

Community Advisory Group (CAG) Minutes for Nov. 1, 2010

Present: Nels Bohn, Ken Deschere, Regina Deschere, Jennifer Dotson, Peter Fortunato, Leia Raphaelidis, Eric Rosario, Kathy Woodcock **Excused:** Maria Coles, Michele Palmer, Valerie Pavan

Minutes from the October 4, 2010 CAG meeting were approved. Change all prior documents from Citizens' Advisory Group (Mayor's original title) to **Community Advisory Group** for consistency.

CAG Statement of Purpose sent to the Department of Environmental Conservation on 10/7/2010:

The CAG Statement of Purpose was approved by both the CAG Committee and DEC.

NYS Department of Conservation (DEC) and Department of Health (DOH) Correspondence:

Point of Contact (POC) for DEC:

Nels Bohn informed Gary Priscott at DEC about CAG but Gary felt Karen Cahill who still works for DEC should be contacted instead. In response to the CAG statement of purpose, Karen said the Point-of-Contact (POC) for DEC Region 7 is **Stephanie Harrington**, who works in the Public Affairs division. Send her e-mail and meeting notices and Stephanie will be responsible for ensuring that appropriate DEC project managers are notified. Stephanie is located in Syracuse, NY and can be reached at smharrin@gw.dec.state.ny.us (315) 426-7403.

Point of Contact (POC) for DOH:

Geoff Laccetti is located in Troy, NY. Geoff can be reached at gjl02@health.state.ny.us (800)-458-1158, ext 27860

Communication Protocol: Add both POCs to our contact lists. CAG members agreed the CAG Google website is best used for containing all documentation and for general discussion, feedback and meeting attendance. Privacy will be respected. Nels Bohn can report on majority and minority opinions.

A Councilman can contact a project manager and copy Stephanie Harrington to keep her informed about the communication.

The committee will discuss which appropriate information should be sent to POCs at the conclusion of each meeting. Regina Deschere will send this information to DEC and DOH.

Nels Bohn will ask Julie Holcomb to approve City of Ithaca Minutes and Membership. CAG Agenda and Minutes will be posted on the City's Website in the near future.

SITES:

- A. **315 S. Meadow Street, ROD** – Nels Bohn reported an excavated duct system will move coal tar from the NYSEG location down to the Farmer’s Market for removal. This process has neighbors concerned about toxin exposure. DEC should be informed that a three-day notice concerning a project was not adequate notification time for Councilmen who are also busy working on the city budget.
- B. **NYSEG – Court St. – Ithaca MGP**– Coal Tar issue explained above.
- C. **Clinton West Plaza Remediation** – Eric Rosario reported there is reasonable activity at the former D’Angelo Dry Cleaning location. The DEC has assigned a Remedial Design and Construction Project Manager for the site, David Chiusano. The DEC has also selected a pre-approved engineering firm (TBA) to do the remedial design and construction. Eric Rosario contacted David for details about the firm, as well as to let him know about CAG and that Stephanie Harrington is DEC’s point of contact (POC). David has been on site to look at the proposed installation of the vapor mitigation system for this commercial building.
- D. **Emerson, Former Axiohm & OFF-Site Former Axiohm** – Ken Deschere reported The Record of Decision about the remedial solution for doing a 300 ft excavation and inserting a vented sewer line along Spencer Street has not been officially approved as of this date. There is TC oxidation in wells and some have been cleaned out, but problems continue to exist at others.
- E. **Therm** – Peter Fortunato reported his personal knowledge about Therm and factories that existed prior to Therm. Karen Cahill is contacting home owners along Therm’s sewer system but CAG does not know how many households have been contacted: Question to Ask DEC. Karen is waiting for people to respond.

Testing will begin in early December. Indoor testing will consist of drilling a small hole being in the basement and placing a canister nearby to register results within a 24 hour period. Additional outdoor testing will be done.

Test results will determine the following:

- No Action Needed
- Further Monitoring
- Mitigation Systems

NYS will pay for this testing but not for resolving issues that may arise. The Attorney General is responsible for contacting the company about paying for industrial pollution cleanup.

Question to Ask DEC: Is Therm considered part of the Axiohm Off-Site Study? Or will Therm get its own site number?

City Legislators Request Budget Item:

Maria Coles/Jennifer Dotson– Due to severe budget constraints, no money was requested for an Environmental Consultant; Mayor Peterson recommended contacting local experts. Regina Deschere provided Maria Coles with this information to approach Congresswoman Barbara Lifton’s help in requesting.

Assignments:

Nels Bohn – Discuss with Julie Holcomb the timeline for posting CAG Agenda and Minutes on City Website; Coordinate with Ken and Regina.

Ken Deschere – Coordinate with Nels; Request a comprehensive DEC report about the different sites; set up conference call for DEC to participate at the next meeting.

Regina Deschere - Ensure DEC obtains appropriate documents to prepare for this meeting.

Next Meeting Topic:

- DEC update about project sites
- Strategy for maximizing CAG Effectiveness: (Remaining Topic from this meeting’s agenda)
 1. Site selection criteria for CAG focus
 2. Outside Expertise
 3. Selection of initial site(s) for CAG focus

Next Meeting Schedule:

Monday, December 6, 2010 at City Hall, 2nd floor Conference Room or 3rd floor Chamber Office, 6-7:30 p.m.