

Environmental Committee Meeting: June 16, 2009, 4:30 pm

In attendance: Laurie Cannon, Frank Cosentino, Diane Canterbury, Frank Barricelli, Ben Forest, Larry Quinn, Joe Fallon, Wanda Green, and Tom Mahedy.

We began the meeting by reviewing a Birdsall Engineering report that was received by FMERPA from the Borough of Eatontown at 2:00 pm that afternoon. The report raised some questions that will be reviewed thoroughly by FMERPA, but could not be done at the meeting. Everyone on the committee was provided a copy. Discussion ensued. Larry Quinn, from the NJDEP, felt that the document was misguided in that it seemed to connect the stream bank stabilization project to the landfill concerns, and the two projects are separate. According to Larry Quinn, the stream bank stabilization is more of an engineering issue to guarantee solid construction of the stream banks. Remediation of the landfills is another issue which requires separate plans and approvals. Frank Cosentino added that the purpose of the Fort's redevelopment is to create an environment that is safe and enjoyable for the community's use. We will certainly check into every aspect of this report and make sure that we have reviewed all areas of concern. It was noted that the DEP has already approved the permits for the stream bank re-surfacing projects and work is underway. Laurie Cannon requested that Eatontown be represented at the next meeting and that possibly a Birdsall representative could attend as well, so we could get answers to all of our questions and clear up any concerns in relation to the Birdsall report. Unfortunately, the Eatontown representative has not been able to attend the Environmental Committee meetings since March, and their input is necessary to the process.

We then returned to the original agenda and proceeded with the meeting.

Ed Dlugosz from Eatontown was out of town on business and could not attend. We again held his report on the stream bank stabilization and Eatontown's concerns as they pertain to the Fort Monmouth property. Ed emailed FMERPA the previous day to say that he planned on attending the July meeting to give that report.

Merwin Kinkade, the Tinton Falls representative, will be replaced and we expect a new representative at the July meeting as well. We will suggest that the new representative, once selected, meet with Merwin to review the committee's progress and collect any data Merwin had been putting together on the Underground Storage Tanks. The Army has, however, agreed to remove all underground storage tanks, and has begun to do that work which has alleviated the committee's concern on that issue.

Frank Barricelli, from Oceanport, was in attendance and presented his report on the Monitoring Wells used in the Fort Monmouth Environmental Restoration. Frank is also a member of the Army's Restoration Advisory Board and has been thoroughly involved in reviewing the clean-up processes from the start. After reviewing many reports and documents, Frank felt that he was satisfied that most sites do not have large volumes of contaminants to worry about. One exception, in his opinion, is the main post gas station. However, when it comes to monitoring wells, what is being done is thorough and efficient and in complete compliance with the NJDEP. In his opinion, the data is clear, easily understood, and consistent. Larry Quinn added that when the monitoring wells are no longer needed, they should be sealed. However, 8 consecutive quarters of monitoring tests are done over a two year period before an application for closure can be reviewed. There must be a clear declining trend in contaminants over that two year period or the monitoring wells will not be closed.

Next, Joe Fallon, from the Army, gave us an update on the Underground Storage Tank removal. Parcel 14 actually turned out to be underground steel pipes and not an underground storage tank after all. Parcel 28: tank was removed and the site was cleaned. Parcel 51 had a leaking heating oil tank which the Army reported to the State DEP and then removed the tank. They are currently removing the contaminated soil surrounding the area of removal. There were supposedly three possible tanks at the Field House but the area was opened up and the site was clean. At Bldg.

1203, the site was also clean. To date, the Army has identified a possible 27 Underground Storage Tanks. They have addressed 6 of those possible sites, and there are another 21 to work on.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, July 21st at 4:00 pm in the FMERPA conference room.

Closing remarks from Committee member Ben Forest: Ben asked Frank Barricelli if he was happy with the placement of the monitoring wells. Frank said that he was and that the readings were all on a downward trend, as desired. Ben Forest reiterated Laurie Cannon's suggestion to have an official communication with Eatontown and Birdsall Engineering to confirm their attendance at the next meeting. He felt that we need to be prepared to ask any questions which we have on the Birdsall report, and to pursue clarification on many of their points.

Tom Mahedy, public member, raised a question about chromium. The DEP is now re-reviewing allowable levels of chromium in soil. Although no chromium contamination has been discovered on any Fort Monmouth sites, Tom's point is that the DEP's allowable levels of contaminants has been known to change, and we should be aware of that. Also, Tom agreed with the committee that Birdsall's memo should be thoroughly reviewed and that all questions should be answered. He added that minutes were very important to him and that he wanted to review them at all meetings. He questioned why the meeting notice was not on the website and Frank Cosentino informed him that it was on the website but somehow came off due to a technical glitch of which FMERPA was unaware. Frank also stated that we are not required by law to put the meeting notice on the website but that we always do so because of our desire for public awareness, input and participation. Tom asked if an Environmental Impact study will be done. Wanda Green, from the Army stated that the Army will make that decision. The DEP can recommend an Environmental Impact study be done, but the Army is not required to comply with the request. Tom reminded the committee that Birdsall Engineering and Clean Ocean Action have requested Environmental Impact studies and Tom also asked that Larry Quinn forward the Clean Ocean Action request to FMERPA for their records.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:30 pm