA came in to home. Ambient air testing at Riggiola's house shows readings of "all kinds of stuff".

Systems are pulling the toxic vapors up which could be making people more sick according to Chapin said Patterson. Chapin's theory is that this would make the ambient air worse. They need to filter the stacks.

Riggiola said we need the lab unit here, the EPA needs to set up a longer term study. There's only one bus for the whole country.

Riggiola offers to help community member who lives on Walnut Street about getting a vapor system in home.

Need to call Pat Seppi.

Rubino calls for any other public comments. EPA will be coming every once in a while.

Patterson said that if we make presentations on specific problem the EPA will come to the meeting.

Petition has over 10000 signatures. Riggiola said the governor said the EPA should be responsible. No response to Riggiola's inquiries.

Patterson makes motion for resolution 009 that EPA provides community with written monthly update on DuPont clean up-of issues going on and all actions on site- to be mailed to every resident. Patterson thinks a constant, monthly updates would make them accountable for something.

All in favor.

Patterson moves to close. Public session comments closed.

Meakem seconds.

Next council meeting not this Wednesday, next Wednesday. Unless only one meeting for summer.

Next council meeting the 27th. 7:30 pm.

Patterson moves to close the meeting. Martens seconds.