

Community Advisory Group (CAG) Minutes for September 12, 2011

UNAPPROVED

Present: Nels Bohn, Ken Deschere, Regina Deschere, Jennifer Dotson, Peter Fortunato, John Graves, George McGonigal, Michele Palmer, Leia Raphaelidis

Guest: Scott Nostrand

Minutes from the August 1, 2011 CAG meeting were approved with no revisions.

Agenda Additions and/or Deletions

Ithaca Falls Overlook – Environmental Restoration Project

Scott Nostrand, P.E., a Tompkins County resident and environmental engineer with Barton & Loguidice, P.C. of Syracuse, outlined the restoration program for the Ithaca Falls Overlook and handed out a written Project Overview (PDF attached).

Barton & Loguidice wishes an ongoing dialogue with CAG so there are several opportunities for citizen participation in the project. To that end, perhaps members of the Ithaca Gun CAG would be available to attend future project updates at these CAG meetings. Both N. Bohn and K. Deschere said Sarah Steuteville, a member of the Ithaca Gun CAG, would be contacted to notify the group of these opportunities.

Barton & Loguidice's work is separate from the development team at the Ithaca Gun site, but one group's work affects the other. S. Nostrand said his company was now drafting a work plan for the L-shaped parcel and public walkway to the Falls' Overlook. The work plan is due to the State at the end of September, then on to CAG. The City owns the base of the Ithaca Falls, as well as some of the cliff. Over 15 years, there was lots of testing, "but didn't hit everything." The Overlook includes a 25- to 30-ft deep gorge. Lead shot is the contamination of concern, particularly the walkway area. Standard for lead is 400 parts/per million.

There is much cooperation between involved parties, and the State will sign-off and give the City indemnity paying for future issues. Wally Diehl is current factory owner; Frost Travis, site developer; Gary Priscott, NYSDEC contact.

S. Nostrand: "The City, State and residents need to decide how to spend a \$700,000 clean-up grant." Site Developer Frost Travis will pay the 10% local grant match reimbursement to the City. Beyond this grant, the EPA has more funding possibilities. The intent is to do clean-up during the site investigation. *Interim Remedial Measure: Find pollution, and where practical, remove it.* The public walkway is access to the park and housing units to be located on the factory/smoke stack areas. There's 6" soil sitting atop bedrock -- a highly erosive slope; how likely is it polluted? There will be limitations as to what can and can't be done to remediate lead particle contamination. Present concrete slabs could be a form of containment, and perhaps should stay. Remediation could cause more lead dust contamination. Lead is leachable, hitting bedrock fast. Skin could absorb lead dust. The DEC and DOH will be weighing in on these concerns, particularly the eroding slabs. Island slabs are 1950s-60's vintage. The area, though fenced, has evidence of people. There is a need for consistency in the State's decisions, on this

side of the site, as well as the other (factory). Clean-up efforts on the factory site, including sign-off to ROD, will continue independent of the Falls Overlook restoration project. Nostrand estimated 18-24 months work, commencing next spring/summer.

PROJECT UPDATES:

Emerson's 2008 calculation of 1 lb. per day mitigation stack TCE discharge, questioned by Ithaca residents, was alarming and incorrect. The source of the data, Emerson's consultant, WSP, corrected two math errors it found in their report, and re-submitted it to DEC's Karen Cahill, who forwarded to K. Deschere for CAG. The recalculated data show very low acceptable mitigation stack discharge levels.

Emerson Sewer Project – Common Council did not have the votes necessary to approve the easement to move forward with this now-tabled project before the end of this year's construction season. Despite TCE data of 18,900 ug/m³ on Turner Place and 17,000 ug/m³ on S. Cayuga Street, the ROD for Emerson off-site remediation consists solely of this project's East Spencer Street removal of 300-feet of sewer and passive vent system. Questions remain about this experimental project's ultimate effectiveness as well as testing assurances to residents. And when would the sewer project be reconsidered, since the Clinton Street bridge work is slated for 2012?

Regarding home testing by Emerson: the company will send an engineer to determine if testing is warranted in mitigated homes whose structures have been changed.

In the mean time, CAG should review the data within progress reports for on-site redesigned dual-phase extraction system.

Axiom: Approval has been given for the modification of a mitigation system for the South Hill Business Campus building. Quarterly groundwater sampling has been conducted. SHBC will submit a work plan for additional groundwater remedial work – another injection – soon.

Therm: The final draft of the investigative work plan is due to the state by the end of next week (mid-September). CAG members speculated about the location of future additional groundwater monitoring wells. The work plan should answer specifics. P. Fortunato said this summer an attempt was made and to his knowledge, failed, to locate monitoring wells installed 15 years ago. K. Cahill should be asked for clarification.

K. Deschere brought passive VOC sampler product information that K. Cahill sent. A 30-day means of data collection with cost/analysis similar to past home testing.

Cornell DesignConnect Project: M. Palmer said she did not know if enough students were on board for our project to begin. We'll know very soon. CAG will need to make goals, identify members to periodically meet with students, and locate necessary funding.

Future Meeting Topics: DesignConnect, Therm, Emerson, project updates.

Next Meeting:

Monday, October 3, 2011 at City Hall, 2nd floor Conference Room, 6-7:30 p.m.