

Catskill Town Board Committee Meeting
Catskill Town Hall
May 15, 2013 6:30 pm

Attendance: Joseph Leggio, Supervisor; Robert Antonelli, Councilman; Pat Walsh, Councilman; Gary Carlson, Councilman; Elizabeth Izzo, Town Clerk

Supervisor Leggio opened the meeting with a moment of silent prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. He introduced John Benson of Barton & Loguidice whose firm monitors the post-closure of the landfill.

Mr. Benson thanked the board and gave a brief synopsis of the landfill. He stated when it closed in 1993 it took a lot to bring it up to grade in order to close. Gas and leachate issues were addressed and remedied. As a requirement upon closure, there was quarterly post-monitoring of the landfill and since 2010 DEC gave formal approval to have well sampling yearly and biannual gas sampling. Since the closure the water quality has improved. The cap is doing its job to cut off infiltration and the collection system around the perimeter of the landfill is doing a good job to collect. There is still some infiltration but where the landfill is geology wise, it is good at not picking up water.

Supervisor Leggio asked how many more years will there need to be monitoring. Mr. Benson stated anyone who was in the landfill business got out in 1993 as that is when the regulations changed and it would have been more expensive to operate. There is a 30 year monitoring regulation in effect. The town has now been closed 20 years. Traditionally, the monitoring will never end as there will always be an environmental liability. We will always want to make sure the cap is covered and the collection system is maintained.

Supervisor Leggio asked the liability will always be there. Mr. Benson stated yes as the garbage is still there. Supervisor Leggio asked Mr. Benson, in layman's terms, if a person owns a house and wants to sell it, how does it affect property values? Mr. Benson stated it is not a detriment to a homeowner. Nature loves those sites. When the landfill closed all the houses that wanted to be sampled were. We worked with the DOH and none of the wells were compromised.

Supervisor Leggio stated the piece of property borders the creek. As the landfill ages, could it be a useful site for a picnic area or a hiking trail along the creek? Mr. Benson stated he has had people put ball fields, soccer fields in over landfills. Our site is not good for that. It is better to keep the people away and leave it as it is. If people are to be there they should skirt around the cap. You do not want to disturb the cap in any way. The landfill will always emit gas but there are no exposure risks. If the town is interested in access to the creek, we can help you look at accessibility.

Supervisor Leggio stated he wasn't sure if it was feasible. He is not advocating a fishing hole. Mr. Benson stated he has had some people do it with Brownfield sites etc. He stated he hasn't physically traversed the area in awhile but he can walk it with Alfie. He stated you do not want large trees on it as you want the cap to be impermeable. It can't be used for ATV's. It can't be disturbed as there is a small to negligible environmental risk.

Councilman Walsh asked which wells are tested. Mr. Benson showed an aerial map and the wells around the landfill. The water testing was not done as part of the closure as it was not required. The town had the wells tested in 1993 when it closed because the Town wanted to. That was when the wells were at their worst. The flow goes away from the houses. Supervisor Leggio stated there is no reason test now. Mr. Benson stated there is no scientific reason to test now as everything has improved since the closing. It looks good after 20 years. Supervisor Leggio stated the resolution to sign the contract with Barton & Loguidice to continue the landfill monitoring will be done at the next board meeting.

Supervisor Leggio thanked all for coming and stated since the board meetings fell within a week of one another there was nothing specific to talk about and opened the meeting for public comment.

Mr. Omerod asked about the status of the Woodstock wall. Supervisor Leggio stated as of this morning, in the fall, the project was bid and the town thought we were ready to go and we would be done before January. There were two other projects in the creek and there was no permit for the wall project and he doesn't know how that happened. There was a meeting on March 1st with DEC, FEMA and Army Corps and there was no permit for the project. He does not know why it took them five months to tell us there was no permit. Phone calls were made to our Congressman and Assemblyman. We met last week and the original plan was from point A to point B, which was approved. Then the wall was extended 100 feet and that was not in the permit process. DEC and Army Corp do not want an armored wall going up 100 feet and they won't put something back that wasn't there. The Engineer said the wall will turn into the bank and be about two feet high and fifty feet and then pavers 18 inches thick to line the bank and then rip rap on top so it is as natural looking as possible. As of today, Rich Praetorius sent the completed plans to all and allegedly they are all on board. They are to review the plans and get back to us and the start date will be June 1st.

Supervisor Leggio stated the other problem with the project it was awarded for x amount of dollars for x amount of work. If the scope of work changed the project would have to be rebid. Fortunately we do not have to rebid the project but just have a change order once it begins. This is a compromised plan between the Engineer, DEC and Army Corp after the meeting that was

out here a week ago Friday. We cannot do anything without DEC or Army Corp signing off. Hopefully the project will begin June 1st.

Mr. Omerod asked about the stop sign by the road work and why it is not a yield sign. Supervisor Leggio stated when the road was opened last fall...by first of June the road will be closed off.

A person asked if sidewalks will be going in. Supervisor Leggio stated he does not believe they are part of the plan as it depends on the grade but he will find out.

Donna Karch approached the board because she is concerned about people parking in her yard now that the Town of Hunter has put no parking signs all down the mountain. She lives on Route 23A at the foot of the mountain. She worries about being able to see coming out of her driveway. She stated they put no parking on public land and now people will park on private land.

Councilman Carlson stated it is a big problem when people are parking at the Falls and we should address it. Ms. Karch stated buses pull up in front of her house and pull out picnic tables. Supervisor Leggio stated only part of the Town road is a dead end. Ms. Karch stated Alfie put up signs. Councilman Carlson stated we should reach out to Hunter. Supervisor Leggio stated it is a state road and we should reach out to them and ask to extend the no parking.

Supervisor Leggio stated if someone is parking to take a pic of the car and have it towed. Councilman Carlson stated that is difficult to enforce. Supervisor Leggio stated a letter will be sent to DOT tomorrow.

Another resident asked if there was any movement on the pocket park on the corner of Woodstock and Kaaterskill. Supervisor Leggio stated he received emails that no one wanted it because of the garbage and debris left that the neighbors have to clean up.

The woman in the audience stated there are boulders up to stop people when parking and her thought was to continue those boulders in stretch for a pocket park. Supervisor Leggio stated we do not know who owns that strip of land. The piece the town owns is behind the fire department and across the creek. He was thinking further down there was a place for a pocket park but the response he received was negative.

Councilman Carlson stated there are a lot of complaints received of partying in that location. Ms. Karch stated it is the only swimming hole open to the public. Danny Sousa stated the tax maps show no address where the tax bill would be sent. He stated the biggest culprits are the Blue Mountain Campground. Supervisor Leggio stated we can block it off with rocks so people

can't park there. Gary Kistingner stated the residents can't use the creek. Some communities have local parking permits on their cars. Supervisor Leggio stated if you are local you are walking to it. The locals are not the issue.

Supervisor Leggio asked if there was any further comment. With no further comment a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Carlson and seconded by Councilman Antonelli. Meeting ended 7:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Izzo
Town Clerk