

COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP
BoRit Asbestos Area
Ambler / Upper Dublin / Whitpain, Pennsylvania

To: BoRit Asbestos Area Community Advisory Group
From: Sharon McCormick
Date: February 16, 2009
Subject: **Summary of the Wednesday, February 4, 2009, BoRit CAG Meeting**

Next Meeting.

The next BoRit Asbestos Area CAG meeting will be held as follows:

Date: Wednesday, March 4th 2008
Time: 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Location: Upper Dublin Township Meeting Room
801 Loch Alsh Avenue
Fort Washington, PA 19034

If you have questions or comments regarding the upcoming meeting or about this summary, please contact CAG Co-Chairs Bob Adams and Fred Conner.

CAG Attendees.

All Members were present except for: Susan Curry who was represented by her Alternate Andrew Salvadore (Ms. Curry did observe the meeting), Dave Caddick who was represented by his Alternate Cal Williams, Lynda Rebarck, and Dr. Emmett. The Ambler Parcel Owner, who has an open invitation to join the group, was not present.

Observers.

Approximately 25 Observers were present for at least part of the meeting.

Meeting Highlights.

- Executive Session to Review and Vote on Charter Revisions
- Welcome and Administrative Announcements
- Review of the West Ambler Community Open House
- Presentation & Discussion of PADOH Report on BoRit
- Observer Comments
- Workgroup Brief Reports
- Next Steps & Action Items

Executive Session.

A. Administrative Announcements.

- The Co-Chairs brought meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

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- Mr. Fred Conner reviewed the agenda and asked if there were any questions. No questions were asked. Fred also reviewed the rules of conduct at meetings.

B. Charter Revisions.

- The meeting was turned over to Joanne Walker, Chair of the Rules Committee, for review of the changes to the CAG Charter. Joanne reminded the CAG that they were sent the proposed Charter changes for review via e-mail 1 week prior to the meeting. Several changes to the proposed document were made at the meeting. They are as follows:
 1. MEETING ATTENDANCE. Regarding alternates- changed to read “and shall provide the names of no more than 2 designated alternates.”
 2. VOTING. Regarding Voting for Co-Chairs - paragraph h was questioned via e-mail prior to the meeting stating it did not make sense. Joanne asked for any questions regarding paragraph h and none were posed. Therefore the paragraph was left as is.
 3. REMOVAL OF “TOXIC AND INEFFECTIVE” CAG MEMBERS. Much discussion and suggestions were made in reference to this subject by many CAG members. The discussion has been tabled to another time due to lack of information on how other CAG’s handled expulsion of CAG members. Francisco Cruz, EPA CIC, offered to obtain the needed information, and suggested the CAG pursue this topic cautiously.
- Show of hands vote was taken for adoption of the proposed charter changes. Vote was unanimous to approve all changes.

Public Session.

A. Administrative Announcements.

- Co- Chairs brought the meeting to order at 7:30 pm
- Fred Conner greeted the public, reviewed the conduct rules, and asked if there were any questions regarding the agenda and /or Dec 3 meeting summary. No questions were posed.
- The Co-chair introduced Cal Williams as Dave Caddick’s alternate and also acknowledged representatives of the Montgomery County Health Department (MCHD) who were in the audience and had worked on the health consultation that was to be presented. Dr Mark White from the PADOH was introduced as the presenter for the Health Consultation.
- Mr. Conner informed all present that the CAG Charter had been successfully revised and adopted unanimously by the CAG in Executive Session.
- Mr. Conner asked for a volunteer to take notes and draft CAG meeting summaries. Sharon McCormick volunteered and was given the job.

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- Mr. Conner informed all in attendance that the Site Operations Conference Calls on Fridays have been poorly attended and the need for weekly calls may need to be revisited. There will be a call this Friday, Feb 6.

B. Review of the West Ambler Health Fair.

- Dr. Michelle Naps was asked to discuss the successful community health fair held in cooperation with the WACA and the HERS workgroup on Sat. Jan 31. Dr Naps' report included a slideshow of the event created by Fred Conner, which included many photos from Michael Lythcott of E2.
- The event provided the community with asbestos health information. Dr. Ted Emmett gave a brief lecture on the adverse health effects from asbestos.
- The West Ambler representatives on the CAG reported that the event was very well received and thanked Dr Naps and the entire HERS group for their considerable efforts in organizing it.

C. PADOH Report on BoRit.

- Dr. Mark White an epidemiologist from the PADOH was introduced and presented the findings from the final Health Consultation regarding asbestos exposure. All present were given a copy of the PPP as well as the Health Consultation document. Dr. White's key points included:
 1. The PADOH collected and reviewed data from death certificates and cancer registries, spanning 10 years with a concentration on the populace from a 2-mile radius around BoRit. They looked at the data registry for mesothelioma specifically and compared this small populace to that of the entire state. The findings were that there was not an increase of mesothelioma in this 2-mile radius as compared to the entire state.
 2. Montgomery County Health department (MCHD) collected and reviewed data from death certificates and cancer registries spanning 10 years with a concentration on the populace from a 2 mile radius around 6 historical asbestos manufacturing sites within the county including the BoRit. The findings showed that mesothelioma rate from the 2-mile radius around BoRit were not statically higher than the other 5 asbestos sites in the county. Yet, the study showed that living closer to the 6 asbestos manufacturing sites there was a statistical increase in incidence of mesothelioma.
 3. The study was limited to how good the reporting of asbestos related disease is in the county and state and that neither study reported on asbestosis or an other asbestos related diseases
 4. Current airborne asbestos levels from the BoRit as reported by EPA are not at levels that could contribute to disease.

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5. Most mesothelioma deaths reported in the county are considered occupational.
6. What's next for health evaluations from BoRit:
 - Possible targeted health screenings to include historical accounts of children sledding on the site and families whose members worked in the factory.
 - Smoking cessation awareness and outreach for the community
- Note: There was much discussion of the PADOH Health Consultation among the members and also many questions for Dr, White. These were too numerous to include individually within the summary. The key points above reflect most of the discussion and several questions were unable to be answered within the data gathered by the PADOH and MCHD.

D. Observer Questions/Comments Regarding the Health Consultation.

- Mr. Phil Heimlich pointed out the need for specific health screenings to determine those who have been exposed. He discussed how research is pointing to prevention of mesothelioma through the removal of pleural plaques, the precursor to asbestos cancer. We can prevent the cancer by identifying these pleural plaques early and removing them. Thorough health screenings can aide in this.
- Ms Susan Curry suggested that the CAG ask the PADOH and MCHD to include all asbestos related disease in a health consultation since mesothelioma is a rare disease.
- Susan Mudambi asked if the state's statistics for mesothelioma rates were compared to the county's statistics. The answer was no, they did not compare the two.
- Ms Barbara Allerton of PADOH informed all present that the public and CAG can submit any questions regarding the health consultation to the MCHD and provided the group with preprinted postcards to fill out.

E. Work Group Reports.

- **Future Use Workgroup.** Mr. Boccuti reported that Miranda Maupin, a consultant from E2 and the TASC Program, is working on a draft of the re-use work plan. The plan is to be finished hopefully by March's CAG meeting. The workgroup has postponed its February meeting and decided to meet in March, at 5:30 prior to the CAG meeting.

Mr. Boccuti also reports that a public meeting to hear about the technology that ARI Technologies has invented to convert asbestos waste has been set for March 25, at 7:00 pm at the Ambler Theatre. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

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- **Remediation and Removal Oversight Workgroup.** Mr. Lindhult reported that there was a small meeting held with Eduardo Rovira of EPA and Doug Streaker from E2 to review Mr. Streaker's report regarding the creek bank stabilization progress. A future meeting has not been scheduled at this time, but the CAG will be kept posted if a need for a meeting arises.
- **HERS Workgroup.** Dr. Naps briefly reported more on the success of the WACA health fair. She also described the need for a Public Health Action Plan and that the group will be focusing on this in future meetings.

Dr. Naps also announced that the February teleconference meeting has been postponed due to her work schedule and because Dr Ted Emmett is out of the country. The Workgroup will resume its normal meeting time in March.

- **Community Awareness Workgroup.** Mrs. Morgan reported that there was a teleconference meeting in Jan. with Ms. Johnny Zimmerman, E2 TASC Technical Advisor assigned to help reformat the BoRit CAG website to include more options. Ms. Zimmerman and EPA were to discuss budget. The workgroup has not heard back at this time. The group is also looking into structuring a Facebook page.

Ms. Morgan also reported that she would contact the Ambler Gazette newspaper to advertise the March 25 public meeting with ARI Technologies.

- **Rules Committee.** Mrs. Joanne Walker reported that the committee had presented its report during the executive session

F. Next Steps & Action Items.

- It was announced that the next CAG meeting would be held on Wednesday, March 4.
- It was also announced again that the Community Meeting with ARI Technologies would be held on March 25th.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30.