

NEWHALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Final Meeting Summary

March 17, 2005

6:30 pm – 8:25 pm

Members Attending: Rhonda Hayward, Pamela Moore, Henry Platt, Roosevelt Young, Donald Eaton, Leonardo Melendez, Sheila Epps, Scott Jackson, Rep. Peter Villano, Mike Colaiacovo, Jr., Henry Blue, Elizabeth Hayes, Herman Alexander

Alternates Attending: Willa Taylor

Government/Agencies Attending: Shannon Pociu (DEP),

Others Attending:

Absent (no alternates): Dr. Abdul Hamid, Stephanie Kollet, LaNorma Webb, Deloris McNair

Technical and Public Participation Assistance: Kevin Hood, Marianne Latimer (FHI)

Facilitator: Kathleen Conway

Agenda Items

Convening of Meeting, Welcome and Introductions.

The facilitator, Kathleen Conway, opened the meeting and commended the group for their volunteer commitment. The NAC members introduced themselves and gave a brief summary of why they are committed to participate on the NAC and what they expect to come out of the NAC effort. The facilitator reviewed the agenda and passed around an attendance list.

Members' expectations included: cleanups to be conducted as soon as possible; thorough cleanups; consideration of short-term and long-term plans for growth and redevelopment of the Hamden Middle School property; keeping the neighborhood intact; reuse of school to keep neighborhood alive; revitalizing community; information to help people make decisions; improvements to neighborhood that will keep and attract new people; wants neighborhood that works together; wants permanent solution – no piecemeal approach; and expects cleanup in timely fashion.

Groundrules

The facilitator distributed Draft Groundrules for discussion. Highlights were:

Committee Membership. A suggestion was made to stagger terms of committee membership. Most members responded that the NAC was most likely composed of those who had shown the most interest in the planning process. The Planning Team for the NAC had developed criteria for selection of members. Several members spoke in favor of remaining as members so long as they continued to meet the criteria. Members were also open to considering new members and alternates if they met the criteria. Resident Block Area 2 does not have a representative. Many members do not have alternates. There was general agreement that: there is a need for more public involvement: and, a plan should be developed for maintaining the members' motivation. People need to see progress. The group favored serving at least one year but also wanted

flexibility. The group tabled the issue of length of service. The facilitator will contact members as to how they would like to seek out alternates and promote more public participation. Ms. Conway provided her contact information: 781-0884 & beeper 412-9077.

Ex-officio members may attend but do not have voting rights. Ex-officio members may be asked not to attend certain meetings to allow for NAC discussions among themselves.

Responsibilities of Membership

The NAC generally endorsed the draft Responsibilities of Membership. The facilitator will be contacting individual members for their ideas on how to improve the flow of information between members of the community, the NAC, the Town and agencies. Some ideas discussed were: advertising the NAC meetings in newspapers, i.e., the Hamden Journal, Hamden Chronicle and/or the New Haven Register; developing a one page fact sheet for the NAC for distribution to the community and other interested persons; making known to the public the resources available at the Newhall Remediation Project Office at the Keefe Center [office is open from 11am – 7pm Mondays through Fridays, and 10am – 1pm on Saturdays by appointment].

Responsibilities to the community and constituents

A church representative explained that he reported back to a joint board and church wide meeting within a few days after the NAC meeting before draft minutes would be available. The members had no problem with his conveying his understanding of the discussions and other information before the draft minutes were circulated or finalized.

Developing NAC Input and Recommendations.

The NAC discussed the definition of consensus. Full consensus means everybody agrees. A fallback position of 80% of those members attending for consensus was discussed. The group agreed that it was important to know why members did not agree even if there was a less than 100% consensus of the NAC. The group agreed that there should be no attribution of opinions in meeting notes or in discussions with their contingencies or the media.

Media. The NAC members discussed talking to the media. They agreed that any statements made should be identified as their own opinions and that they did not speak for the NAC. The members were in agreement that members should not identify the people who made statements or expressed opinions to the media or other interested persons. The group did not have an interest at the present time in naming a NAC member as an official spokesperson to the media. They noted that a resource for information was the Newhall Remediation Project office. They tabled the discussion of a contact person until some later date.

See attached Draft Groundrules revisions as of March 17, 2005.

Final Items, Next Steps and Adjourn

The facilitator will develop the agenda for the next meeting with input from NAC members. NAC members discussed the following: what information or presentations would be helpful in understanding the issues of soil and groundwater contamination, cleanup options and redevelopment. Specific topics were: how to understand test results sent to individual property owners; identifying the range of issues related to contaminated soil and groundwater, including issues relating to structural impacts; and follow-up workshops to presentations by responsible parties.

Scheduled NAC meetings:

- **April 21, 2005** – Olin Presentation: Non-public properties testing results
- **May 19, 2005** – Town and Regional Water Authority Presentations: Public properties testing results

Scheduled Public Information meetings

- **May 17, 2005:** Olin formal presentation to public
- **June 21, 2005:** Town and RWA formal presentation to public

Tentative Scheduled Site Walk – Commissioner of Environmental Protection

- **May 21, 2005:** Saturday Site Walk

Meeting adjourned at 8: 20 pm.