

## **2229 Main Street Oversight Committee (Committee) Meeting Minutes for Monday, March 28, 2022.**

### **Persons Attending**

**Committee Members:** Chair Pam Rockwell, Fred Seward, Nick Pappas and Len Rappoli.

**Town Officials:** Select Board Clerk Matthew Johnson.

**Visitors:** Time Rose and Nancy James.

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 using a Zoom platform and in accordance with public meeting protocol.

### **Items Discussed**

**Previous Minutes:** The Committee reviewed and accepted the meeting minutes from February 7, 2022.

The Committee discussion centered on the de maximis community meeting and site walk. The Committee elaborated on the following topics.

**Community Meeting and Site Walk.** Remediation Management Contractor de maximis hosted a meeting at the construction trailer at the former Nuclear Metals Property (the Site) on March 16, 2022, to explain the results of the Sitewide Sediment and Soils Pre-Design Investigations (SSS PDI) Report. Several members of the Committee including Pam Rockwell, Fred Seward, and Len Rappoli attended that meeting and were invited on a walking tour of the Site after the meeting. Pam Rockwell briefed the Committee and guests about what was discussed at the meeting.

**Boundary Delineation.** Committee members posed a number of questions to de maximis before and during the community meeting. Paramount was a revised delineation of the boundaries of excavation following the SSS PDI sampling results. A significant amount of new soil has been found to warrant excavation including around the western perimeter of the Cooling Water Pond, the saddle between the Cooling Water Pond and the Bog, under Building E, and several other areas of the Site. Building E soils showed contamination as deep as 20 feet and triggered a reconsideration of vertical excavation limits. The newly designated excavation areas were depicted on a map provided by de maximis. There is an important question as to whether additional sampling is needed now to further refine the limit of excavation or whether confirmatory sample after excavation will ensure acceptable residual risk. EPA is still weighing in on this matter.

**Risk Characterization** The residual risk numbers established in the Risk Assessment varied between 10-04 and 10-06. It is the Committee's understanding that remediation of a parcel will be required if risk is greater than 10-04. Remediation will then continue until residual risk is less than 10-06. According to de maximis, these risk numbers are consistent with the Record of Decision.

**Former Landfill.** The SSS PDI report included the geophysical investigation performed by Geophysical Applications during Fall 2020. The geophysical report showed that most of the buried metal debris was located under the present landfill cap. However, there were also a couple of "hits" south of the landfill cap in the flat part of the slope in what is expected to be native material. At some time after the Fall 2020 geophysical report, demaximis went back out to test pit south of the cap to confirm the hits. The question came up about how de maximis distinguished where to test pit. During the site walk, the original grid lines appeared to be faded or nonexistent. The Committee would like to know how the hits

south of the landfill cap were originally tied off. The Committee would also like to see the original MACTEC geophysical investigation appended to the next submittal for comparison.

**Stormwater Runoff.** de maximis expects that routing of stormwater will be a major concern going forward. The current masonry stormwater drains under the building foundations are contaminated. Future stormwater work will include new drains and stormwater diversion to the Cooling Water Pond. The Committee suggests that a permanent solution to stormwater be developed now to plan for future expansion at the Site. The Committee should try to enlist the opinion and expertise of Public Works Engineering soon as stormwater diversion may happen as early as this summer.

**Tank House.** During the Site Walk, de maximis pointed out a former Tank House adjacent to the Holding Basin. The Tank House is contaminated, is blocking the implementation of the Holding Basin solution, and is scheduled for removal. The Tank House can be removed off-site or it can be demolished into the Holding Basin. de maximis prefers the latter. The Record of Decision makes no mention of extra material being dumped into the Holding Basin. The Committee is concerned that if approval is granted, it may start a trend of random dumping into the Holding Basin.

**New Onsite Groundwater Treatment Plant.** de maximis plans to build a new Treatment Plant on Site property on the hill west of the former buildings to accommodate an additional bedrock pumping well. The new system would treat approximately 20 gallon per minute. Discharge of treated wastewater will likely be the Assabet River. Site infrastructure such as heat and septic has not been decided yet. The Committee suggests that the treatment building be aesthetically designed to fit in with the hillscape.

**Sphagnum Bog.** Additional excavation around the bog is slated following the SSS PDI sampling. The Committee is concerned that additional excavation will negatively impact this sensitive ecosystem. The Committee would like to see the additional data on the bog sampling and a plan early in the design process describing what sort of restrictions will be placed in perpetuity to protect the bog.

**Expressing Opinions.** There was some robust discussion among the Committee and visitors about whether the Committee should express a collective opinion about future development at the site. The pro stance says that this is a good time to plan development with expansion in mind. The Town should not use a minimalistic approach and discover later that today's solutions are not suitable for the future. The con thought process begs the question of how does the Committee appropriately express its opinions. The Committee should not speculate and create plans along the way. This approach may go beyond the charge of the Committee.

The next scheduled Committee meeting is Monday, May 2, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted

Leonard V. Rappoli

