

Earth Removal Advisory Committee – May 7, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Time: 7:02 pm – 8:34 pm

Location: Town Hall

Members Present: John Picariello, Chair; Cabot Dodge; Toni Bandrowicz; and Gary Barden, as well as pending ERCA member, Ted Smith

Members Absent: Katheryn White; George Potts; and James Potts

Present from Aggregate Industries (AI): Lisa Young, Erik Muller, and Chris Drucas

Present from City of Salem: City Councilor Lisa Peterson and Tom Devine, from the Salem Planning and Development Board

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm

Aggregate Industries (AI) draft annual permit

AI indicated that it would be expanding the work in level 6 this coming year, as well as continuing work in levels 3, 4, and 5.

In response to a question as to whether there have been complaints about the quarry in Salem, Ms. Peterson said yes, mostly about the noise from the trucks. A discussion about truck traffic - both from AI and in the area generally -- then followed. It was noted that AI allows trucks that come earlier than the hours of operation, the company lets them into the facility to wait. Whereas the entrance to the quarry is in Salem, it is up to the Salem police to control trucks idling longer than the state law permits.

Later in the meeting, Ms. Peterson read a complaint she had received from a resident on Britany Circle. Chris Drucas who also lives in that area noted that he does not hear any noise from the trucks.

Ms. Young was asked if AI could give an estimate on the truck traffic and a figure of 140 to 150 on average per day was provided.

Discussed also was that there had been a proposal to include a requirement that truck routes be approved by police. It was noted that it would be the Salem Police that would have to be involved, but that it was generally not practicable.

AI indicated that there would not be any equipment upgrades this year. Perhaps in 2020, or 2021 the plan was to move the secondary plant further down in the quarry.

The parties discussed the work AI had recently done on the weir to Foster Pond. It was noted that, while it was generally working well, there was seepage under and around the concrete

structure, but not enough to cause water quality issue. Samples of AI discharge are taken here under the federal NPDES permit.

Salem representatives had questions on the blasting and asked for information on how residents could get put on the blasting notification list. A phone number was provided to them at the meeting. An ERAC member noted that this information should be provided on the ERAC page on the town website.

The parties then went through the provisions in the proposed permit.

With respect to section on Customer Sales, it was noted that their reference to the “blacksmith shop” would have to be changed as it is no longer there; suggested that they use “Employee Entrance” instead.

AI representatives stated that there are no plans this year to crush during period from Memorial Day to Labor Day. ????

Going forward AI will provide smaller versions of the aerial photographs.

There was then a lengthy discussion of the Closure Plan section and it was determined that it needed to be revised as it was not accurate, in particular, it stated that a Closure Plan would be completed by 2020. What was proposed in a 2010 Outline of the process for developing a Closure Plan was that negotiations on the plan would begin in 2020. As the Outline was outdated, it was proposed that the permit section be rewritten to state that the parties, including Salem, would meet to review the Outline and have it ready for renewal of the permit next year.

An ERAC member questioned whether it was possible that discharges from the quarry to Thompson’s Meadow could be causing the creation of uplands in the wetland area. A representative noted that, while there is an outfall there, it is “ballooned” (blocked off) and the quarry would only discharge from it in an emergency situation, and if it did discharge, it would have to notify EPA.

A vote was taken to present to the Selectmen the permit as drafted with the changes to the Closure Plan section as discussed at the meeting, as well as changing the reference to the blacksmith shop.

Chris Drucas will be sending a redraft to the ERAC for review.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm.