

Moretown Development Review Board

Minutes of DRB Hearing Held September 27, 2012

Continued Application of Moretown Landfill For Cell 4

Members of the Board present: Erick Titrud; John Riley; Jim O'Neill; Raymond Munn; David Russo.

4:00 Site Visit at Moretown Landfill, Inc.

The Board convened in the parking lot of the temporary town offices located on the former Kaiser property now owned by Moretown Landfill, Inc. Present for the Applicant were Thomas Badowski and Robert Sochovka and representatives from the Applicant's Engineering Firm, Sanborn Head. Also present were many of the neighbors and interested parties in this proceeding. The group donned safety vests and proceeded up the access road, stopping at the location where the access road veers left. As part of the proposed expansion the Applicant would re-route the access road so it runs westerly toward the Grow Compost facility. The representation of the Applicant was that the existing mature trees would be removed and the present steep incline contoured to afford a steady grade.

The group proceeded to travel up the current access road through the area of the existing residential drop off and recycling area, around the existing leachate collection tank, and passed stockpiled crushed rock and topsoil, to where the westerly boundary of the landfill parcel meets the easterly line of the Baughman/Ransom/Grow Compost property. It was explained that many of the existing trees in this area are planned for removal with the Applicant proposing to relocate the residential drop off area to this location. The access road would pass just easterly of this area and turn and ascend the hillside toward the proposed Cell 4 location. Representatives of the Applicant pointed to flagging on the hillside representing the approximate proposed location of the road.

The group then traveled back and easterly ascending the current access road that provides access to ongoing operations on Cell 3. As the group ascended the road it was able to observe activity associated with the current blasting which removes bedrock for crushing and stockpiling and use as cover material. The group continued to the height of the road and observed to the south excavation of overburden from the hillside, and the ongoing landfilling operations to the north. The Board and others present also observed the existing height and elevation of landfilling activity in comparison to the proposed expansion. The group then returned to the temporary town offices and the site visit completed at approximately 5:50 p.m.

Continued Hearing at Town Office

At 6:30 p.m. the Board reconvened at the temporary town offices located in the former Kaiser residence as leased by the Town of Moretown from Moretown Landfill. Prior to the hearing on September 17 Moretown Landfill, through Tom Badowski, had submitted a two page cover letter and an attached 12 page narrative summary prepared by Sanborn Head generally summarizing the prior history, current landfill operations and activities, and proposed expansion for Cell 4. The report also discussed groundwater issues associated with the current operations and proposed expansion, as well as stormwater, traffic impact and noise impacts. At the hearing the Applicant made a presentation of the information contained in the 12 page report, and responded to inquiries from the Board and questions from residents.

Included in the presentation was a description of the construction standards for landfills under changes in federal law which occurred some 20 years ago. In addition to having a double liner of material which is designed to be impervious, a leachate collection system is established to collect rain water that filters through the landfill during its active operation. This leachate is collected and disposed offsite. As landfill portions are completed, they are “capped” so that additional water cannot penetrate and filter through the deposited material.

The Applicant stated that as part of its activities it chose to cap the previously uncapped old unlined landfill and believes this action has stemmed increasing levels of contaminants as detected in monitoring wells. The Applicant also believes its decision to excavate paper sludge that had been deposited in an unlined area, and use it as cover material (thus placing it within a lined and to be capped location), has also contributed to stemming increased levels of contamination as found in monitoring wells.

The presentation also touched on the science of groundwater monitoring and the flow of groundwater. Neighbors of the landfill are greatly concerned that should the landfill liner and leachate collection procedures not function properly polluted water will reach groundwater and migrate to their onsite water supplies. According to the Applicant, reviewing levels of groundwater in various locations provides evidence as to which direction groundwater flows and based on evidence collected over many years the water flows northerly and easterly towards the Winooski River, and not toward the residential properties. This is an important issue and the Board will devote a specific hearing to receiving additional evidence on this topic.

During the proceeding there was also discussion of anticipated truck traffic associated with the ongoing landfill operations. According to Tom Badowski, the landfill is not seeking to expand the existing 1,000 ton daily limit. Larger trucks deliver 25 tons and others up to 10 tons. It is estimated that the existing truck travel will not increase.

Board member Raymond Munn stated a concern that it is difficult to envision the proposed reconfigurations of the facility associated with Cell 4 and requested a 3-dimensional map which depicts contours, the leachate collection tanks, residential drop off location, access road, etc. The Applicant agreed to investigate whether it could provide such a map. Also, an orthophoto or other map would show not just the facility but nearby residential locations in relation to the facility was requested.

It was decided that the next meeting would be held October 11 beginning at 7:00 at the temporary town offices. The Applicant will make a presentation about blasting associated with the proposed expansion. Also, provisions for stormwater control can be addressed at that time. Issues of groundwater and hydrogeology will be heard on October 25 at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting concluded at approximately 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JRiley", written over a horizontal line.

John Riley, Acting Clerk