

**Sturbridge Board of Health
Tri-Community Public Forum on the Southbridge Landfill
Monday, November 30, 2015**

In Attendance: From Sturbridge Board of Health Linda Cocalis Chairwoman, Robert Audet BoH member, Alyssa Rusiecki Sturbridge Health Agent, and Lynne Girouard Administrative clerk

Ms Cocalis open the meeting at 6:33pm Introduced members of the Press, DEP, and State Officials
Noted that the meeting was being video and also audio taped.

Ms Cocalis noted that it is our 1st amendment right to protect our citizens this public forum is being held for the citizens of the surrounding communities (Southbridge, Sturbridge and Charlton) so they can voice their concerns on the proposed expansion of the Southbridge Landfill.

Atty for Masspirg Kristie Pecci

Kirstie Pecci Atty for MassPIRG spoke on the contaminated wells in the area surrounding the Southbridge Landfill and how there have been many exceedances over the years and they have concerns over this. The MEPA Process which is the Environmental Policy Act please review the policy

She noted that the Southbridge BOH is not requiring a site assignment on the expansion area and that a site assignment hearing is required by the local BOH and then to DEP for the permit to operate the new expansion.

Ms. Pecci also noted that there is leachate running east into Sturbridge and those contaminants in the leachate can travel 3to 4 miles.

The Southbridge Board of Health can rescind a site assignment and we can require a smaller landfill and the review the new berms. Charlton also has the right to review the whole site assignment

Kristi also noted that there was a fire at the landfill over the past weekend

She asked everyone to please keep in contact with your local Representatives on their concerns.

DEP CERO (Worcester) Regional Director MaryJude Pigsley

MaryJude Pigsley stated that the small fire was from waste dumped on Friday and they are waiting a written report from Casella on the event.

On 10/23/15 Immediate Reponse Action was taken on 8 homes in Charlton with detected levels of contamination. One home was treated with a whole house treatment system.

Casella sample 45 wells quarterly and the lab reports are submitted to DEP as requested.

There are 12 people in DEP's Worcester Office that are working on this project, the #1 issue is the drinking water. The DEP should have more information on this later in the week to help in developing their conclusion.

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Citizens' Concerns

- There are 17 monitoring wells surrounding the landfill, Is a shallow test done on the groundwater?
- Aquifer surrounding the landfill carrying contaminants could affect the whole town?
- The BOH in the surrounding towns need to stay united.
- Time for Casella to go
- Please do not consider the expansion
- People are scared
- In exchange Casella should provide municipal water
- Casella cannot do anything about the smell
- The trucks driving down Commercial Drive need to be monitored.
- Southbridge Board of Health does not return calls
- Concerns of the fish and wildlife of McKinstry and Caddy Brook and water resources.
- Citizens want Casella to be accountable
- Is there a plan to expand the testing of residential wells
- No expansion will be good, Already hazardous to our families
- If the landfill is at fault of the source of contamination, how will this be addressed?
- The plan presented shows high levels of contamination in marked in red, Was the Charlton BOH notified by Casella? Testing was to be done every 2 years, and then 3 years. Was there no testing within a 6 year period?
- The 58 conditions put in place to protect us means nothing. We need all 3 BOH departments to work together.
- Everyone living 2-3 miles should have their wells tested
- Who is doing the study of the landfill? Casella-Tighe&Bond-Sanborn Head ? Don't they all work for Southbridge?
- On the original site assignment, Sturbridge never knew why weren't the brakes put on back then?
- Waste is brought in from everywhere. It is unregulated.
- People need to get involved, it is nice to see people get involved either directly or indirectly.
- Residents from McGilpin Road in Sturbridge can "See, Smell and Hear" the Landfill operations from their homes.
- What are the timeline expectations?
- The Berm is considered an expansion and DEP should stop it. We shouldn't have to write to our local representatives every 2 weeks.
- Artificial misters have been installed to mask the smell, and they smell, too! What are the chemicals in the artificial mister?
- There is \$ in a pension fund
- It is known that 30 solid waste landfill sites leach into the ground water. Is Casella only looking at surface water?

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DEP responds that the developer has until December 2015 to file then there is a 30 day comment period.

MaryJude Pigsley noted that DEP has not approved the expansion – Southbridge has issued a site assignment. There are many questions on the berms, there are a host of issues before Casella awaiting the answers. Please review the MEPA documents and please comment.

The contamination is not a project it is a puzzle – requiring status reports every 6 months.

State Representative Ann Gobi

Ann Gobi gave out her Cell phone # and stated that bills for monies are needed on landfills and it needs local control. Your voice tonight has not falling on deaf ears. We will work with you and will do our best.

State Representative Todd Smola

We will deal with these issues ASAP our job is to link with Casella and to get answers. Residents need to get your local officials and people together.

In Closing

Linda Cocalis mentioned that towns need to seek funding for future costs on testing and consulting issues. Everyone is thanked for attending and we will continue to follow-up.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:07 PM
Respectfully submitted
Lynne Girouard

APPR: 1/4/2016 BoH Mtg
BY: LC, BA, RV