

Public Meeting June 23, 2016
Minutes of the Public Works Yard Meeting
7:00pm at Roger Sherman School

Present: DPW Director Joe Michelangelo, DPW Superintendent Scott Bartlett, Peter Miniutti, UCONN Landscape Architect, Robert Grabarek Osprey Environmental Engineering LLC.

Also in attendance were First Selectman Mike Tetreau, Chief of Staff Tom Dubrosky, Conservation Director Brian Carey, F&E Board members, RTM members and about 50 local residents.

Mr. Michelangelo began the meeting @ 7:07 pm. He introduced Mr. Bartlett, Mr. Miniutti, and Mr. Grabarek. He outlined the format of the meeting and explained the role of each participant.

Mr. Michelangelo began with a Power Point introduction of the Fairfield Public Works Yard. (PowerPoint will be available on line). He gave an overview of the various Town functions which occur on Richard White Way. He then explained the vast projects and duties that the Public Works Department performs which creates “spoils”. These spoils have been handled in the same southwest corner of the Public Works yard for years. The general framework for dealing with these spoils has been to blend it with other material to create a material that can be reused. When Mr. Michelangelo started in Sept. 2012, his predecessor Mr. White summed up the situation as below:

For 40 plus years the DPW Yard accumulated fill from its road and construction projects consisting of soil, stones, concrete, asphalt, rebar, etc. With a cost sharing contract with a contractor we have been able to reduce the pile by 20,000 cu yds to 40,000 cu yds. The contractor processed the material into sellable products and the Town received a share. Down turn in the market for these products and the fact that the remaining material is less desirable to process has ended this approach.

However, due to limited option and cost considerations, the Public Works Department (Michelangelo & Bartlett) decided that the method of conversion of spoils was still the best option to deal with spoils. In spring 2013 an RFP was issued. Julian Construction won the bid.

Mr. Michelangelo explained that due to the composition of existing material that was in the pile, more imported material needed to be imported. Mr. Michelangelo conceded that in retrospect, he should have done a better job of controlling the import of material. Although material needed to be imported, too much came in too fast. A better scenario would have let material come in, blend it, import material, blend it, etc. The pile has grown too high, which is why we are all here tonight.

Despite the issues this has created, Mr. Michelangelo stated he feels the approach of blending and mixing is the most cost effective and timely way to remove the pile. As the pile goes down and a future land scape berm screening goes up, he believes this will create a scenario that the neighbors and the Public Works Department can co-exist with.

The comparison photos of Jan 2016 and June 2016 show the pile is getting lower. Our goal is to get the pile to the 24ft elevation. Once we reach that point where we have a clean slate and the existing historically spoils are removed, keeping up with the monthly generated spoils will be a much less intensive operation.

On average, 3000 tons of material is being removed a week during this Spring 2016 construction season.

RESIDENT questions are in all caps going forward, did not identify themselves.

RESPONSES: JM- Director Joe Michelangelo, SB- Superintendent Scott Bartlett

PM – Peter Miniutti Associate Professor UCONN, RG- Robert Gaborek, Environmental Engineer

CAN YOU DOCUMENT THAT IT HAS BEEN MOVED OUT NOT JUST MOVED?

SB - Every ton of material goes over the scale.

RESIDENTS REQUESTED A 6 MONTH STUDY - X# of tons in, X # of tons out

SB – The Town is currently working with the Town Attorney to set height and sq ft limits, then, move the operation before going forward with the Berm.

QUESTIONS:

CAN THE TRAFFIC BE CONTROLLED?

SB – The trucks are only to use Post Road to Reef Rd as to not impact the neighborhoods, unless they are coming in from a local job.

The goal is to get the pile down as soon as we can. If we mandate shorter hours, the pile will be there that much longer. The trucks have fueling, greasing, preparation work before getting on the road.

WHY 10:30 AT NIGHT?

SB Transfer Station runs 24/7, they change out trailers as needed.

HOW ABOUT THE WEEKEND HOURS?

SB – We mirrored the hours of operation after the Transfer Station, Harvest New England, parks, beaches.

WHAT CONTROLS AND PENALTIES ARE IN PLACE?

SB – The percentage of road debris has to be met by the State standards for recycling.

WHAT IS THE TIME FRAME?

SB – 18-24 Months

JM The goal is to get to elevation 24ft so that work can be done and not be visible.

IS THERE A BREACH OF CONTRACT?

THERE IS A LOT OF NOISE WHAT WILL BE DONE?

SB As the pile goes down, a lot of it will go away

JULIAN HAS BEEN OUT OF COMPLIANCE, THERE HAS BEEN NO SUPERVISION, A MASSIVE EYE SORE, WHO IS WATCHING THIS?

JM The Town had wonderful intentions in 2013 when they selected Julian. They are the first vendor to deal with this pile. We were looking for a partnership license – the vendor could make money and the Town would get the pile reduced.

Mr. Michelangelo explained, to do the material process we need to bring in more material to meet the state requirements. A lot of goals were not met on the RFP. This information is being reviewed by the Town Attorney

WAS MATERIAL BROUGHT IN FROM OTHER TOWNS BEFORE 2013?

SB – Yes

HOW MUCH IS GOING OUT A WEEK?

JM- responded about 3000 tons a week are outgoing.

IS ENVIRONMENTAL WATER BEING TEATED?

SB -Yes, storm water testing has been on going.

WHAT IS IT COSTING NOW?

SB-Nothing

SB - For us to ship out the material is too expensive and not recommended by me.

JM - The 40 ft. high pile was really 60 ft. and the price of \$10.00 Cu yd. was closer to \$30.00 yd.

WHAT IS THE MATERIAL?

SB- Rocky concrete, asphalt

WHO GETS PAID FOR IT?

SB - The Town allows the contractor to be paid.

WHO MONITORS WHAT THEY GET PAID?

THIS IS A IS A VERY LUCRATIVE BUSINESS – IT WAS SUGGESTED TO GET DISCLOSURE

SB - The Town incentive is to reduce the pile, then how much \$\$ they make. They have to meet State mandate for the product to be sold. They have 2 test marks one is analytical the other, gradation.

CAN YOU SUPPLY ANALYTICAL INFORMATION?

IS HE GIVING FAIRFIELD RESIDENTS OR CONTRACTORS A PERCENTAGE?

WHERE IS HIS ACCOUNTABILITY?

SB He generates 10,000 tons a year.

WHERE IS THE INCENTIVE FOR HIM TO LOWER THIS PILE?

SB It is not in writing, but we expect it to take 18-24 months. The contract has not been renewed yet and is being reviewed by the Town Attorney.

Ms. Fingelli said she spoke with people from Julian who are ready to build a berm.

SB - explained that we are not ready to build until a good plan is in place.

Third Presentation, Peter Miniutti UCONN Landscape Architect (See Attached)

There are lots of visual techniques that can be used to reduce this site. There are several issues, no solutions yet and 2 surveys so far. The issues will be different depending where you live. Acoustics change, sound reverberates as the pile gets lowered and moved.

The fill area is 5.5 acres, the tree operation another 6.5 acres, a very sensitive wetland area. We can't try to hide it. We will facilitate with the public, coordinate with the Town, DPW and environmental consultants to create a plan that will mitigate the negative and reach our ultimate goal of something beautiful, a park like setting.

Mr. Miniutti stated there is an easy solution to fix this problem relatively quickly.

A survey was distributed for the residents to express their concerns, then collected for review. At a follow up meeting in 3-4 weeks, a plan of action will be addressed and a timeline presented.

8:40 PM **Last Presentation**, Robert Graberek, licensed Environmental Consultant from Osprey Engineering LLC, addressed the environmental climate of the location and shared results of recent testing.

He wanted to discuss 3 separate issues:

Phase I Environmental, Phase II Stormwater Prevention Plan and Phase III Surface Water Monitoring

He began with **Phase III** -

Phase III Based on the activity so far, 2 sets of data have been received.

There are no contaminants. Landfill testing includes things like fuel, oil, solvents, arsenic, lead. There are low levels of solvents, and the landfill leaching is normal.

CAN YOU POST THE TEST RESULTS ON TOWN WEBSITE?

WILL YOU BE DOING MORE SAMPLES? DANIELS POND?

PC - Yes

Phase I is more complicated –This is based on Standards and protocol from the American Society of Testing Materials. They have a structure- to view records, talk to personal, collect as much information as possible as to what goes into the area.

He looked at aerial photos, walked the sight, reviewed Town records

He shared a Power Point which included aerial photos of the site from the 1930's, showing the site as a salt marsh. The Town was looking for a place to locate the Nike missile base started by the US government.

People did things differently back then. In the 30's, 40's we collected wastewater that was discharged into the rivers and Long Island Sound.

Regulation agencies are in place now. He shared some aerial photographs from:

1940's US military build

1951 There was no pond – it was all marsh

1960 There is a pond and another set of ponds filled in with municipal solid waste.

This area was of no value so the Town began to use these sites for solid waste, burning brush, and incinerators for several decades. We began to cover this sight with waste asphalt, concrete material and the pile began to grow.

The State required monitoring wells, then testing samples.

Again, there was no significant industrial waste –relatively inert materials.

Phase II The Stormwater Plan

This falls under the Stormwater Pollution Plan by the DEP

Sediment is being carried off.

Julian was contacted to collect runoff –there has been a very substantial improvement. There is a lot of silt coming off the pile. Information will be posted on the website including the standards and values.

WHAT WAS THE QUESTIONABLE MATERIAL?

RG - organic (animal matter)

Violations are generated by DEP. There are penalties if failure to comply.

DEP doesn't initially slap fines –their quest in life is to get people motivated to be environmental.

DEP has changed its regulations. The State mandated changes last year – the subcontractors take on the responsibility. This is a state permit not Town. If you have a business, you are required to have a monitoring system. Our current permit, registered by Julian initially was to expire Oct 2016 but has been pushed out to Oct 2018.

All permits lapse after 5 years.

HAS TOWN MONITORED RUN OFF?

HAS THERE BEEN ANY TESTING AT DANIELS POND?

SB said we do have a baseline of bottom water sediment.

HAVE CORE SAMPLES BEEN TAKEN?

Mr. Grabarek , noted this has not been done yet. Phase I was completed for this meeting. It has not been decided yet when core sample may be identified.

Resident stated, as a citizen, a taxpayer, given that this area is a tidal estuary into Long Island Sound, the Town has a responsibility to take the final step and finish this.

Mr. Grauer stated that you cannot shellfish in Pine Creek.

Mr. Grabarek clarified that Pine Creek waterway was impaired waterway due to bacteria in Pine Creek. The organic matter from the animals in the wetland area is a big problem.

Mr. Michelangelo mentioned there will be another meeting in 4 weeks.

In conclusion, Mr. Michelangelo said, "Scott and I own the problem, it is ours to fix and we will fix it."
The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Fournier