

Pompton Lakes Environmental Community Advisory Group (CAG)
January 18, 2012 Meeting Summary
7:00 PM – 9:30 PM
Pompton Lakes High School Media Room, 44 Lakeside Avenue
Pompton Lakes, New Jersey

Meeting Facilitator: Jimmy Rose (in-plume resident)

Members and Alternates Present:

John Soojian (Acid Brook Vicinity), Bill Pendexter (Hydrologist, Non-Plume Resident), Art Kaffka (Chamber of Commerce), Michele Belfiore (Pompton Lakes Residents for Environmental Integrity), Ella Filippone (Passaic River Coalition), Jimmy Rose (in-plume resident), Elizabeth Kachur (in-plume resident), and Anne Silversey (Acid Brook Vicinity)

Members/Alternates Not Present:

Steve Grayberg (Pompton Lake Restoration Committee), Abby Novak (Pompton Lakes Environmental Committee)

Ex Officio Members Present:

Pompton Lakes Borough Council: Councilman Mike Serra, Councilman Bill Baig
US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): Adolph Everett, David Kluesner, Ariel Iglesias

Public Present:

Jefferson LaSala, Regina Sisco, Joe Filippone, George Popov, Ed Merrill, Michael Keough.

I. Welcome and Administrative Updates

December CAG meeting minutes were approved. CAG voted not to change the make-up of the Administrative Committee. The CAG discussed possible changes to their Operating Procedures to update the change in facilitator function from a neutral to rotating CAG members. There was a suggestion that perhaps an ex officio could serve as a facilitator. CAG decided not to change the Operating Procedures for now. The CAG identified the following members to serve as facilitator through May:

- February 1: John Soojian
- March 7: Steve Grayberg
- April 4: Art Kaffka
- May 2: Bill Pendexter
- June 6: TBD
- July 11: Elizabeth Kachur

The remainder of the CAG meeting facilitators will be determined later.

The July CAG meeting date has been moved to July 11 due to the July 4 holiday. The High School Media Room is not available during the summer months when school is closed, therefore, the meetings likely will have to be held in the Civic Center. David Kluesner will reserve the Civic Center for July 11. The August CAG meeting date is August 1st and it will be held in the Civic Center.

II. Discussion of CAG Work Groups:

The CAG discussed whether the current four work groups should remain in place and discussed probable focus areas for those work groups in the coming months.

- Technical work group with Bill Pendexter as chair: Bill anticipates work group review of on-site remediation.
- Outreach and Lake Remediation work groups also to remain in effect. Outreach work group will focus on plume canvassing efforts using the results from EPA's efforts. Work group will meet on the 27th of January at 7 PM.
- Real estate work group. Michele indicated that DuPont was not responsive to her request for home value protection plan for plume residents. Michele stated that the value of homes in flood prone south end of Pompton Lakes have taken a dramatic hit. Michele explained that homes are often classified by lenders as "environmentally sensitive" and that is used as a basis for denying requests for lending/re-financing. The CAG requested that people provide them with specific names and letters of denial from residents when they are turned down for a mortgage or re-fi, especially if the lender is issuing loans in other areas designated as environmentally sensitive. Discussion of whether the CAG should draft a resolution calling on DuPont to offer a homeowner value protection program (better interest rate on loans + equity loss) Councilman Serra will distribute to CAG members the Borough's resolution from over a year ago on the value protection plan. Michele Belfiore will help distribute to CAG members a January 21, 1998 article from the Suburban Trends on the topic of the value protection program for the Acid Brook cleanup of residential properties.
- Discussion of whether a work group should be formed on Future Use of DuPont Site. Bill Pendexter feels that the majority of soils contamination does not present an impediment to development of the site. Discussion of site zoning, remedial investigation reports, compliance schedule, etc. DuPont should be invited to be a participant in these discussions and reminded that they have an open invitation to attend the CAG meetings. The CAG will pose a question to the Borough Council as to when and whether they are forming a Borough Council committee on this same topic.

Ella Filippone raised the question of how the CAG gets publicity on its accomplishments and focus areas and plans. The monthly display ads in the Suburban Trends is a good thing but the CAG and EPA need to think about additional ways to get information about the CAG out to the community. Ella also recommended that if DuPont comes to future CAG meetings, that they come to meetings only as observers. CAG members noted that DuPont has come to previous CAG meetings to make presentations but they do not come unless requested. EPA informed the CAG that DuPont has a standing invitation to come to all public meetings and CAG meetings and likely would be coming to these in the future in order to hear questions and concerns from the public.

The CAG voted in favor of creating of new "Future Site Use Work Group" (four members voted in favor, one abstained and one member opposed)

On the issue of two open CAG seats the CAG voted to suspend any deadlines on nominations. Put nominations requests in display ads, request the Borough Council to mention open seats and do individual recruitment of members.

III. Ex Officio Updates

There were no ex officio updates at this administrative CAG meeting.

IV. CAG Agenda Topics:

February Topics:

- Project timelines designating who has lead on ground water, on-site soils, lake, etc. (EPA lead)
- 30,000 foot view of vapor mitigation system installs over the past two years (EPA lead)
- Acid Brook sampling results report out (EPA)
- Update on bathymetric survey of lake bottom (EPA)
- Split sampling update (NJDEP & EPA)
- Update on lake remediation comment process (EPA)
- Ground water technical review update (NJDEP)
- Update on Health CAG activities (NJDHSS & ATSDR)
- Ground water pilot update (NJDEP)

March Topics:

- Vapor Mitigation System inspection process and system warranty fact sheet (EPA)

V. Public Comments

Comment from a resident that maybe mediation be used to get DuPont to resolve issue of plume home value impacts. Much discussion about the role of negative publicity/media attention on Pompton Lakes environmental problems. Some expressed a viewpoint that the technologies are there to clean or prevent exposure to contaminants, the hard part is overcoming the public perceptions. One resident claimed that they were told not to plant a garden at their home in the plume. Perhaps a fact sheet is needed to clear up myths is needed or needs to be re-circulated for those basic questions that keep coming up. A resident expressed disbelief that the CAG is focusing on site future use issues rather than more important health issues of residents and demanded that DuPont come to the table and stop litigating the residents. It was pointed out to the resident that the permit compliance schedule dictates the timeline for site cleanup. The site soils remediation schedule is contained in the permit which DuPont has to comply with and the CAG members are reacting to the project schedule to ensure that it and the broader community has a voice in key decisions about future use of the site. A resident wanted to know why EPA is not sampling on the other side of the Lakeside Avenue bridge and whether metals are moving through the ground water plume into the lake or not. A resident requested a map of plume testing results (indoor air, ambient air, sub-slab).

VI. Action Items

1. David Kluesner to provide Ella Filippone CDs of the Remedial Investigation Reports for the three manufacturing areas.
2. Preparation of updated project timelines for February CAG meeting (EPA/Kluesner)
3. Preparation of summary of vapor mitigation system installs from 2009 to present. (EPA/Everett)