Earth Removal Advisory Committee

Meeting minutes 4-21-15

Attendants: Absent:

Gene Bardon, ERAC Dan Dandero, ERAC

John Picariello, ERAC BOH representative

Bill Maher, ERAC Planning board representative

Milton Fistel, ERAC James Potts, Fire

Nelson Kessler, ERAC

Tim Ruskin, Conservation Comm.

Con Com member?

Residents: Andy Tirrell, Darlene, Josh Cobb, Tom DeJoy, Salem State College students Renee Angeb, Joseph Maer

Scott Colby, AI

Rob Robinson, AI

Chris Drucas, AI

Jennifer Garwin, AI

The meeting called to order at 7:04 pm.

Rob Robinson introduced himself as the new quarry manager.

The meeting was called to discuss the recent problem with a large amount of dead fish and the quality of the water in the pond vs the water discharge by Aggregate. Pictures of the water discoloration flowing from the holding pond into Fosters pond were shown to the conservation commission members as well as AI. These were taken by an abutter late last December before ice formed in both areas. Asked how much water was in level five at present, Scott states at least thirty feet. A DEP representative has been at the site several times to review the operation. Jen answered questions from ERAC and residents about the fish kill, and presented a Mass. Wildlife document explaining the cause of the situation. That being that due to the amount of snow, cold weather and ice thickness the oxygen level had dropped and the ice prevented sun penetration. This is not the only area in Mass. that this has occurred. Who would clean up the carcasses was asked by Andy with Rob saying he would come and view. But the DPW was suggested as someone to contact.

Nelson asked AI what improvements were going to be made to the pumping operation and holding pond. Jen gave a brief summary of holding pond improvements, yet to be decided by AI and an engineering firm and will have to go before Conservation Commission for approval. She did say that they are looking at the possibility of creating a forbay within the holding pond at the input pipe location to slow the flow, also that they will monitor daily in the quarry for turbidity. If the level exceeds the mandated limit, Jen would notify John when pumping is stopped. Asked if there is a limit for gallons pumped, AI says there is no limit under their permit.

Next week toxicity tests will be taken from the weir.

Ownership of the pond was brought up again as in previous meetings with the question of who would be responsible to do something, anything, that would improve the current condition, the vegetation growth and the depth. With decades of water pumped from the quarry, by different quarry owners, and the possibility of silt flowing into Fosters Pond, even at the accepted levels, it is evident the pond has gotten shallower. Milton agreed to reach out to DEP to get answers and possible solutions.

Andy reports that he is hearing noise from the quarry at 6 am and wants to know what can be done to make it quieter. The noise is from the backup beepers on the loaders and trucks. They are required under OSHA mining regulations. Quarry operation hours in the permit was examined and questioned by ERAC members. But the starting hours have not changed in several years.

A motion made by Milton to accept the permit as written for the June 2015-June 2016 was seconded and the vote taken was unanimous.

Gene has received a call from 15 Minerva Street with questions of what to do if they have a dust complaint. The Hanover project on Paradise Road has finished. Scott says he would go and talk to her. Gene had expected them to appear at the meeting, later found out they got the dates confused.

Scott Colby announces that he is leaving AI, retirement.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.