

Pompton Lakes CAG
February 17, 2014
Draft Minutes

In attendance: Cheryl Rubino, Dana Patterson, Karen Dean, Ruth Paez, Lisa Riggiola, Helen Martens, Joe Intintola (joined at 8:02 pm)

Not present: Kelley Blevins

The meeting commenced at 7:09 pm

Riggiola made a motion to approve the minutes from December 2, 2014. Martens seconded. All in favor.

Rubino went through the action items.

1. Riggiola provided an updated on the Congressman meeting. PLCAG shared vapor intrusion confidential document with his office. Asked him to find out why everyone knew and didn't tell the residents. He said he would and PLCAG will follow up. We discussed Superfund and he was not in favor of the listing for the site. Congressman began to rush us through the meeting and hardly listened to what we said.
2. Resolution 10 update – EPA is testing school. PLCAG is asked why they are not testing field and they are looking into it. Patterson told USEPA it should be done quarterly. Riggiola called Viridian to verify concerns about testing in winter and should be done in summer. Rich Lombardo asked who was testing and Riggiola said that USEPA or their contractor will be doing it. Riggiola went on further to discuss fields concern. Pat Corcoran said that she thinks the parents at the school probably don't know. Rubino said EPA will have results in March time frame. Lombardo expressed his concern to test the field. Rubino said we have discussed with USEPA (Perry & Pat)
3. Resolution 11 - (tabled until Joe Intintola gets here) (Note: Provided upon arrival of J. Intintola)
4. Corcoran spoke to Barry Milligan (in charge of boy scouts) and is interested in education outreach as a town wide issue. Riggiola reached out to Patrick Giles and gave contacts to environmental clubs at high school and will follow up with him on his progress.
5. Helen mailed copies to Patrick – he got 12 more signatures but did not have it and will fax it over when he has it. Helen offered it to the audience to sign if they have not signed it. PLCAG will hand copy to USEPA on March 19th at Public Session. . Deadline extended from 12/31/13 to March 19, 2014 for signatures.
6. Updated plume map – Patterson said that she drafted letter to Commissioner Martin. Riggiola edited letter. They will follow up with progress and send out.
7. Patterson said Horizontal Well plan was posted the day after the meeting.
8. Rubino emailed Councilman Serra and has not got a response to date. PLCAG will go to council meeting and put it on public record. Patterson previously asked USEPA and will follow with USEPA.
9. No progress on Facebook campaign for well.
10. Canvass door to door for horizontal well (tabled until Joe arrives) (When Joe arrived he stated that he plans to schedule a meeting at the Elks, specifically on the Horizontal Well which included Richard Chapin and he would flyer door-to-door for this meeting.)

New Business:

Riggiola previously covered Congressman under action items.

Riggiola said that there is a new representative for Senator Menendez (Tim Hillman) and Senator Booker (Zach McCue) and she can provide with contact information in an email.

Upcoming USEPA Public Session: Riggiola and Rubino met with USEPA and many of the updates they told them are in the recently issued newsletter.

Rubino said that they spoke about Horizontal Well and USEPA thinks it's a viable option. She said the railway has not approved it and encouraged everyone to call president of Railway and tell him not to approve it. She can provide contact info upon request. An issue the PLCAG has is the flooding. PLCAG will also send out letter requesting a formal hearing. Rubino further explained her concerns. They will be closing the discharge field. She wants to protect herself. There's no insurance plan to buy to protect her. She presented all of her research to the Mayor and Council. She called all different agencies, FEMA, etc. Groundwater is not considered a flood (not surface water).

Rubino will forward Chapin's memo regarding the Horizontal Well to Rich Lombardo as requested.

Rubino said they are also concerned about the vibration of the train. Riggiola said there is already a high water table. She thinks that DuPont wants to do it because it is a cheap option and will only push the contamination into the lake. They said that it was a pilot but from the plans it seems as if it was not just a pilot. Helen clarified that it is not to flush the contamination from under the homes; it's from under DuPont's property.

Dean said that homes on Grant are already getting water in their basements from the groundwater. Lombardo clarified that after the USACE did work on the lake, that it started happening.

Dean said that if they get flooded by the well installation, the homes foundations will be contaminated and the house cannot be remediated.

Rubino made awareness to USEPA's newsletter regarding the Permit By Rule hearing for this horizontal well and repeated that the PLCAG will be submitting one. Riggiola said the public can also request a hearing.

Rubino gave the Railroad contact: Nathan Fenno 607-547-2555 ext 236. nfenno@nysw.com

Corcoran said the Railroad president is concerned about community because she had dealt with him in the past regarding other issues.

Rubino spoke with him on the phone and followed up with him sending him memos. He responded to her within two hours regarding approval of the plan. Dean said it could affect their business and Cheryl said that is exactly the way you have to approach it.

Dean said when she calls people she asks them about the horizontal well and they don't know about it.

Patterson clarified why the permit by rule is allowed and the difference between a full permit and a pilot study. She explained the difference between a discharge to groundwater and pilot study and why this is different than the Barbara drive.

Pat Corcoran suggested a professional to come in and inspect the basements before the implementation of the well and have DuPont pay for it. Corcoran will follow up with someone she can ask.

Rubino said they asked USEPA about the bioremediation. Riggiola said they promised information for December and they still will not have results yet. Hopefully for March.

Rubino said for the Lake remediation, the next deadline is February 26, 2014. Lombardo expressed his concern with the dredging of the lake. Rubino said we said it would make more sense to clean up the land first, but EPA did not listen. Perry Katz from USEPA said they are looking at the hot spots.

Rubino said that USEPA committed to being at our April 7th CAG meeting.

Meakem said that after the USACE dam work, it has changed the groundwater levels. It will give a false result if the dams are open or not open during the lake remediation. Need to keep an eye on the levels of the lake during their testing because it can affect their results.

Lombardo said that they should also do drinking water testing at least once a year.

(Intintola joined the meeting at 8:02 pm)

Riggiola explained the study with Minnich & Scotto that was presented to USEPA. The original cost was \$35K that was proposed to do the entire study. USEPA would not complete the study and suggested Minnich and Scotto bring the proposal to DuPont to do it. Riggiola said that we should have air monitoring in our town like Roxbury Fenimore Landfill.

Rubino reminded the PLCAG that EPA is here on Thursdays and they will meet you wherever.

Old Business:

Update on Property Valuation Survey

Riggiola said they met with USEPA in August and would take action if they did not have results of the Bioremediation Pilot Study by December 31, 2013. Riggiola said we are collecting information and will be graphed and analyzed in order to present to USEPA. She explained what the Property Valuation Plan (PVP) and how it includes leaving, staying and compensation. She has received approximately 70 surveys back. So far majority said they want to leave the town. Riggiola read off a list of returned addresses and asked for help in obtaining correct name.

Action Items that were tabled:

Resolution 11 – update from Joe. Still working on it. According to USEPA he spoke with Pat and Perry and they have the reports in Washington DC. They are getting back to him about the records.

Intintola updated about canvassing. He said that Rich and he were going to host meeting about Horizontal Well and give out flyers about it in March. This has not happened yet. Intintola said Perry Katz of USEPA was very defensive about review of horizontal well. Intintola said that it looks more like permanent plan rather than a pilot study in the blue print. Intintola presented his map to the PLCAG and explained his concerns that he presented to Katz.

Public Session:

Patterson announces that she has been accepted into Columbia University and will be leaving EWA at the end of April. She will continue to participate in the PLCAG as a representative of herself.

Meakem commended Rubino for her presence at the council meeting.

Martens expressed her anger about the smoking ban in town. She wants to know how they can breathe in vapor toxics from DuPont but you can't have a right to smoke.

Dean requested the audience to reach out and try to get people to come to the meetings

The PLCAG continued to discuss various issues that they have presented to the council and the council has ignored them.

Dean is afraid of a sinkhole from the horizontal well.

Intintola said there is a defunct dry cleaner and NJDEP required it to be dug out. The town now owns the dry cleaner because they acquired after the owner stopped paying taxes.

Dean requested a tax appeal and someone responded that she probably would not get anything. Meakem suggested waiting to next year because the town is doing a reassessment. You have a better chance of winning after the reassessment when the taxes will go up.

Dean made a motion to close. Riggiola seconded. All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.