

Earth Removal Advisory Committee – October 9, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Time: 7:02 pm – 8:27 pm

Location: Town Hall

Members Present: John Picariello, Chair; Cabot Dodge; Ted Smith; and Toni Bandrowicz

Members Absent: Katheryn White; James Potts; George Potts, and Gary Barden

Also present was Chris Drucas, Essam Kader and Lisa Young from Aggregate Industries (AI) and Tom Devine from the City of Salem (Planning Dept.)

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm

Purpose of the meeting was for AI to present draft Scope of Work for a Quarry Closure Plan, a copy of which is attached).

Mr. Essam Kader Introduced himself as the new quarry manager and provided background on his prior experience. He stated that he has worked on the Big Dig and several other projects in Boston. He has also been involved with other quarry closures in the mid-Atlantic.

It was noted that it is important to have Planning Department involved in these discussions with AI.

Ms. Young walked everyone through AI's draft Scope. Section 2 proposed the establishment of a joint committee with Swampscott and Salem to work on finalizing the Scope by April 1st, 2019, with an update to the Swampscott Board of Selectmen by Dec. 31, 2018. ERAC indicated that the draft will be shared with appropriate representatives in Swampscott and Mr. Devine will share it with Salem staff; any questions or comments will be provided back to AI.

The draft Scope proposes as a next step having Swampscott and Salem to develop, and complete within 9 – 12 months, (by Oct. 2019) a recommended community needs assessment and zoning review to determine best future use of the property at closure. After that, with input from that committee, AI would identify within the next 9-12 mos. (by Oct. 2020) potential closure reuse options and fill alternatives. At that point AI will develop the closure plan, and may use planning and engineering professions, with a goal of completing the plan within 12-18 mos. (by April 2022).

The needs assessment meeting with both communities and the public was suggested.

Mr. Devine expressed concern about spending resources/funding for a need's assessment at this point (AI indicated that it would not be paying for the assessment at this time), and so would prefer it occur later in the process.

Regarding a question as to whether AI could be doing partial reclamation prior to complete closure, Ms. Young noted that the company does that as part of its ongoing quarry planning. The draft Scope, in Sec. 5, also notes this will be evaluated during the development of the closure plan.

Ms. Young described what a plan would be for the present condition in the quarry and what they have done to shore up areas like the slip area and the berms at the front of the property. Also some work would have to be done to reduce the 130 foot high wall in the oldest part of the quarry to create steps or benches so that it isn't a shear drop.

A "triggering event" would move the closure plan closer to reality. The triggering event would be considered something that would jeopardize the mining operation within the quarry, business outlook, quality of material at a greater depth, water accumulation, etc. Core holes have been drilled to determine the quality of the rock for future mining in Swampscott and there isn't any area in the quarry that isn't desirable for development. However if mining isn't realistic due to triggering events, there is a possibility of transporting material from other sites to be processed in Swampscott extending the operation. Ms. Young states that Massachusetts will always need processed rock, and that material to be processed would possibly be either trucked in from other locations or by rail.

An external consultant in the future was discussed and at what point they would be involved. Again a timeline of the future mining operation of 40-60 years, and 14 benchmarks being proposed makes it difficult to predict when that would be.

The Swampscott quarry has mined approximately a million tons for many years. In another quarry that Aggregate is filling with solid material they take in 100,000 cubic yards, which is tested, and expect that it will take another 15 years to fill. If Swampscott is filled the final level would be at street elevation.

The possibility of expanding the rim outward was discussed and examined on the map provided with the end result being that it is possible to go toward the Danvers Road side but not in the oldest part of the quarry or near any area that has wetland adjacent to the present rim. Aggregates usually plans out no more than 5 years, typically on a year to year mine plan.

Ms Young went through each paragraph of the draft and the supporting documents she presented. There were two reclamation plans presented, one to fill with solid fill and the other to allow it to fill with water.

It was requested an electronic copy of the Scope draft from AI to distribute to all not present and town hall.

A motion was made by Tonia to approve the meeting minutes from the last meeting with the White Court application and voted on unanimously.

The permit for White Court was reviewed and a motion made by Tonia with the changes mentioned about Saturday operations and voted on unanimously.

John brought up the fact that members are not attending the meetings. Gary Barden and George Potts have missed many meetings. Tonia will mention this fact with Angela and send out an email.

Next meetings are on October 23rd, Nov. 13th, and Dec. 11th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.