

# Pompton Lakes Community Advisory Group

## Final MEETING MINUTES

*August 21, 2012*

Meeting commenced at 7:10 PM.

Rich Lombardo, Karen Dean, and Ruth Paez are not in attendance. Robert Spiegel is also busy and not attending.

### Introductions:

Lisa Riggiola is facilitating, Cheryl Rubino, Dana Patterson, Lisa Riggiola, Craig Plowman, Helen Martens, and Ed Meakem introduce themselves.

Everyone rose for the pledge of allegiance.

Riggiola announced that several Pompton Lakes community members will be meeting with Judith Enck in NY and EWA, Lois Gibbs to discuss cleanup.

### Approval of minutes:

Riggiola discussed the minutes, correction Craig Plowman was not present. Rubino made a motion, Martens seconded. All in favor, Meakem and Plowman abstain. (later Meakem realized he was at the meeting, and rescinds his abstaining vote).

### Action Items:

A. Martens updated the CAG with Seppi's response. She added the final documents related to the site in the repository. Documents will also be available in the USEPA repository. NJDEP has a record center where anyone can see the documents. Also, you can request a specific document. DuPont has documents available for review.

Community member asked if USEPA addressed the drinking water. Riggiola said they will ask Seppi at meeting with Judith Enck tomorrow.

Riggiola read email response from Phil Flax regarding resolution 004. Riggiola explained that our engineer Rich Chapin responded to this email and then based on that, the CAG drafted a letter response to EPA. They will share with the community when the letter is final.

Riggiola said there is a lot of work involved with our CAG in order to get answers. She asks the CAG if they have any changes.

Vojo discussed that two days after Mother's Day people were testing the water and wants the information. He claims that they were dumping illegally and should have not been there - Someone from Lancaster Engineering. CAG asks if he can give us the information. Vino provided the photos to the CAG and will follow up.

Cheryl made a motion to approve draft letter, Helen seconded. All in favor.

Riggiola read draft Resolution 009 into the record. Craig made a motion, Cheryl seconded the resolution. All in favor.

Riggiola discussed community members going to Trenton to deliver the Pompton Lakes petition. They spoke to Governor's staff, and will follow up. Governor responded to the press but not to the CAG. Asked community to call the Governor's office and ask for Superfund.

Riggiola discussed that DuPont has Superfund Sites in country but not 1 site out of 8 in New Jersey are Superfund, which is suspicious.

Meakem and Martens called the Senators and Congressman offices to ask if they would support and send a letter to the Governor.

Meakem discussed his call to Menendez with Carolyn Fefferman. He asked when the Pompton Lakes community would be whole again. Expert in high school said probably not in your life time. Meakem discussed documents USACE did when testing the lake. USEPA did not take that into consideration when looking at acid lake permit. Fefferman said that there is something in the works but she couldn't give any more information.

Martens talked about presenting the petition, Channel 11 news covered it. DuPont said in the video that DuPont said they spent millions already, but if they became a Superfund Site, it would cost them more money. Martens discussed her call with Fefferman, she said same as told Meakem. Martens discussed with Jacky Grindrod from Pascrell's office. She said new congressman is coming into office, and CAG would have to meet with him since he is in the new district.

Member from the public suggested that CAG go to Pompton Day and give out flyers at the event since the elected would be there. He volunteered to be there to hand out more flyers. (sandy) Mrs. Mancini disagreed; she said it would put a negative perspective on this.

Martens explained that when she talked to people about the CAG, they don't think we are getting anywhere. Riggiola explained that there are 5 things at least that the community has accomplished that has never been done before.

The CAG discussed the political connections within the community who feel there is not a problem in the community and they don't care about the suffering residents.

They discussed the redevelopment committee the town is setting up, while the residents are still suffering. The lawyers are claiming that DuPont has to clean it up. Patterson said the only person who can get DuPont to clean up the site is you.

Plowman explained that the community must ask the local officials every week when the community is going to be made whole again, as Meakem stated previously. Plowman explained at the meetings the council seems apathetic and seems that the flood prone victims are more important to the town than the people in the plume. He urges community to go to the meetings and do that. It said it's become a laughing stock in other towns. Riggiola added feedback from friends and family that they cannot believe the community and sitting back and not taking action.

Water reports A420 to Chapin from Bellow. Bellow has not sent that.

CAG tabled Lakeside school letter when cleanup permit modification was delayed and school is out. Will be revisited in December.

Riggiola said EPA said that community will be happy with expanded cleanup plan for acid brook. CAG will be cautious until we see this.

Property valuation program in the hands of Pascrell and new congressman. Riggiola provided Menendez with 6 financial intuitions that will not give mortgages

Lois Gibbs, CHEJ, explained to Riggiola that the EPA for the first time in history walked away from CAG. Riggiola explained that residents should send thank you letters to EPA. Riggiola can email. Patterson will send electronic copy to CAG mailing list and Riggiola will send to CCPL mailing list.

Riggiola explained that CAG should send letter to Governor. Meakem said that public can send specific things to letter, email to CAG and we will include it. Has a short deadline, send today or tomorrow. CAG will request a formal meeting with the Governor and ask Senators and Congressman to come with us. Audience said to address saving money on taxes. Also include how the residents are paying high taxes and cannot sell their homes.

CAG does not have copy of Chapin's response to residents' questions; will send out in email.

Pat (audience) suggested publishing full page add in Suburban Trends; \$750 or more for full page add.

Patterson suggested writing a letter to the editor because it is free. Riggiola suggests sending an Op-Ed based on the press release.

Audience asked where Record reporter was, Riggiola explained that there is a new reporter Jeff, who trekked to Trenton. Patterson added that he personally got Governor's response to petition delivery.

Rubino added that record was doing survey on cancer, but has not been discussed in a while. Not sure what happened.

Resident asks if signs will be up before Pompton Day on September 2, 2012. CAG will ask Enck tomorrow at NY meeting.

Riggiola mentioned case with Debra Hall who came to Pompton, longtime advocate for Hope Well Junction NY, and finally got a new source for drinking water for her community. Riggiola discusses Brockovich vs Gibbs, law firm vs. community activist. Rubino discussed Gibbs relationship with community and she stayed involved with conference calls, meetings, suggestions.

George Paplov asked what timeline document handout was. Riggiola explained Seppi passed on to the CAG to answer questions about timeline. Meakem said nothing has been done from 1995 to 2009, and they put it in writing. He suggests bringing it to the Governor.

Riggiola read excerpt from a book about her brothers passing. She encourages members of the community to get involved. The minute the CAG stops, DuPont wins. Martens asks community to call and speak from your heart.

Meakem publicly thanked Mrs. Mancini for her comments at the last council meeting because it was well said and succinct, and inspired him to frame his questions.

Martens said that lawsuit that was dismissed can be reopened if they find new evidence. Explained that CAG is working to get info on clouding tunnels

Rigliola discussed FOIA request that uncovered letter from PLERI to EPA that discussed conflict of interest on their CAG, and then conversely write letter that discusses attack against EPA. Riggiola said she can share PLERI letter with public.

CAG explains that Mayor and Council bashed EPA at the last council meeting. Council is mad that the EPA is not supporting their politically connected CAG and are now not in control. Riggiola explains that they need the federal government because the local officials don't care about the residents here anymore.

Plowman finds it curious that not one current town council person will stand up and admit there is a problem. He discusses council just wants property to lower taxes and redevelop on an industrial development, but that means the cleanup standard is less.

Meakem explained that the council had it zoned as industrial, then zoned as conservation, in order to develop as golf course. Used to be under the Highlands Preservation Act, former Mayor and Senator made it a redevelopment area and designated as a transit village. Meakem urges to keep environment in back of mind, create indoor watermark with trolley to downtown. He says it needs to be a recreational community and protect wildlife with entrance to Highlands Preservation Area. Plowman urges residents to go online and look at Highlands Preservation maps. Someone asks if DuPont owns the property by 287 and if it is contaminated. Plowman said that is an interesting question. In Haskell, 75 years ago DuPont plant blew up and shook NYC windows. Was never rebuilt and was abandoned.

Meakem urges community to go on Google Earth and look at DuPont property. One area has been barren for 60 years. Meakem is happy that US Fish and Wildlife is getting involved and hopefully will access NRD for town.

George Pavlov asked when we can find out information about tomorrow's meeting. Riggiola said she can get a newsletter out by Friday. Patterson explained that we will give USEPA deadlines and summarize.

Pavoluv asked if we can hand out flyers at Pompton Day. Riggiola asked what residents would like to hand out and suggested Facts vs. fiction. Resident from suggested flyer could include short story with Pompton Lakes CAG info on back with help us help you. Rubino suggests getting celebrities involved.

Rigliola explained that the residents are receiving data from vapor systems back. She suggests asking experts to help us interpret reports.

Rubino facilitates meeting while Riggiola is gathering data.

Motion to ask an expert for the next meeting by Meakem. Seconded by Helen. All in favor.

Question about flyer handing out. Including date of meeting and five accomplishments, Excerpt about bear, need to have an ask. Add comments from residents. CAG will provide text to Patterson and she will turn into brochure. Pat from audience also offered to design. 3 residents willing to distribute flyer.

Public wishes luck for meeting tomorrow.

Meakem moved to close public session, Martens seconded. All in favor.

Craig moved to close the meeting. Meakem seconded.