

**TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT  
EARTH REMOVAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ERAC)  
Minutes of April 14, 2022 Meeting**

**Swampscott Police Station  
531 Humphrey Street  
Swampscott, Ma. 01907**

**This was a virtual meeting, with the following EARTH REMOVAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS present:** John Picariello, Chair, Tonia Bandrowicz, Ted Smith, and Matt Therkelsen.

**Other Guests:** Town Representatives: Marzie Galazka, Director Community and Economic Development; and David Harris (LBPA architect), Michael Carroll (Hill International), Andy Vo (Hill International), Jim Noyes, and Nicholas Botts (Nitsch Engineering).

**Meeting called to order 6:37 P.M.**

Overview of project by consultants.

Consultant: Topics to be discussed: site mobilization, earthwork and rock removal, soil management, temporary traffic controls.

For site mobilization, will be putting fencing around the site, installing erosion control.

The early site phase will occur over the summer (July to Oct) and focused on demolish of existing school and the bulk of the earth removal work; goal is to get down to pad level and open up trenches.

ERAC – Need to meet with blaster and contractor who are not present tonight.

Consultant says it understands that and so will plan to have the blaster and contractor have a kick off meeting with ERAC as well as police, fire before starting work.

In response to ERAC question, consultant confirms they will be adhering to ConCom permit that was issued.

In response to another question concerning contaminated material on site that will be removed, consultant explains that it did get preliminary results showing reportable levels of heavy metals zinc, lead in certain areas; likely when school build, contaminated fill was brought it. Consultant notes that at levels they are seeing, there isn't a health issue. Consultant is open to whatever requirements ERAC wants regarding soil management.

Consultant: planning to do crushing on site. Crushing will happen for a short timeframe; trade off is that to do crushing off site will add to the traffic problem.

ERAC – There will be a condition that any stockpiling will need to be covered, to reduce possibility airborne dust in windy conditions. Questions whether can stockpile at middle school?

Consultant - Loom will be removed offsite and then returned, but it may have to be amended.

ERAC- How many crushers, one or two? And how long will crushing go on? Consultant says 6-8 weeks maybe longer. And planning on 9 – 5 but can adjust the time frame. Also planning on 6 days, but can limit to 5 days. The crushing will be operating continuously.

ERAC – Noise level of crusher? Consultant will confirm that it will be 10 over the ambient level, measured at the property line. Can be more restrictive, but if too restrictive, then can't crush. Can put soil in with rock which will mute sound somewhat. The rock will be wetted before, during and after it comes out of crusher. In response to question about using specific equipment that may be quieter, consultant says usually specify the limit, not the type of equip. And in response to question of whether will need to crush all of the material, consultant says yes. In response to question of can crush in the interior of the site, and not near edge, consultant says yes.

ERAC - Not sure wheel washing will work. ERAC's experience with the quarry is that wheel washing only moves the dust out to the street. Contractor says that will have street cleaning to keep the neighborhood clean and if necessary, can have street cleaning every day. ERAC comments that when doing sweeping, need to do it wet.

ERAC – Notes that there will be a significant amount of truck traffic, hundreds of trips. Contractor says probably 5-6 trips an hour.

ERAC has concerns about proposed traffic route. Proposed not going any further than the Danvers bridge on Essex Street. The intersection at Essex and Eastern Avenue poses a problem with tractor trailers making the right turn to head towards Route 107. Also tractor trucks are using Burrill Street as a route to travel to the Lynnway which may be a possibility, not knowing at this time where the destination is for the material being removed from the site. ERAC also concerned about traffic Orchard St. Proposed that Orchard Circle be made an entrance one way for truck traffic returning to the site from Salem Street, and that Orchid Road be the only exit to Humphrey Street.

ERAC – Asks where are workers going to park? Consultant says that they may park on site or middle school parking lot. Details and permission from the town and school. Once school returns to session that may not be possible.

ERAC - How many times a day will drilling occur? How big diameter the blasting holes? What material for explosives? ERAC needs to hear from the blaster as noted above.

Consultant - Have talked a blaster who indicated 4-8 holes to start as a test to see how rock reacts. But they would like to get it up to 30 holes. Planning 2 blasts a day, early and afternoon, but drilling will happen all day long, for 2 to 3 months (so if start July, will go into the school year)

Consultant - Blasts themselves are not that loud, sounds like a thunderclap; there's a video that shows controlled blasting.

In response to a question about pre-blast surveys, consultant says they are planning a larger area than required.

In response to a question about dust control for drilling, consultant says they will be wetting before drilling.

In response to a question of why not wet down before blasting, consultant says it will have to ask blaster. ERAC notes that it encourages quarry to blast in the rain.

ERAC notes that Select Board will have problem with hours of operation, 7 am - 6 pm, six days a week. Consultant says that typically work day will be 7 - 3:30, but just want extra time if something needs to be finished but will accept whatever restrictions are imposed. But if doing concrete work, may ask for extra time for that specific operation.

ERAC - raises concern about truck traffic when middle school opens in fall; consultant can accept limiting traffic during school opening/closing times.

ERAC - Storing blasting material on site will not be allowed; consultant agrees can have requirement that won't keep material on site at night. ERAC says also need a condition that no blasting material left in hole overnight, or if that condition arises, contractor will provide a guard.

ERAC - Suggests giving residents blasting compliant forms when conducting pre-blast surveys. Consultant says that will be considered.

Blasting limits discussed and consultant notes that seismographs will be put on the property line, preferably in all four corners.

ERAC - Need a contact list of the contractor, blasting coordinator, site manager, etc.

Concerning the Integrated pest management plan, it is noted that there is a requirement in the Conservation Commission permit that will have to be followed. ERAC questions how other pests, bats, birds, squirrel will be managed.

ERAC requests that final IPM be submitted for ERAC to review.

Discussion of storm drainage on the site. ERAC asks with all the water being used on site, equipment, stockpiles, wheel wash, dust management, will the water be controlled to prevent buffer zone and or property or streets be affected? The water should be absorbed in the open ground, or goes to existing storm drains; will have to be monitored.

As for next steps, Town notes that it will need to get to go out to bid in late May.

Plan to present at Select Board May 4 meeting, so need to get Board package by April 28 or 29. That being the case, ERAC will have to meet next week to vote on package, so set meeting for Weds. April 20 at 6:30.

ERAC asks consultant for Word version of application materials to aid in preparing permit.

Regarding the meeting with the blaster, it can be done either at another ERAC public meeting, or at the public forum the consultant plans to have with the residents.

ERAC notes that it needs a dated and file stamped application from the town.

A provision in the conditions will allow any and all town administration, town inspectors, committee members assess to the site at any time.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm