

**MEETING NOTES OF  
BARNES AQUIFER PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**DATE: 10/3/17      LOCATION: Easthampton Municipal Offices, Easthampton, MA**

**MEMBERS AND DESIGNEES PRESENT:**

<u>X</u> M. Czerwiec, Easthampton	C. Seklecki, Easthampton	
D. Conti, Holyoke	J. Burkott, Holyoke	A. Smith, Holyoke
<u>X</u> T. Gaughan, Southampton	<u>X</u> M. Hanc, Southampton	Paul Diemand, Southampton
<u>X</u> Heather Miller, Westfield	K. Leigh, Westfield	Jay Vinskey, Westfield
<u>X</u> R. Newton, Smith College	<u>X</u> P. Gambarini, PVPC	<u>X</u> L. Sullivan, PVPC

Others present: Mary Ann Babinski, Westfield City Council; Keith Terry, Sherman and Frydryk; Kristen Mello, Westfield resident; and Ken Boucher, Southampton resident.

**TIME OF CALL TO ORDER: 3:30 p.m.      TIME OF ADJOURNMENT: 4:50 p.m.**

---

**Action Items from Meeting:**

PVPC

- Write and distribute 10-3-17 meeting notes
- Prepare a one-page draft document delineating what the BAPAC Advisory Committee needs to continue doing and what BAPAC needs to address that it can't because of inadequate funding
- Come up with plan for updating website
- Look into next round of grants for Massachusetts Environmental Trust
- Prepare agenda for the 11/7/17 meeting

---

**1. Adoption of September 5 meeting notes**

Adoption of the June meeting notes was recommended by Tom Gaughan, seconded by Heather Miller, and unanimously approved.

The BAPAC Advisory Committee members indicated that they wished to move forward to the Other Business Agenda Item #5. Tom Gaughan made the motion and it was seconded by Marla Hanc.

**5. Other Business**

Mary Ann Babinski gave an update on the Water Resource Protection District zoning and mentioned that public hearings with both the Westfield Planning Board and the Westfield City Council are needed. Mary Ann then spoke about the PFOAS Panel Discussion to be held on Wednesday, October 11, 2017 from 6:30 – 8:30 P.M. at the North Middle School Auditorium in Westfield. There is no cost for this event and it will feature guest speakers focusing on environmental chemicals and toxicology.

Kristen Mello reported that the City of Westfield's *2nd Mayor's Public forum on Drinking Water* was held on September 27th in the Westfield City Hall. Kristen listed some of the attendees at the meeting, namely, Dr. Marc Nascarella, Director of the Massachusetts

Department of Public Health's Environmental Toxicology Program; Joe Rouse, Director of Public Health for the City of Westfield; Heather Miller, Westfield's Water Systems Engineer; Colonel James M. Suhr, Commander of the Air National Guard Fighter Wing; along with representatives from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), the Westfield Health Department, Law Department and Water Department. Kristen reported that the Air National Guard is still in the process of their site investigation in collaboration with the MassDEP, the City of Westfield, the state and the federal government. Colonel Suhr stated that as soon as they have data, they will put out a press release. Kristen commented that she is pleased that the Air National Guard will share their findings.

Mary Ann reported that there was positive feedback regarding the September 27th meeting because there was a lot of discussion with Dr. Marc Nascarella and people in the audience asked thoughtful questions. She said that Dr. Nascarella and his assistant remained after the meeting was adjourned to answer more questions and people left the meeting in an optimistic mood. Mary Ann reported that it was stated at the meeting that there are approximately 100 military bases in the United States that are dealing with the same issue and the Westfield Air National Guard's investigation has been bumped up to being the third on the list of prioritized locations in the country.

Kristen added that an environmental toxicologist, who is researching chemical fingerprints that may be able to provide information that can lead to the source of contamination, will be attending the October 11th *PFAS Panel Discussion* in Westfield and she encouraged BAPAC members to attend.

## **2. Developments of Regional Impact**

### 184 Falcon Drive, Westfield – (Keith Terry, One Development & Construction LLC)

Keith Terry of Sherman & Frydryk, LLC, showed a plan for the property. Mr. Terry reported that his client is proposing a one-story, 15,800 square foot building addition to an existing manufacturing facility. Mr. Terry explained that the applicant is looking to expand his operation and continue with the same usage of the property. Patty asked how long this operation has existed but Mr. Terry did not know. He reported that the process inside the building is a light manufacturing assembly of electrical components.

Proposed new development on site will also include additional parking, and a hard-pack gravel storage yard. Mr. Terry stated that the plan is to make a connection between the existing and new buildings. The addition will extend back behind the existing building; the paved area will be extended; and a depressed area for the loading dock will ensure that the finished floor will line up with the truck beds.

Mr Terry reported that the roof runoff will flow overland across the parking lot and downward into a swale located along the property's eastern edge. Mr. Terry underscored that water doesn't leave this site. In a wet weather event, the swale will infiltrate some water, but when it fills, it will overflow into the parking area and then drain into two catch basins, one of which will be located on the edge of the parking area near the lower end of the swale. A second catch basin would be located at a proposed loading dock. Mr. Terry explained that this surface collection will be directed through a water quality-stormceptor unit and then into a subsurface infiltration basin below the packed gravel storage yard. A spill isolation valve

will be located in the storm drain system before the infiltration basin so any spill can be isolated.

Bob Newton asked why the infiltration basin will be covered with two feet of gravel. Mr. Terry replied that the applicant needs exterior storage for the larger components that will be delivered to the parking lot area and he acknowledged that since the infiltration surface is subsurface, objects can be stored over it. In response to Bob's question of what will be stored on the site, Mr. Terry replied structural and electrical components for solar panels. To Mr. Newton's question about whether this would include transformers or rectifiers, Mr. Terry indicated he did not believe so.

Heather Miller asked about curbing and Mr. Terry replied that there will be curbing on the entrance and along the western side of the parking lot. Heather added that it was stated that there's a valve on the outflow from the stormceptor unit so if there were to be a spill in the parking area, is the area graded to go toward the stormceptor or graded toward the swale. Mr. Terry replied that the parking lot will shed to the swale. Heather asked if there is a spill response planned for that area and Mr. Terry said there was. Bob noted that a spill in this area would run off the surface and infiltrate into the swale. He questioned what benefit the stormceptor would be except during larger storms when the water from the swale backs up into the parking lot.

Bob noted that the parking lot could be curbed so that everything is directed to the catch basins, stormceptor, and then the infiltration basin. Heather indicated that it seems that the requirements for infiltration will only be met if the parking lot is curbed so that the water goes through the stormceptor before it reaches the infiltration system.

Heather asked the location of the outfall of the swale. Mr. Terry said the swale surcharges to the catch basin. Heather replied that it appears that until the swale surcharges to above the rim of the catch basin, the water doesn't go into the stormwater system. So, she said, in a normal event, it would stay in the swale indefinitely or infiltrate which she said causes her to have a concern regarding the potential for spills.

Patty summarized, saying that it appears there is not adequate protection being provided to the aquifer with the current drainage scheme. There is too much opportunity for a spill in the parking lot to reach the swale and infiltrate.

Tom asked about the roof material on the new building. Mr. Terry replied that it's acrylic covered aluminum-zinc material. Tom asked if there would be rain leaders. Mr. Terry responded that there will be down spouts directed to the ground surface.

Patty asked if there is a list of chemical and hazardous material that will be required as part of the applicant's manufacturing process in the new building. Mr. Terry replied that he didn't know and Patty said it would be helpful to have such a list of any hazardous materials that might be used at the site.

Patty inquired about the percentage of impervious cover, and Mr. Terry replied that the impervious cover would increase from 37.8% to 62.2%. Patty asked whether a special

permit under Westfield's Water Resource Protection District might be required for this amount of impervious cover.

Marla asked about the parking becoming icy in the winter and Heather responded that concern would center on the type of chemicals used to treat the icy surface and the snow storage area delivering excessive sand and chemical deicers to the swale. Mr. Terry said the parking lot will be salted.

Patty indicated that in examining the Operations and Maintenance plan submitted for the project, it appears it was written for a different location as there are several instances where it does not seem to agree with what is proposed. It notes that all vehicles and other materials shall be stored under cover whenever possible and all waste products from vehicle servicing shall be stored inside. Mr. Terry said he believes that fleet vehicles won't be serviced on this property and he will update that section of the operations and maintenance plan. She noted that the Operations and Maintenance plan also references the Town of Palmer, and talks about a sediment forebay, which is not part of the current proposal.

She noted that in the past, BAPAC has asked that annual maintenance logs for stormwater facilities be submitted to the municipality. Mr. Terry asked where to send the annual maintenance logs. Heather replied that they should be delivered to the City of Westfield Planning Board to be used as part of their review and issuing of the stormwater permit. If needed, BAPAC can request copies of the logs from the Planning Board.

Patty stated that she would like to review the five major concerns she seemed to be hearing from the discussion and then get approval for inclusion in the letter to the Westfield Planning Board. She listed:

1. The drainage scheme is lacking adequate protection for drinking water supply due to inadequate pretreatment of stormwater and the inability to control spills with the current configuration;
2. Identification of the types of materials or vehicles that will be stored on the gravel area and any chemical and other hazardous materials that will be stored onsite is needed;
3. Determine whether a special permit should be sought for increase of impervious cover to more than 60%;
4. Greater detail about snow and ice treatment, removal and storage to ensure consideration of drinking water supply
5. The need to update the project's Operations and Maintenance plan to reflect corrections of errors noted, especially on-site vehicle storage and servicing, and to include submission of annual reporting logs

Patty called for a motion to approve these five concerns. Moved by Tom Gaughan, seconded by Mike Czerwiec, to approve the inclusion of the five project concerns determined by the BAPAC Advisory Committee, as listed above, in the letter that will be sent to the Westfield Planning Board. There being no further questions or comments, the motion was unanimously approved by the BAPAC members present.

### **3. Process with Municipalities on Moving Forward (augmenting fees and MOA)**

Patty stated that she and Marla Hanc met with the Southampton Planning Board on September 20th to explain why BAPAC is seeking additional funding from planning boards for review of development projects in the Zone 2 area of municipal member communities.

Patty noted that since she issued the letter on the augmenting of fees, she's been receiving various responses from municipalities. While Southampton planning board members understand the request and seem to indicate that it is reasonable, she wants to ensure that the arrangement for additional monies to cover review of development projects is the same from one BAPAC member community to the next. Some of the other BAPAC member municipalities have indicated that they are concerned that this request changes the MOA and that the additional fee requires involvement from chief elected officials not just planning boards. Patty reported that yesterday she received a letter from BAPAC's Holyoke representatives saying that their municipal staff is fully equipped to perform required reviews and that the reviews should be done by the municipalities in order to free up BAPAC to carry out other work delineated in the MOA. Members were confused by this, indicating that Holyoke had originated the idea of finding a more equitable approach to covering costs for reviewing development projects. Patty said she had invited Holyoke representatives to attend the meeting to help members understand the letter.

At the same time, Patty reported that Westfield Counsel has indicated concern that BAPAC is moving forward with changes to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) without consulting the municipalities. Patty explained that she has been trying to assure Counsel that no changes will be made to the MOA without engaging member municipalities.

Patty suggested that it might be helpful to have a roundtable with municipal leaders to talk about what BAPAC's been doing all these years; its successes and challenges; and BAPAC's goals for the future. Bob agreed that holding a roundtable with municipal leaders is a good idea. Patty suggested that if a mayor could be found to host a roundtable, the attendance might be better than if BAPAC were to host on its own. She noted that it would be best to wait until January.

Patty underscored the need to make the BAPAC Advisory Committee relevant, effective and equitable for the future and to engage municipalities at the mayoral level. Patty said that the distributed document provisionally entitled *Improving the Barnes Aquifer Protection Advisory Committee: A Briefing Paper for Municipal Officials* is a draft. She briefly explained the history of BAPAC funding to the BAPAC members and referred them to the draft document. Patty underscored that the bottom line is that the municipalities' annual dues have remained the same at \$2,000 since October 1994. BAPAC is expected to do the same work for \$2,000 per year which hampers BAPAC's ability to perform its four basic functions. Heather suggested beginning the document by listing the four basic functions or purposes first then stating that BAPAC can't perform all of them due to a lack of funding followed by a listing of what BAPAC wishes to accomplish. Patty indicated that she will work to revise the document and present an update.

#### **4. Work Program**

Patty called the committee members attention to the distributed draft document entitled *Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2018* which is a work plan typically folded into the annual

report. Patty said that overall, the annual report, has way too much narrative and she recommends reducing effort with the annual report.

Tasks that are not high priority this year are grayed out. Patty said she did not want to eliminate them completely because these tasks could be important to pick up on in coming years. Priority tasks for FY2018 as noted are:

- Continuing to conduct reviews of Developments of Regional Impact. Patty reported that she started using a form for review of projects to get a sense of what does/does not work. Once finalized, the form can go on the BAPAC website and developers can complete and submit the form prior to attending a BAPAC meeting on their project. She noted that this is meant to help as developers often come to BAPAC meetings with insufficient information.
- Working with municipalities to update the Memorandum of Agreement. Patty said she added this based on discussions at previous meetings where this was stated as a priority by members.
- Continuing to improve the BAPAC website. This includes developing a section on K-12 resources. Marla asked how will visitors to the BAPAC website know to look for the K-12 section and Patty replied that information could be disseminated to the school systems. Bob asked that Patty provide a schedule for when these updates will occur.
- Follow up on the interest expressed by Southwick and West Springfield in joining BAPAC.
- Resubmit grant request to Massachusetts Environmental Trust. Patty noted that in the last round, MET turned down BAPAC's request to fund a public engagement campaign, but the grants administrator has encouraged BAPAC to reapply.

**5. Other Business** (taken out of order; see page 1 of these notes)

**6. Next Meeting Date**

The next BAPAC meeting is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 7, 2017.

Tom Gaughan made a motion to adjourn this October 3rd BAPAC meeting at 4:50 p.m. and the motion was seconded by Heather Miller. All in favor, none opposed, the motion carries.