

## SELECTBOARD JOINT MEETING

DATE: September 11, 2014

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

PLACE: Large Meeting Room

FOR: Joint Meeting to Discuss Rest of River

PRESENT: Selectboard: Deborah Phillips, Chairman; Stephen Bannon; Daniel Bailly;  
Ed Abrahams

Planning Board: Jonathan Hankin, Chairman; Suzanne Fowle; Jack Musgrove;  
Brandee Nelson; Malcolm Fick

Chris Rembold, Town Planner

Conservation Commission: Andrew Mankin, Chairman; Lisa Bozutto;  
Jessica Dezieck

Shep Evans, Conservation Agent

Jennifer Tabakin, Town Manager

Jim Murphy, Environmental Protection Agency Representative

Ms. Phillips called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

Ms. Phillips announced that the meeting would be recorded. She said this meeting is for gathering information.

Ms. Tabakin said there is a coalition of Six River Towns. The group has been discussing how the cleanup will impact the towns. She said the comment period has been extended until October 27<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Tabakin said the purpose of the meeting is to gather comments that will result in official comments to be sent to the EPA. Comments will be compiled and formally submitted. Ms. Tabakin went through a power point presentation dated 9/11/14.

Mr. Hankin asked who would submit the comments.

Ms. Tabakin said the Six River Towns would submit collective comments with BRPC and individual towns will submit. She said staff will prepare the comments.

Mr. Hankin asked if work at Rising Pond will be done underwater or will it be coffer dammed.

Mr. Murphy said the clean up would be designed by General Electric. Their proposal for the clean up will be approved by the EPA. We encourage minimal impact. All proposals and plans will be available for the public. He said active digging is at least five years away.

Mr. Mankin asked if there is a monitoring requirement.

Mr. Murphy said yes GE will be required to monitor but he said he did not know the time line.

Ms. Phillips said she did not want the issues around truck transport to override having the sediment kept in the neighborhood. She did not want this issue used against us.

A comment was made asking what will happen to the access roads when the work is being done, or after. Is there something the town can gain from it?

Ms. Fowle said there are boat launches in areas where the work has been done. She said it is important to improve the recreational aspect of the river. We need to catch up with what has been lost over the last 50 years. She said the ecological integrity of the river needs to be established and protected.

Mr. Musgrove said trains could be considered for transport instead of trucks. He said 50 trucks a day for 12 years would be considerable.

Ms. Phillips said perhaps wherever possible spurs could be built to mitigate the truck traffic.

Ms. Dezieck said the overall health of the river is very important.

Mr. Mankin asked how the overall project was done in Pittsfield.

Mr. Murphy said there was one complaint over the aesthetics early on where rip rap and big stones were put in. He said there were major concerns over land taking early on. There were not many complaints about trucks but that was Pittsfield not Great Barrington. He said meetings were held with individuals who were directly impacted. He said General Electric worked well with people accommodating concerns and trying to be the least destructive as possible.

Mr. Hankin questioned if any of the work addressed the flood plain or if there were any concerns about the PCB's becoming airborne. He wondered about the PCB's on the surface in the flood plain.

Mr. Murphy said there is a fair amount of remediation of the flood plain. He said the PCB's move back and forth in those areas with the rise and fall of the water.

Ms. Phillips said there is the potential for airborne PCB's downstream.

Mr. Murphy said there is no plan to do work south of Rising Pond. Most of the flood plain is in Pittsfield north of Woods Pond dam. There are also areas in Stockbridge and Lee. He said there will be air monitoring.

Ms. Phillips said it is important to consider the impact of the airborne PCB's in Great Barrington.

Ms. Fowle asked how the PCB's are absorbed into the body.

Ms. Tabakin said we should compile a list of questions.

Ms. Phillips said we can get questions together to ask of experts.

Ms. Tabakin said it is will be important to know how Town services will be impacted.

Mr. Murphy said there are many answers to questions available on the EPA website.

Ms. Phillips said residents will call the Town Hall to get answers. She asked how we can provide resources without costing the Town money. We need information sooner than later.

Mr. Murphy said there is information on the website. Perhaps a link could be provided through the Town's website. The Town needs to provide written comments that are clear and understandable.

Mr. Mankin said we don't want to have GE comment that "this is why we don't want to do this (remediation)". We need to be clear about what we need to know about the work and be clear that we want river cleaned up now.

Ms. Tabakin said the work will be exempt from local regulations because it is a federal project. She asked communities to determine what role they want to play in the process.

Mr. Murphy said there are informal comment periods. He said Town boards with specific comments should encourage GE to meet and address those concerns.

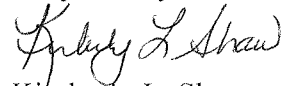
A Pittsfield resident was present to encourage the committee to move forward with their comments and questions. She said it is a scary project that must be done. GE has spent a lot of time and money trying to shut the project down but they are responsible and it must be fixed. She said her group is a citizen group for PCB removal—not capping, but removal. She said the greater the clean up the better the clean up.

Ms. Tabakin said she would like feedback and asked if the group should reconvene.

Ms. Phillips suggested sending comments to Ms. Tabakin. She said if we need to reconvene for clarity we can set up a meeting and send comments out so everyone is clear about what has been submitted, which will allow for a quicker meeting.

Ms. Phillips adjourned the meeting at 8:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Kimberly L. Shaw  
Planning Board Secretary