

Earth Removal Advisory Committee

August 30th, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Town Hall

Members Present: John Picariello, Chair; Cabot Dodge; Ted Smith; George Potts; and Toni Bandrowicz (for first ½ hour of meeting)

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

Also present was Karl Fried from Groom Construction Co., Dan and Roberta Cobbett, Arthur McLeod, Kate Greehan, M. McClung, Ellen Winkler, residents from the Greenwood Ave. neighborhood.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

When asked about the status of the project, Karl informed ERAC that blasting will be completed by Tues/Weds. of next week. Some material (large boulders) has been removed from the site, and the plan is to crush the rest of the material on site and recycle it.

Regarding the traffic plan, Karl believed route was Eastern Ave to 107. Using tractor trailers, 2 per trip 3 trips per day (total 6 trucks), spaced 2- 2-1/2 hours apart.

Questioned if trucks are going past Hadley during school hours, Karl said he will talk to drivers.

In response to a question about mitigation of dust during crushing, Karl said he had been told that there is a way to hook up water to the crushers. Asked if he was watering down material while loading the trucks, he said no. The point was made that there isn't anything obstructing the ocean breeze carrying the dust from the operation of drilling, blasting, loading trucks from going throughout the neighborhood.

A resident brought up the fact that during demolition the amount of dust was horrendous until a pumper truck was brought in to water the building down. The water pressure from the street presently isn't enough to do the job.

Trucks idling when on site will be limited to 10 minutes.

For this permit Saturday hours will not be allowed.

The depth of excavation will be approximately eight feet below present grade.

Complaints from resident that the blasting horns could not be heard initially and that was corrected.

Asked if prior to any work on the site was started, if the neighborhood had site plans done on their property, and the neighbors said that yes, pictures were taken of their homes and property.

Grading of slopes was discussed at the Fuller Road end of the project site. A dead tree will be taken down and the slope cleaned up. A resident stated that 19 trees have been removed, or a third to a half of the trees that were on site. In a heavy rain this could cause the slope to slide. There are two manholes and a retention tank to hold excess water. Resident McClung suggested that the area could benefit from landscaping improvements and trees. There will be a curb at that end to prevent water from going down the slope.

A neighbor voiced a strong objection to the use of crushers on site. During the years of discussion of this project, the use of crushers on site was never mentioned. He stated that they are loud and dusty and will be used in a dense neighborhood. Karl said that they will be crushing for 5-10 days. The neighbor then suggested hauling all material off site, crush it, and then truck it back. The water pressure on site was not sufficient to control the dust from crushing.

A resident asked for an explanation of the crushing operation how it is done? What noise and dust does it create? Asked what the noise level would be, Karl stated that it will be louder than the drilling that is going on now. Committee member Potts asked if there was any way to put noise barriers around the crushers to keep the decibels below the 70 db limit. Committee Chair Picariello suggested that the neighbors have the option to express their feelings about crushing on site at the upcoming Selectmen's hearing. A discussion followed about putting barriers around the crushers and the limited space and cost to do so.

Committee member Dodge tried to reassure the neighbors that the dust created will not be that bad, that the crushers are well-designed and that the material is wet when it comes out. He noted that crushing is a general practice at this kind of construction.

Resident McClung asked if it was possible to know what the decibel level of the crushers would be and if it was possible to do anything to limit the noise, such as sound barriers around the equipment.

Karl said that the crushers cost \$5,000 a day and that the company wants the work done as quickly as possible.

Karl stated that Fire Chief Kevin Breen, and DPW Director, Gino Cresta, have visited the site on a regular basis to witness the operation.

A neighbor complained about the dust accumulation and getting their windows washed.

The street sweeping was next brought up and the neighbors said that they are comfortable with calling the company with any problems that arise.

To summarize the meeting: if crushing is done on site, the permit has to require that there is sufficient water and dust. Alternatively the permit can require that the crushing be done off site (but that will be with both increased cost and trucking)

Informed that hours of operation are 7:00 am to 4:30 pm; No work on weekends.

Having asked if anyone present had any other questions or concerns that had not already been discussed, the public meeting was closed.

The committee then voted and accepted the meeting minutes from the past two meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.