

BoRit CAG Meeting Minutes December 2nd 2015

Upper Dublin Township Building 6.30pm

Co-Chairs Presiding: Bob Adams, Gordon Chase.

Item 1 New Members and resignations.

The resignation of Sharon McCormick from the CAG was noted. As an original member of the CAG, Sharon has made a significant contribution to the process which both co-chairs wished to formally acknowledge and record. Sharon is moving out of the Ambler area and the CAG wishes to thank her for the many years of service and effort she has put into the remediation of asbestos in the Ambler area, and to wish her well in her new location in Wyncote, PA. Sharon's seat (Citizens for a Better Ambler) has been filled by Kimberly Hirshberg.

Item 2. October CAG meeting minutes were approved.

Item 3. EPA Feasibility Study (FS) report and TASC Review

Three CAG members (Gordon Chase, Steve Moroldo and Peter Lowry) have submitted written questions to the EPA, which the EPA will consider and formally respond to in writing. Any additional questions from CAG members should be submitted in writing promptly via CAG Co-Chairs for forwarding to the EPA.

A general discussion followed raising issues associated with the FS, including: risk assessment of the various options; energy efficiency of various options; trial/pilot studies for those options not currently in commercial practice; safety concerns and estimated costs of high energy options.

The question was raised by the Co-Chairs as to whether a TASC expert was still required to review the FS report. By a show of hands it was decided to pursue the TASC review which EPA has secured.

Item 4. Asbestos monitoring technology update.

Gordon Chase briefed the CAG on his meetings with the University of Hertfordshire's (UoH) Center for Atmospheric and Instrumentation Research in the UK. UoH, which is contracted by NASA for their atmospheric instrument expertise, has developed and patented a real time asbestos detector.¹ The University has offered to visit Ambler and present their device to the EPA, the BoRit CAG and other appropriate government bodies with the purpose of conducting additional research into adapting their device so as to cater to the specific requirements for permanent monitoring of asbestos sites such

¹ <http://www.boritcag.org/scienceandtech/testing.html>

as the Ambler Piles and BoRit superfund sites.

In addition to the 'active' UoH device, the University of Pennsylvania has in its possession a 'passive' asbestos detector, which though it does not detect in real time does detect over a period of a week, without the need for any power source. It is hoped that these new technologies, if approved by the EPA Technical Review Group, will have the capability to provide 24/7 monitoring of the ambient air in Ambler. Clearly this will not be an overnight process, but discussions are under way to take this process forward with the EPA Technical Review Group and the CAG will be kept updated on progress.

Item 5. Update on BoRit status from Eduardo Rivera (EPA)

Eduardo gave a powerpoint presentation on the current status of the removal program at BoRit. This was followed by a discussion on water levels and sources to the reservoir. The EPA have filled the reservoir to the desired level of 187ft (above sea level). After pumping was stopped at this level it was noted that the water level receded slightly due, it is thought, to the fresh soil fill's initial absorption of water. The reservoir will be refilled to the 187ft level and staff gauge readings will be monitored. The reservoir overflow level is at 191ft and the berm heights are at 193ft.

Meanwhile, on the Park parcel, the banks alongside Maple Street have been landscaped with native shrubs and the grading of the top surface continues. The top will be slightly domed so as drain to the Wissahickon and Rose Valley creeks. Eduardo advised that the removal program at BoRit should be completed by April 2016.

Item 6. Whitpain Township update on future use of BoRit Park parcel.

Whitpain Township Manager Mr Roman Pronczak gave a powerpoint presentation on the future use proposals being considered for the Park Parcel of BoRit which the township intends to reopen as a public park when the EPA remediation work is completed.² The many alternatives currently being considered will depend upon final EPA covenant restrictions, budget availability and township/resident preferred priorities. The final plans, together with access to the adjoining reservoir parcel, have yet to be finalized.

Item 7. Update by David Froehlich (Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve) on reservoir parcel.

As mentioned in item 5 above, the reservoir has now been filled and is already being visited by several hundred birds. Dave explained that public access will be granted from the Maple street side of the reservoir and that walking trails on that side of the reservoir will permit close viewing of the bird activities. The water itself will be fenced off as will the partition to the Pile parcel and the berm that runs along the Rose Valley Creek. It is hoped that a small parking area will be provided on the property at a later date, but this is not yet confirmed.

The majority of the reservoir lies within Upper Dublin Township, which has acquired 'Bird Town' status from the Audubon Society. As such the reservoir will be viewed as a focal point for Upper Dublin Bird Town activities, such as they may be. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on Earth Day

² <http://www.boritcag.org/about/presentations.html>

May 22nd 2016, details of which are yet to be finalized.

Item 8. Update by Greg Voigt (EPA) on the Ambler Piles site inspections.

Greg handed out copies of the latest visit report that EPA had issued on the Ambler Piles site detailing areas of damage to the site, including, overgrown vegetation, cracks in the cap surface, drainage issues and resulting settlement observations. The site is now being inspected on a quarterly basis and it is hoped that drone photography can be used going forward to get a better view of the areas with very steep slopes that are difficult to access and observe from the ground. In response to a question from CAG member Diane Morgan regarding the existence of 'sink holes,' Greg advised that there were no features discovered at the Ambler Piles site that he would describe as 'sink holes.' Rather depressions and cracks in the top surface have been noted, which are believed to be a result of drainage issues that are being investigated and will be addressed once the US Army Corps of Engineers have completed their investigation and reported their findings.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9.00pm