

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

DATE: 4/3/18 **LOCATION:** Easthampton Municipal Offices, Easthampton, MA

MEMBERS AND DESIGNEES PRESENT:

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

Others present: Mary Ann Babinski, Westfield City Council; Attorney Meghan Bristol, City of Westfield Law Department; Rob Levesque, Rob Levesque Associates; John Richardson, MA ANG 104th Fighter Wing, Base Environmental Coordinator

TIME OF CALL TO ORDER: 3:35 p.m. **TIME OF ADJOURNMENT:** 4:30 p.m.

1. Introductions

2. Adoption of March 6th meeting notes

Corrin Meise-Munns introduced herself and stated that the March 6th meeting notes will be adopted at the June 5th BAPAC meeting. Mike called for a motion to approve the postponement of the adoption of the March 6th meeting notes.

Bob Newton made a motion to approve the postponement of the adoption of the March 6th meeting notes, seconded by Marla Hanc, and the motion was unanimously approved.

3. Citizen Speak

Corrin reported that Kristen Mello wasn't able to attend today's meeting but she emailed three documents to be shared at today's meeting. Kristen reported that there has been no action taken yet on the art contest to coincide with groundwater and drinking water awareness and she is still editing the video of Bob's aquifer presentation.

The three documents provided by Kristen are:

- Letter to Luke Showalter of Furrow Engineering from the Westfield Health Department
- Letter to Joseph Rouse of the Westfield Health Department from the Department of Environment Protection
- Site Plan Approval/Stormwater Management Permit – (Westfield Planning Board Decision, March 26, 2018)

Kristin wrote in her email earlier today that the Westfield Planning Board approved the Site Plan for the Root Road property to allow for the construction of an educational facility but the Westfield Health Department denied the application for a Disposal Works Construction Permit submitted by Furrow Engineering. Kristin further commented that the Root Road septic design was rejected because it was an illegally large septic system and she pointed out that human waste pollution is in direct conflict with the preservation of and protection of the Eastern Box Turtle.

4. Developments of Regional Impact

- Update on February meeting questions relative to Air National Guard Phase I report and private well results – John Richardson, MA ANG 104th Fighter Wing, Base Environmental Coordinator

John Richardson reported that the Air National Guard conducted a site investigation that has been published and has been posted to the MassDEP website to which everyone has access. ANG is now working on scoping out a supplemental Site Investigation to go beyond the limits of the base. Mr. Richardson indicated that the Air National Guard is trying to obtain funds in order to work with the City of Westfield. He reported that Air National Guard representatives visited with Senator Elizabeth Warren's staff and Representative Richard Neal and advocated for funding to support this next phase investigation. Mr. Richardson reported that the contamination of aquifer wells is a huge issue nationwide and he urged the BAPAC members to contact their politicians because the more calls the legislators receive, the quicker progress will be made in resolving this issue. Mr. Richardson added that the southern part of the runway is being examined to determine the extent of the contamination.

Bob stated that Mr. Richardson had said that the Air National Guard is trying to obtain funds but there are no funds available and someone has to put these funds in their budget. Mr. Richardson responded that the Air National Guard was promised funding by September of this year to support the supplemental site investigation. Bob inquired as to the role MassDEP is playing in overseeing the study of the contamination and he asked if MassDEP can apply pressure on the Air Force for funding. Mr. Richardson replied that when the Air National Guard performs a cleanup they simultaneously use the NCP¹ process, the MCP² process, follow CERCLA (the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act and have a LSP³. Mr. Richardson stated that the Air National Guard officials have met with the state to review all plans before they are finalized. He said National Guard officials have adopted the MCP process and can hire a LSP and then follow the LSP process. Mr. Richardson indicated that the Air National Guard has cleaned up a lot of sites and has given three wells to the City. He added that the Air National Guard in 2002 was recognized with a good business award from BAPAC. Mr. Richardson stated that the Air National Guard has "been open about this whole thing." He noted that the NCP process can't be forced on the Air National Guard but the Guard has been following it for over 20 years.

Bob asked Mr. Richardson how funding can be obtained and Mr. Richardson replied to contact the offices of Senator Elizabeth Warren and Representative Richard Neal. Mr. Richardson commented that residents have asked to have their water tested and MassDEP has responded that they will charge for testing the water. Bob asked if there are any plans for having blood tests on people that have been exposed. Mr. Richardson replied that the Department of Public Health should be contacted and last spring, a public hearing was held and Dr. Marc Nascarella addressed the Westfield City Council. Mr. Richardson then stated that if the BAPAC members had any more questions or concerns, they can call him or send him an email. Mike thanked Mr. Richardson for his presentation and Mr. Richardson left the meeting.

¹ NCP – *National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan*

² MCP – Massachusetts Contingency Plan

³ LSP – Licensed Site Professional - An LSP is an environmental scientist or engineer experienced in the cleanup of oil and hazardous material contamination.

Marla asked to have a motion made to send a letter to United States Senators Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey and to Congressman Richard O’Neal to request funding. Bob said that the BAPAC members need to take some time to develop this letter and ensure that everyone has an opportunity to review and comment on it but the letter needs to be written and mailed before the next BAPAC meeting. Corrin volunteered to draft a letter and Bob then stated that Corrin would draft the letter and that it would be circulated for everyone’s review. Corrin said she would have the draft letter for email distribution early next week.

Marla Hanc made a motion to have a letter sent to United States Senators Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey and to Congressman Richard O’Neal to request funding to pay for water contamination clean-up costs in contaminated Barnes Aquifer wells including funding for the installation of a water filtration system and to have the letter written and mailed before the next BAPAC meeting scheduled for May 1st, seconded by Bob Newton, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Bob suggested that senators and representatives be invited to attend a BAPAC meeting to discuss the aquifer’s contamination and try to figure out how to resolve the situation. He also suggested having an op-ed be written in the local newspapers. Corrin commented that she would ask PVPC Communications Manager Patrick Beaudry to draft an op-ed.

- Proposal for 41 O’Neill Street, Easthampton – Rob Levesque Associates

Rob Levesque introduced himself and stated he was representing the owner of the subject property. Mr. Levesque explained that this is an existing operation located on 41 O’Neill Street with a good-sized industrial building and an associated improved parking site. He reported that a portion of this property will be combined with another portion through the AR approval process which will combine and reconfigure the site setbacks to meet compliance requirements. Mr. Levesque read from the Adhesive Applications website that adhesive application products that will be manufactured on this property include transfer adhesives, silicone/polyester masking tapes, protective films and heat activated dry films. Applications also include headliner lamination, bonding textiles to sound dampening materials in door panels and anti-squeak/rattle applications.

Mr. Levesque stated that the request is for a 54,000 square foot addition to the back of the building with another 3,720 square foot addition to front of the building. The location of their existing loading docks will be reconfigured along with access to them and the installation of overhead doors. There will be construction of a warehouse and a manufacturing operation but no new manufacturing is proposed. Bob interjected that it will be an expanded product production and Mr. Levesque agreed and said he will find out what production lines will be expanded prior to the next BAPAC meeting. Mr. Levesque reported that per zoning requirements, the square footage requires additional parking to accommodate the proposed expansion of the building. He stated that there has been communication with the Planner, Jeff Bagg, regarding obtaining a waiver to reduce the parking requirement because the owner believes that less parking is needed although there are no provisions under the current zoning bylaws. Corrin asked if there is a plan for an increased number of employees and Mr. Levesque replied that he will try to obtain a number.

To accommodate impervious surfaces, Mr. Levesque stated that there will have to be a wetland disturbance. He reported that the proposed drainage system runs along flat land and a sub-

surface detention system that's water tight will be installed under the parking lot with deep sumps along with normal catch basins that run into a sediment forebay. Bob asked how close the two buildings are to one another and Mr. Levesque estimated about 40 – 45 feet. Bob asked for the percentage of impervious surfaces and asked for the infiltration rate in the infiltration basins. Mr. Levesque replied that he would send the BAPAC members a PDF of the Stormwater Report.

Bob asked what kind of hazardous items are being stored in the building and will the amount of hazardous materials stored increase because of the increase in size of the storage facility. Mr. Levesque replied that a submission was recently made to the Westfield Planning Board and there is a Planning Board meeting scheduled for May 1st. Mr. Levesque stated that he can either present BAPAC questions to the Planning Board before the May 1st meeting or BAPAC members can write a letter to him and he will write a response to present at the May 1st meeting. Corrin asked Mr. Levesque to respond to BAPAC's questions in an email then BAPAC will send a letter to Mr. Levesque before May 1st. Also, Mr. Levesque added that he would send the infiltration rates to BAPAC. Corrin asked for a review of the information that BAPAC is requesting from Mr. Levesque and a list was formulated as follows:

- A list of the hazardous material stored on site
- The infiltration rates that will accompany the new system
- A summary of the reports on the test pits
- The total percent area of impervious surface
- PDF containing summary of the pre-imposed CSF
- Calculations on how much run-off
- PDF that has tables showing CNs (runoff curve numbers)
- Information from test kits on seasonal groundwater

Mr. Levesque stated he will email answers to the above bulleted items to Corrin.

5. Other Business

Corrin reported that Patty is interested in finding out if any BAPAC members would like to participate in the *Walk for Water* to be held at the Mill Pond Park on Saturday, May 12th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Patty will have a table and she will bring a map of the aquifer showing the location of the wells and information on better lawn care practices. Corrin added that Patty might be able to get water bottles printed in time for a raffle. If anyone wants to join her, please let her know.

6. Special Meeting to prepare for roundtable for chief elected officials

Bob reported the roundtable will occur in the first or second week of May. Corrin added that Patty will have more discussion about the roundtable at next month's BAPAC meeting.

7. Next Scheduled Meeting

Tuesday, May 1, 3:30 p.m.

Bob Newton made a motion to adjourn this April 3rd meeting at 4:25 p.m., seconded by Marla Hanc, and the motion was unanimously approved.