

Pompton Lakes Community Advisory Group

January 21, 2013

Final Minutes

The CAG meeting commenced at 7:15pm. The CAG saluted the flag with the pledge of allegiance. The CAG introduced themselves.

Riggiola read a statement from an anonymous member, DuPont cancer survivor victim that will be donating to pay for Chapin Engineering to attend future CAG meetings to give technical support.

Rubino thanked the Mayor and Councilman Serra for attending.

Riggiola mad a motion to approve the minutes. Martens seconded the motion. All in favor except Rubino who obtained because of absence from the meeting.

Rubino moved on to the actions items.

1. *Pat & Lisa continue to work on presentations to Senators and Congressmen*
  - a. Riggiola and Pat Corcoran are continuing to work on the presentation. Riggiola asked Mayor Cole to help facilitate getting a meeting set up.
2. *Continue discussions on Property Valuation Plan with feedback from community members*
  - a. Riggiola explained that the CAG had a conference call with Lois Gibbs and explained the Property Valuation Plan and what it means to have residents input. She explained that DuPont is making excuses about the lawsuit and it's not right. She explained the issues residents and herself are experiencing with selling homes and refinancing. The PLCAG will have a second conference call with Gibbs on Wednesday. She explained her mother's situation and how she would not want to leave. Intintola suggested DuPont paying the plume property taxes until the cleanup is complete. Riggiola liked the idea and Intintola further explained that DuPont already got an approval for a tax reduction approved by the county. Riggiola explained that DuPont is paying less per acre than the property owners. Property owner on 94 Barbara drive and he is paying over \$11,000. He has a methane smell in the home and DuPont came and said everything is ok. He's paying more than million dollar homeowners in Wayne. Riggiola introduced herself and explained the she can give him the number of a private contractor and tax assessor and he welcomed the idea. He explained O'Brien and Gere installed his system. Joyce Furn explained a system that removes VOCs and mold and will provide PLCAG with information.
3. *Meakem to submit OPRA for Vojo's field sample data*
  - a. Ed submitted request and is pending a response
4. *Phil Flax to mail additional water data and QAPP to Riggiola*
  - a. Received remainder of water data and will review. QAPP was not received.
5. *Get a copy of the updated plume map from NJDEP*
  - a. Rubino contacted Mindy Mumford who explained the last map is from 2010 and requested a new map because some homes in the buffer are now in the plume. Riggiola explained she called a year and a half ago and is still waiting for that request. Rubino will call again in a week, Furn explained she lives right outside of the buffer and has contacted Mindy Mumford. Intintola explained that a total of 510 homes should be in the plume and he approached people who were not informed. He said none of people in the buffer zone are being notified. Riggiola offered to call the EPA with list of residents. Councilman Serra also offered to call Mindy to make sure the residents are notified. Intintola explained that in the DuPont ad in Trends said anyone in e buffer zone is eligible for a system. Riggiola gave Pat Seppi's information. Patterson said her cell is 646-369-0068.
6. *Ask Senators and Congressman for help with getting full evaluation, bringing in David Folk*
  - a. Riggiola explained the need to have an expert like David Folks for the residents to turn to at all times to go between the resident and DuPont and the EPA. Corcoran, Kevin Harrison and Riggiola would be meeting this month. Riggiola asked the town if they had any grants available for the town to hire or use an EPA TAG grant. Also ask Senators and Congressmen could ask for a federal appropriation to hire him.

Rigliola asked Mayor for grant writer for town to look into possible grants. The Mayor said she would be interested in looking at it but cannot make a commitment on behalf of the town.

Rubino moved the meeting to New Business:

1. Acid Brook Delta Permit Modification

- a. Chapin explained the history of the permit and introduced his memo that was given out at the EPA public hearing. He went through his points in the memo for the CAG (which was a handout at tonight's meeting as well)
- b. Chapin drew a map of Pompton Lake and Acid Brook and explained the areas that will be dredged and sampling area. He explained as a result of storms, there is concern of migration of contaminants downstream. He explained when the sediment moves the contamination moves because it's attached to the sediment. There will be pre and post dredging surveys as well as long term monitoring. He said EPA listened to the residents and thanked them for doing a good job. He explained the devil is in the details so it's important to pay attention to the technical information like where they got the mercury 2mg number from. He explained there is naturally occurring mercury in all lakes in NJ.
- c. He said he asked EPA why the atmospheric release was not included. Intintola asked if this could occur from experimenting with blasting caps and he said yes. EPA agreed to do further testing in that area and expand where they are looking at. EPA also was not aware that part of the lake was previously dredged. Intintola asked if it would make sense to sample it all at once instead of piece meal. Chapin said yes, but he would have to further look into it because water would still be coming in. EPA has promised us to the ability to comment on the details of the plan. We must pay specific attention to the health and safety plan.
- d. Riggiola asked Chapin then difference between the dry vs. wet method of dredging. Chapin explained the difference. Wet method is a vacuum cleaner on the back of the barge. Can use a sprung structure on land to control odors. Will be a soupy mess and on a weight basis will be 1% solid and 99% pounds of water. They will process the sludge onsite to dewater it to reduce waste: Centrifuge or press.
- e. Martens asked if the dewatering process will put the contaminants back in the lake. Chapin said the squeezing will not release the metals unless it is acidic. The water will be treated before it is put back and the permit will control that.
- f. Someone asked if this will be swimmable again. Chapin said no. Councilman Serra said he followed up with fish and wildlife and they said at some point every lake in no is not swimmable because of various reasons like fertilizer. He said the reason the lake is not swimmable is not the mercury contamination. They have a coliform bacteria problem and the lake is shallow.
- g. Martens asked the mayor if Pompton Lakes could dredge the lake to reduce flooding. Mayor said they asked if EPA they could leave the lake deeper. Mayor said USACE does not believe in dredging.
- h. Chapin explained the dry dredging would empty the lake and then excavate the mud and transfer muck offsite to process. He said the equipment could probably be supported by the peat layer.
- i. Intintola explained the presentation he heard at DuPont's plan for dredging at their office. He said 10-20% splash back to fall back down and stay in perimeter. Chapin said we will get the work plan when EPA gets them.
- j. A community member asked how the appeal process worked. Chapin explained the process that was explained in EPA's letter to DuPont that can be found on EPA's website. Chapin said that Phil Flax of EPA explained that EPA does not have the data for the rest of the lake and they will be sampling more which could mean that if the data says there is contamination, they may require DuPont to clean up the whole

lake.

- k. Intintola asked why the North Jersey District Water Commission is not requiring DuPont to clean it up to drinking water standards. He said if you can't swim in it, then you should not drink it either. Chapin explained that the water is treated after it leaves the reservoir. He said possibly the water from Pompton Lake could be diluted into Wanaque because it is significantly less. Also the solids are removed which means the contamination is removed and then it is treated for bacteria.
- l. Intintola asked about inversion of the contaminants from the vapor systems being released. Chapin said he still believes that and it needs to be investigated.
- m. Serra asked about the change of the Dam gates effects the flow of the sediment contamination. Chapin explained the flow and said he believes the flow of opening the gates would change the sediment movement.
- n. Furn asked if we were supposed to get air sampling and Chapin explained that we have requested the TAGA bus and EPA denied the request be we are still pushing for it.
- o. Some asked if the soil is affected by the vapor intrusion. Chapin said yes it is the whole property and you could be exposed but the concentration varies. You can be exposed but doesn't mean that you are harmed.

Rubino moved on to the Vapor Intrusion NJDEP guidelines.

1. Chapin explained the chart that was a handout and went through the changes. He said these changes were made to reflect EPAs changes in guidelines. PLCAG will write a letter to NJDEP and EPA to see if these mean anything for NJDEP.
  - a. Intintola said that DuPont is using a lower number than state standards so the number should not change. It is lowered to one.

Rubino moved on to New CAG members.

1. Raggiola explained that Craig Plowman resigned because of personal reasons and we have an open seat on the CAG. Raggiola explained to go to [PomptonLakesCAG.org](http://PomptonLakesCAG.org) if interested.
2. Martens explained that the CAG needs to raise funds so that we can expand. She said the CAG needs to pay for the room every month for the meeting. Furn offered that she works for a winery and they could have an event. Some suggested a rock the plume event, Atlantic city trip, bake sale, etc.

Lakeside school letter discussion continues under old business.

1. We are waiting for detailed plan from EPA and will table it until we get that.

Rubino opened public session.

1. Raggiola explained that Ella Phillipone from Passaic River Coalition stated misinformation in the most recent trends article.
2. A resident asked advertising by the library and Raggiola explained that it has to be a two wide event but you can put a banner over the main street with approval from the county and town. A community member said her neighbor works for a printing company.
3. Intintola asked if the fish that are bottom feeders who are exposed to lead and mercury and then a lot of fish died, could it have been from the Ecoli. Chapin explained that if you get a tremendous amount of bacteria growing, there may not been enough oxygen for the fish.
4. Intintola asked if the treatment of the vegetation could have caused the fish kill. Chapin said it is possible if they put too much.

5. George Papov asked if the Wayne side of the lake is not cleaned, what will happen if the wall is taken down after the cleanup. Will it re-contaminate? Chapin said maybe, maybe not. This depends on the transport of sediment and the flow. It needs a force to push it, so it depends on the movement. If the channel changes it could change the flow. It depends on the dynamics of the lake and one does not know.
6. Furn asked what would determine relocation of students at lakeside school. Riggiola said that it has happened in the past at other sites. Intintola suggested the fields are covered during the remediation. Riggiola asked if the school was air conditioned and Furn said no. Chapin said direct exposure or indirect exposure like contaminated dirt on surfaces when the windows are opened. Furn asked when will we know and Intintola said when DuPont releases the work plan. Chapin said EPA can require them to do whatever they want them too. We can review the plan and they are supposed to have an open public meeting.
7. Intintola explained insertion of Z-Sheets cause vibrations and if the foundation cracks DuPont should be required to replace it within a certain distance. Many questions about the plan are unanswered and should be raised when the work plan is released. Chapin predicts it to be released in mid-march and encouraged the public to send Patterson their comments now and he will take a look at them.
8. Furn offered to go to the Board Of Education and speak to the parents. Riggiola introduced her to Pat Corcoran who has a child in Lakeside school and is also working on outreach. They will work together.
9. Chapin lists all the permits that DuPont will need, totaling 11 different ones.
10. Intintola asked if Lakeside school was tested for lead and mercury. Meakem said that it was tested in the 80s and it tested positive for lead. They believed it was from the lead paint on the handball courts and addressed then.
- 11.
12. Meakem explained that you can air your concerns about the plan at the planning board meeting. Must be aware of the public notices for the planning board meetings. EPA should have a trailer for residents to go to. Meakem thanked the residents for being so educated and smart and being ahead of the game at the last public hearing and addressing the concerns that fish and wildlife echoed after the hearing.
13. Riggiola explained that she and Ed went out with Bill Wolfe of NJ PEER and did a site tour of the well fields. They have major concerns about the sediment piles that were there after the floods. They looked at recent stream bank enhancements exactly where the deposits go and need to know where the potentially contaminated soil and moved it around. EPA said we have to test 3 miles down now, which include that area.
14. CAG continued discussion over sediment piles and wants to know where the town moved the sediment build up piles. They need to know where it went and if it was spread around by the borough.
15. Intintola explained at one council meeting the mayor said a resident on the south side took a sample and it came up clean. He clarified that the sample was not taken properly and sat for 15 months. Chapin said that that would exceed all holding time requirements and needs a proper chain of custody.
16. Meakem asked of opening the gates and draining the lake would cause the lake to be more unstable. Chapin agreed that it would change it.

Patterson moved to close the meeting. Helen seconded. All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.