

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2013

Committee Members

Attendance:

David Baker
Ralph Angelo
Charles Evangelista
John Sheppard
Kristine Singer
Dodie Huber

N/A = Necessarily Absent

Attendees

John Garvey, County Administrator
Darlys McDonough, Interim Planning Director
Andrea Schoeneman, Assistant County Attorney
Linda Frasca, Sr. Clerk
Tom Harvey, Associate Planner

Guests: Cathy Dare, CHANGE-Consulting for Heat, Air, Nature, Dare Greener Environment; Larry Schilling, Casella Waste Management; Larry Waite, Emily Zambuto, and Pete Zelif, Jr. – Innovative Energy System

Observers: Katie Bennett Roll; Chris Costello Dave Shaw (FLT), Julie Sherwood (MPN)

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Baker called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m., and stated all committee members were present with the exception of Supervisor Huber who would be necessarily late. Supervisor Huber joined the meeting at 4:06 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made by Supervisor Singer to approve the *January 16, 2013 meeting minutes* as presented, seconded by Supervisor Angelo. Motion unanimously carried.

Solid Waste Activities Update: Solid Waste Management Plan- County Administrator Garvey updated the EQC as to the status on the approval of the SWMP; the County still continues to wait to obtain the results from the DEC on the matter. Mr. Garvey shared that he had received a call from Senator Nozzolio's office and was informed that it will be a couple more weeks before the County can expect a response from the DEC. Mr. Garvey will provide an update at the next scheduled EQC meeting.

Landfill Gas to Energy: IES Regarding Easement for NYSEG- Chair Baker introduced Innovative Energy System representatives Pete Zelif, Jr. - Director of Operations, Emily Zambuto – Environmental Analyst, and Larry Waite – Construction Manager, and requested that Mr. Zelif provide a brief synopsis on IES and what they have been accomplishing to date at the landfill.

Mr. Zelif turned the floor over to Mr. Waite who shared that the company is based out of Oatfield, NY, and that they also have a facility at the Seneca Meadows landfill. Originally, IES started with seven generators at the landfill with the eighth generator being added four years ago. Currently, IES is doing an expansion at the landfill adding three larger generators. Upon completion of the expansion project, IES would like the EQC members to come for a tour of their expanded facility. Chair Baker requested an update on the relationship between Casella and IES and how the whole gas to energy project was working. Mr. Waite, Mr. Zelif, (IES), and Mr. Schilling (Casella) provided an update on the on-going project stating that there are presently a total of forty (40) gas wells up and running at the landfill. Using a handout, IES provided a breakdown of the total LFG consumed/flow, the average methane output, and the gross electricity generated MWs. Mr. Schilling shared information on improvements as to how the landfill is now being operated, and stated he felt that the relationship between Casella and IES has improved as well, and that both Casella and IES are now on the same page in regards to the operations at the landfill. Mr. Waite stated that the new engines are expected to be in place and running by the end of the month, and that once all are in place and working a lot more energy will be available as compared to the end of December 2012.

At the request of Chair Baker, Mr. Zeliff briefly explained IES' request for an easement for location of a NYSEG pole. Chair Baker informed the EQC that no action was expected at the meeting, and that the information being provided at this time was to give the committee a heads up as to what is being sought in the near future. Supervisor Sheppard requested that legal counsel/staff review the matter more thoroughly before the Committee takes any action.

Landfill Operations-Casella Waste Management: Chair Baker requested that Mr. Schilling give a brief report on the consultant questionnaire regarding odor that was sent out. Mr. Schilling introduced Cathy Dare, CHANGE-Consulting for Heat, Air, Nature, Dare Greener Environment, as the environmental odor expert consultant Casella has hired to look in to the odor issue at the landfill, and turned the floor over to her. Ms. Dare informed the committee that they had begun working with Casella to assess and address the odor issues, and had sent the questionnaire to the area residents. Ms. Dare reported that there had been a few residents who refused to participate. They had been receiving responses and were waiting to receive some additional ones before drafting a report for Casella. Mr. Schilling shared that the purpose of behind the questionnaire is to gather better information as to when the odor occurs, and to become smarter as to how to deal with the entire odor issue, what they are up against, how to get a better handle on it so that it can be cleared up, etc. Although there is still much work to be done, he feels they are taking steps in the right direction. Supervisor Evangelista shared his concern that the odor issue continues to be a problem and that it needs to be fully taken care before the Committee can go forward. Supervisor Sheppard shared his concerns on the odor mitigation engineering plan but felt that Casella was taking steps in the right direction to take care of the matter. He will encourage constituents in his area to participate in the survey, and further stated that it is to everyone's benefit to stay engaged and complete questionnaire. Casella will provide a report on the findings as soon as it is completed.

At Chair Baker's request, Mr. Schilling shared with the committee that Casella Global Connect Reverse Call System in place is working well and that it was being used to announce upcoming scheduled phases to take place at the landfill. As soon as weather permits, the next phase is the start up of the next well cap. They are now using the new completed cell on a daily basis which is significant as trash is now across the entire floor of it which helps control some of the odor.

DEC Open Space Plan Review Update: Darlys McDonough reiterated that the DEC was looking in to the State's Open Space Plan to identify looking at different options to protect and preserve open space lands other than by state acquisition, possibly by easements, land trusts, etc. Ms. McDonough stated the advisory group to the DEC is just starting up, and distributed the space project nomination forms to committee members. She will also be following up on the matter with the full BOS with a memo of explanation as to what is being sought along with a copy of the nomination form.

360 Expansion Permit: Dave Shaw, Finger Lakes Times reporter, asked if there was any new information on the 360 Expansion Permit. Chair Baker informed him that there was nothing to report at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 4:49 p.m., Supervisor Huber made motion, seconded by Supervisor Singer, to move into executive session to confer with counsel as attorney/client privilege; said motion carried. The Committee asked the following to remain: Assistant County Attorney Andrea Schoeneman, County Administrator John Garvey, Deputy County Administrator/Interim Planning Director Darlys McDonough, Associate Planner Tom Harvey, as well as all committee members; all other staff and attendees were excused.

At 5:01 p.m., motion was made by Supervisor Evangelista, seconded by Supervisor Huber, to move out of executive session; said motion was carried.

County Administrator John Garvey briefly discussed the letter received from the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association which questioned the ability of the City of Canandaigua's waste water treatment plant to treat landfill leachate. Mr. Garvey said he would discuss this with the City Manager.

Supervisor Evangelista gave an update to the committee regarding action taken by the Public Works Committee on Monday. After discussion in executive session at that meeting, the Public Works Committee voted in open session but failed to approve a motion considering declaring surplus 45 acres of mostly wooded land at County property at the landfill and giving this to the Town of Seneca. He noted that the Public Works Committee members did not have any issue with the Town taking title of the 40 acre borrow area, with conditions as proposed by Casella to assure that the land would be used as a future source of soil cover for the landfill.

Supervisor Sheppard reminded the committee that he had begun his efforts in November of 2011 in an effort to uphold the Town's comprehensive plan and had indicated that the Town had planned to use the Monroe County case tests to avoid rezoning the parcel from its Agriculture zoning. He reviewed the importance to the Town of securing property tax revenue lost if private land went to government ownership and the loss of active agricultural land, which he felt would have been mitigated by transfer of the County's wooded property. He stated he thought the Public Works Committee's action would elongate the timeline to no one's benefit.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the committee, ***motion made by Supervisor Huber to adjourn, seconded by Supervisor Sheppard. Motion unanimously carried.*** The 2/6/2013 EQC meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda R. Frasca

Sr. Clerk
Ontario County Planning