

Pompton Lakes Community Advisory Group

Open Public Meeting

Pompton Lakes Community Advisory Group

March 4, 2013

Final Minutes

The CAG meeting commenced at 7:15pm.

The CAG saluted the flag with the pledge of allegiance.

PLCAG Introductions: Edward Meakem absent. C. Rubino absent from meeting (business travel).

PLCAG Member/Facilitator D. Patterson acknowledges that Councilman Serra is in attendance.

PLCAG approved January 21, 2013 meeting minutes.

I. Action Items from January 21, 2013:

- L. Riggiola provided update on Congressman meeting.
- Our meeting request was referred to Congressman Pascrell's Washington, DC Office per L. Riggiola.
- L. Riggiola sent presentation to Congressman Frelinghuysen's office.
- Joyce Fern Austin Air Health Mate - for in – home air quality. She will provide me with their contact information via email and may be able to save us \$50 for the machine. Good for chemically-sensitive people.
- Plume resident Vojo Cogura requested test results for Test Well 128 –Lisa will email test results to Vojo Cougar for Test Well 128.
- New plume map – Councilman Serra reported that he does not have a new map yet but he will follow-up with Mindy Mumford. Cheryl Rubino will also follow up in regard to an updated plume map
- Councilman Serra stated from the audience that the boundaries of the plume did not change.
- NJDEP's M. Mumford told L. Riggiola a year ago that we will have a new map.
- Councilman Serra was inquiring about the map for a resident that was putting their home up for sale. He also called DuPont. They said the house was not in the plume.
- Resident J. Fern suggests that a comparison map be done so we can see the difference in the plume as time progresses.
- Email David Folkes' information to Mayor Cole. D.Patterson stated that the information was emailed to Mayor Cole but no confirmation was received back from the Mayor. An update was no provided at this time by Councilman Serra.
- Councilman Serra explained the Mayor's absence from the meeting.
- The PLCAG will reach out to Senators and Congressman after their conference call with the EPA in regard to acquiring TAG and TASC funding will be addressed at that time.

II. Air Modeling Presentation by Minnich & Scotto:

- Minnich and Scotto review background
- THE NJDEP underestimated the risk:
- Only two carcinogens were analyzed by the NJDEP even though there are at least four known carcinogens!
- Methodology data from Newark Airport which is not a good example and it should be compared to similar topological area such as Caldwell airport.
- Air emissions: Air stripper since 1998, vapor mitigation systems. L. Riggiola points out that there is no carbon filter on DuPont's Pump-n-Treat System stack.
- Shallow plume is vast majority of the problem.

- NJDEP gave no consideration to barometric pumping.
- Measuring air emissions – ignore changes in the groundwater depth. Model vapor systems to the atmosphere using clean air instead of air under the houses.
- Readings should have been potentially 100 times higher per Bob Scotto.
- Air emissions from Pump-n-Treat air stripper were not measured and they just estimate it.
- Resident V. Cogura said they were dumping 300 billion of gallons of water under our homes since 1998. 200 millions of gallons of water a year.
- Experiment with testing outside vapor systems with animals via Vojo Cogura. Has it been done? R. Chapin stated he is unaware of that happening but we could address it with EPA on our conference call.
- Rich Chapin stated that we will be bringing the Minnich & Scott's air modeling proposal to a federal level for consideration.
- Various questions by unidentified audience members relating to Minnich and Scott's presentation.
- Vojo Cogura asked how we would fund the air modeling project? Rich Chapin said we would go to the EPA. He suggested that the EPA should go to DuPont and have them pay for this project.
- Rich Chapin states that if we were under superfund it will be a much different forum.
- Rich Chapin answering H. Martens question said the only treatment of the contaminated water is through the air stripper but nothing else and being done to treat the water.
- He also stated that we must get EPA to go after DuPont and help us.
- Councilman Serra stated that initially there were only one CAG that later on did not work out for whatever reason. Now there are two CAG's. As Councilman Serra's opinion it is not healthy to have two CAG's because both CAG's were bringing important information on both sides and he would like to see both CAG's come together.

III. New Business

Engineer R. Chapin reports on secondary data of PL drinking water.

- D. Patterson explains to audience how we obtain the secondary water report and have our initial request for drinking water data to the PL MUA was never fulfilled over a year ago.
 - USEPA's P.Flax obtained the drinking water data for the PLCAG from the PL MUA and provided it to us.
 - Rich explained that he looked at 16 years of secondary water data.
 - -Rich goes over data from Artesian Wells Nos. 1, 2 and 3.
 - -Well No.2 showed five instances where VOCs showed up in the data.
 - -Well No. 3 located on Willard (closest to the DuPont site) something always showed up in the data, although, nothing that showed up was above the MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level.)
 - -Rich goes over the MCLs.
 - An audience member asked R.Chapin, if is there a reason why the water turns brown? Rich addressed their question.
 - -Secondary water data received went back to 1996. L. Riggiola explained that we were told by EPA's P.Flax that drinking water data prior to 1996 and going back to 1980 was not available.
 - -L.Riggiola discussed New York Times article where drinking water issues were covered and within the article they spoke of the contaminant levels and MUA violations. She explained no level of contamination in our drinking water is good for anyone.
 - Another audience member asked R. Chapin if there are other chemicals that they should be testing for?
 - -L. Riggiola brings up water aeration. L. Riggiola also discussing the current state of our drinking water like the cloudiness, things (microorganisms) floating of the top of the water. H. Martens mentioned the pungent smell of the water.
- D. Patterson discusses new PLCAG membership applications (Robert Feller). This was tabled to the next meeting. He was invited to attend but was not at our meeting.

- D. Patterson opened conversation on the **Senior Housing Building DuPont Contamination Concerns and Private Meeting for their residents at the DuPont Information Center.**
 - L. Raggiola mentioned that she received a communication from a concerned Senior Center resident. L. Raggiola discussed the meeting scheduled at the DuPont Information Center for the residents of the Senior Center. She explained that Meeting Notice was posted in the Senior Center about this meeting. Lisa contacted the EPA and the NJDEP both were unaware of the meeting and the new contamination issue per Pat Sappi of the EPA and S. Maybury. L. Raggiola also contacted Senators Lautenberg and Menendez's offices to express our concerns and both were unaware of this meeting. They were not aware about the additional contamination in the western area by the senior center.
 - L. Raggiola stated that the Seniors were concerned about seeing men wearing white suits around the Senior Center. L. Raggiola continues and tells the audience that the Senior Center property was formally own by DuPont.
 - L. Raggiola was informed also about this meeting by a news reporter.
 - L. Raggiola further stated her concern as to why the EPA, NJDEP, the Senators, the public and the PLCAG were unaware of this meeting.
 - New contamination is said to be in-land from the senior center property.
 - L. Raggiola asked Councilman Serra why this information was kept from the public? She further explained that any information about any contamination in our town should be public information.
 - She also told the audience that the PLCAG has asked the EPA and the NJDEP for the investigation reports and sampling data of the contamination in the area adjacent to the Senior Center.
 - L. Raggiola stated that she was told that DuPont was submitting a remediation plan to the state and to the NJDEP.
 - L. Raggiola stated that C. Rubino's mother-in-law lives in the senior center. Doesn't she have the right to know this information?
 - L. Raggiola was told the meeting was "PRIVATE" and "INVITATION ONLY."
 - Councilman Serra said that DuPont met with the seniors at the Senior Housing building. He said the seniors were asking about what the guys in the woods were doing by their building. He said that DuPont suggested that the seniors should go down to the DuPont Information Center monthly for a Field Trip. The seniors respond they would like that. Councilman Serra stated that the letter by the EPA and the NJDEP was sent out stating that was not new contamination under the senior center. The contamination is on DuPont property. DuPont, NJDEP and the EPA knew about this contamination for years. Councilman Serra said that it is the last thing they will clean up. He continued and explained that to-date there is no problem with the Senior Housing Building or the ground around it. The ground where the Senior House building was built on was given to the Seniors. He explained that is a separate entity from the town. The town does not have anything to do with the senior center. He told the audience that 10 Seniors attended the meeting at the DuPont information center.
 - L. Raggiola asked is it DuPont's data that is stated that there is no contamination under or near the building? She stated if the EPA and NJDEP were unaware of what was going on that data is it just DuPont's info we are going on? Serra stated that the EPA doesn't know what is on the property yet and it is the last thing they are going to do and will be starting the process now.
 - H. Martens questioned Serra and asked him why the Senior Building itself has not been tested? Serra stated they did clean up the Wanaque River area but he doesn't know if the Senior Center building was or was not tested. There would not be VOCs on that side. The cladding tunnel has nothing to do with the vapors.
 - Resident/Former Councilwoman Millie Torisello explained that one of Seniors went to DuPont Information Center. They would provide this Senior Housing resident with any information about this meeting. Millie said the resident was sending a letter about this issue to the Mayor.

- Councilman Serra stated that anyone could go to DuPont Information Center at any time and ask questions. He further expressed there is no reason why they should have held data back from that Senior.
- Resident Anne Tacinelli said if a meeting like this one was ever held in the future, the invitation should be extended to other residents in town. If you have parents living there who are residents of Senior Housing that are not well enough to understand or get this information, they family members should have access to this information and be informed of these meetings.
- Councilman Serra stated that the invites to this meeting went through the Senior Board. Continued by saying that Senior Housing Board Member James Soojian informed him and invited him to the meeting. He explained that he thought the Senior Housing Board President set up this meeting with DuPont.
- L. Raggiola asked Councilman Serra what was the list of contaminants were that this area was tested for near the Senior Center? He stated he did not see that list and the contamination is on DuPont's property. He stated that this info was not shared at the senior meeting at the DuPont Information Center.
- J. Fern asked if there are any legal limits for this building in regard to vapor intrusion contamination. R. Chapin explained to J. Fern that would be different based on the occupancy number.

IV. Public Open Session

- Ms. Martens brings up CAG issue and merge of the CAGS subject matter after it was previously mentioned earlier by Councilman Serra, re: merge of the CAGs. She spoke of the special interest of some members on the PL Enviro. CAG and how there were more members that had an interest in the town rather than the plume residents themselves. She discussed how D. Patterson and L. Raggiola were former members of that group and how they were overruled and out-numbered over and over again when there was anything to vote on. They did not want L. Raggiola on the CAG and they asked for her to leave. She stated that when L. Raggiola left, D. Patterson also left and we "ALL" left and formed the PLCAG. She further said in the beginning, she did continue to attend the PL Enviro. CAG meetings. She did not want to see the divide amongst the community. She said the PL Enviro. CAG would only have 1 to 7 people attend their meetings. Their CAG slowly fell apart and the PLCAG kept pushing and fighting and we are still fighting for the plume residents today. She further said that it is wrong what DuPont has done to our town and to everyone one of sitting in this room. She explained that the CAG divided because of this reason and there weren't the same interests. Council Serra stated that is the reason why the USEPA has stepped out which is wrong.
- L. Raggiola stated that the USEPA and NJDEP did not step out and that we have an open line of communication with them. She also said that the issue is that the PL Enviro. CAG is no longer getting money to run their CAG from the USEPA and that it is a problem with some people. She stated that the PL Enviro CAG does not like the fact that they don't have the control and reiterated the fact that they do not have good attendance at their meetings. She further explained that the residents are not comfortable going there and they come here. Councilman Serra further stated would it not be better if we had a CAG that the PLCAG and the PL Enviro CAG sat on together? Ms. Martens stated she could not sit on a CAG with members of the Enviro. CAG.
- Dana Patterson explained to Council Serra yes it would be in an "ideal world" but we have so many politics here in Pompton Lakes that it will not work here. She explained that is why the EPA pulled out – they were not getting anything for their taxpayers' investment by putting all their technical resources into going to the PL Enviro. CAG meetings. EPA decided to pull out because they felt it was not getting them anywhere and didn't have community involvement at their meetings. Councilman Serra stated that we lost the EPA coming into talk which was very important. Helen Martens and Karen Dean stated then EPA has attended our PLCAG meetings in the past. Ms. Martens further stated the EPA has been to our meetings when Councilman Serra has not been at our PLCAG meetings. D. Patterson further stated the EPA felt that they were wasting their money on

PL Enviro. CAG where maybe 5 people attended their meetings which is why they decided to pull out and host their own community involvement sessions. She further stated then EPA felt it was a better investment for tax dollar for our community. Council Serra further stated that the PLCAG has more people at our meetings than the PL Enviro CAG has at their meetings. He said the EPA should regularly attend the PLCAG meetings. D. Patterson explained all invited to attend our meetings.

- Resident/Audience member D. Mancini further explained that she attended the Enviro. CAG meetings and they were very rude and nasty. She mentioned that she even knows some of the members on that group. She said the members make remarks like “they have a mitigation system, what do they want”? She has argued with some of them and she does not know what their agenda is. Councilman Serra stated that could change. D. Manicini explained it will not change if these people are being supported by our town officials.
- Resident Lorelle Pepper explained that it wasn’t for L. Raggiola and everyone else sitting up there we would have nothing. We wouldn’t have our private-contractor vapor systems and she went onto to say the other CAG does nothing. She said without L. Raggiola and the others where will we be. Councilman Serra stated that is why he is here.
- Resident Kevin Harrison explained that he was never interviewed for the PL Enviro.CAG He never received a phone call for an interview. He did not know there were two CAGs. He wanted to be on the other CAG and he supported it in the past. He explained he was not politically connected and it was a complete joke. He stated that the PL Enviro. CAG had their own agenda and they were politically appointed. He also said that their CAG is a joke and it should be disbanded. He further explained that the PL Enviro. CAG never represented the plume residents or their children.
- Anne Tacinelli attended a meeting at the civic center not sure what meeting it was exactly but the EPA was at that meeting. Mr. Soojian spent the majority of his time discounting the severity of the DuPont plume and Anne had an encounter with him. She said how could you not have the concern of the people that live in the plume? He said he owned a home in it. She told him he rents that house out but doesn’t live in it. The people sitting on the PL Enviro. CAG are trying to keep the positive side of what is going on in town – real estate values up, downtown redevelopment (BID), etc. but they are not addressing the problem of the plume They should be addressing the plume issues as the PLCAG and not the special interest issues. L. Raggiola inquired to Councilman Serra where do they publish the meeting minutes from this meeting?
- Councilman Serra stated that many on both CAG groups there are some people that should not be involved with those groups. As a community we are supporting everyone together and we should bring the info together.
- L. Raggiola asked Councilman Serra which people should not be involved in the CAGS? He explained that he did not put the people on the CAG the EPA did. L. Riggola then asked him which people should not be on the CAG? L. Raggiola stated that she would step aside if the people wanted her to. She stated that if someone wants to take my 14 hour a day volunteer job she would step aside. Helen Martens said if L. Raggiola was not involved she would also not be involved any longer.
- L. Raggiola stated in Enviro. CAG meeting audio minutes John Soojian stated we know the town is married to DuPont? She asked if that was a proper statement for a CAG member to make??? L. Raggiola stated she is glad Councilman Serra is here but for a long time no local elected officials attended PLCAG meetings. Councilman Serra stated that he has thick skin and can handle it but some of the Council do not have thick skin. L. Raggiola stated that as a councilperson you are elected to represent the people, you are there for good time and bad times, upset or happy it doesn’t matter part of your job. She went on to say that the people are not allowed to express themselves fully at council meetings in Pompton Lakes.
- D. Patterson reinstated the PLCAG that we have no reason to merge – people are here, we have a technical advisor, Senators, EPA, Health Departments can present at our meetings. We email, flyer and make phone calls to notify residents about our meetings. Our CAG is working, we have 30-40 residents at our meetings. The residents trust us. We have a forum residents show up at and we get information out via our meetings, email, flyers, etc. The residents are comfortable and express themselves. Why would we go through another process and merge to create a new CAG?

- Council Serra stated some residents go to the other CAG meetings. Ms. Martens reiterated only 1-5 people attend. Ms. Martens asked what has that CAG done for this town?
- L. Riggiola brought up the resolution done for Enviro. CAG was done by D. Patterson. She then explained how the community group came to be starting with letter she wrote that was signed by over 300 residents. She explained how they met with the EPA in 2009 and how the Community Advisory Group idea was presented to them by the EPA. We asked why did we need it and told them that we already had our community group, Citizens For A Clean Pompton Lakes. We were not sure why we needed the group because we had the Citizens For A Clean Pompton Lakes but felt if the EPA suggested it and would become more involved we would welcome the idea. The EPA did become more involved with the DuPont Pompton Lakes site after our 2009 meeting. She further explained that she knew there was trouble when she saw who was being put on that PL Enviro. CAG. She explained that the PL Enviro. CAG broke their own rules. When the council speaks of a CAG in the council meeting, they speak of only one cag, the PL Enviro. Cag and not a word about the PLCAG. The PL CAG broke their own rules and then they were going to vote me out.
- The Library Media Center and holding future PLCAG meetings there was discussed including the certificate of insurance issue for other PL Enviro. CAG was brought up. Councilman Serra spoke about the PL Enviro. CAG meetings at the Library Media Center in Pompton Lakes High School.
- A. Tacinelli said the other CAG (PL Enviro. CAG) should showed up at our meetings.
- D. Patterson, H. Martens reiterated that our CAG is working and we have procedures for new CAG membership applications.
- H. Martens said it was in the newspapers that we were misleading the community. L. Riggiola explained that it was an editorial in response to our advertisement by the Mayor if she remembered correctly. Helen said we do a good job reporting accurate information. H. Martens said the Pompton Lakes Council is not looking at the people living in this mess as if they want to help them. We attend council meetings ask for help and get no help. Pompton Lakes Council trying to make it look like we are the trouble-makers of this town.
- Council Serra said the EPA and NJDEP are running the show. L. Riggiola stated that the 11,618 people that signed the petition should be supported by the PL Mayor/Council but they support a petition for no Superfund for 220 people. Council Serra further stated he doesn't support a Superfund. Councilman Serra stated that the EPA told him that Superfund would hurt the town people. D. Patterson explained that the EPA would never say that. – she said absolutely not. D. Patterson further asked Council Serra who told him this information and he stated didn't remember. D. Patterson started naming EPA representatives but Councilman Serra would not commit to telling us which EPA member stated that it would hurt the town people. He then stated that the EPA said it Superfund would slow down the process.
- Ms. Martens stated we have Senior Housing and contamination by the building; we have the plume, hotspots of contamination past the falls and hotspots on the Wayne side of Pompton Lake. She said we need an aggressive approach to address these contamination issues. H. Martens further stated that Mayor Cole needs to be more proactive and Councilman Serra said she should speak to the Mayor. Ms. Martens said Councilman Serra needs to go the EPA and bring this information back to the EPA from our PLCAG meeting and obtain some help for us.
- Resident J. Fern brought up Library Media Center to hold for future PLCAG meetings. L. Riggiola explained that she would be concerned that we would not fit in that space with the amount of attendees we have at our meetings. L. Riggiola stated that we need a certificate of insurance. She explained that Borough Administrator provided an insurance certificate of some sort to the Board of Education. J. Fern said that we should have our meeting in another building we do not have to pay for and that is not contaminated.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:30 pm