Chairman Hanninen called the meeting to order at 12:10 PM in the Town Hall

Members present: Robert Hanninen, Michelle Collette, Mark Deuger, Susan Horowitz, and Stuart Schulman

Others present: Maria Kaouris of Honeywell
               LSP Kerry Tull of Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions
               Sewer Commissioners Mike Bouchard, Jim Gmeiner, and Tom Orcutt
               Land Use Director Takashi Tada

MEETING WITH HONEYWELL

Ms. Kaouris presented the Power Point slides dated February 26, 2019. She said Honeywell is finishing the remediation work at the site, but there are still problems with surface water impact in the unnamed brook. They are on the pathway to site closure and must complete the Ecological and Human Health Risk Assessments. They have completed Phase IV for TCE and Cr6 which are below upper concentration levels. The testing well, CLW8 near the brook, is still showing higher concentrations of Cr. Chromium in the soil was tested and the levels are not extremely high, but there is still impact on surface water. The in-situ treatment with a re-agent intercepts groundwater and reduces Cr6 to Cr3.

Kerry Tull said they are working closely with the MassDEP on this site. TCE in fractured bedrock is difficult to treat in sites where chemical oxidation is used. The ambient water tests from Chromium in the stream is above concentration limits.

Mr. Tull said the Stage II Ecological Risk Assessment is underway. Sampling has been done in the sediment in five locations. The Chromium in the sediment is Cr3. Cr6 is no detected above 0.32 mg/kg. There is no adverse impact on species. Total chromium at SD-5 (170 mg/kg) furthest downstream is nominally above the screening value. Levels may be affected by roadway runoff and legacy pesticides such as DDE and DDT. No significant risk exists for sediment. The benchmark for species toxicity is not met for the unnamed brook. They are working with DEP on the toxicity threshold. Another round of sampling will be done in April 2019.

Mr. Tull described the preliminary work being done for Method 3 of the Human Health Risk Assessment. The concentration levels are below the stricter Method 1 standards for Industrial and Commercial Construction. The future use of the site will not be residential, and there will be an Activity and Use Limitation (AUL) restriction on the Deed. The plan for 2019 includes installation of a passive treatment trench to convert Cr6 to Cr3, a second round of ecological testing of surface water only, and continued reporting to MassDEP. A Release Abatement Measure (RAM) will be submitted to MassDEP.

Member Deuger asked about the source of the legacy pesticides DDE and DDT. Member Collette noted that there were orchards on nearby land on Common Street in the past.

Member Schulman asked if the site passes all the tests in the spring of 2019, is the site cleanup done. Mr. Tull said they must discuss this question with MassDEP.

Member Schulman asked if Cr3 is not toxic. Ms. Kaouris said Cr3 is immobile and less toxic.
Member Collette asked if the Committee should do a peer review of the Ecological Risk Assessment and the Human Health Risk Assessment and have Town Counsel review the AUL restriction. Members agreed that we should do so.

Member Schulman asked if the site has Town water. Water Superintendent Tom Orcutt said Town water is available on the street and the site can be reconnected.

Member Deuger asked if there is Town water on Mill Street. Mr. Orcutt said there is Town water on Mill Street but on part but not all of Gratuity Road. Member Deuger said there is no difference between drinking water wells and irrigation wells. They should both be treated the same because there may be cross connection issues now or in the future.

Chairman Hanninen said, as a chemist, he knows the Cr3 and Cr6 levels do go back and forth. The site must have concentration levels that are acceptable. He asked if the contaminated area is isolated. Mr. Tull said, “Yes.”

Mr. Orcutt said rainfall was below normal in July and August of 2018. Mill Run Plaza, Groton Residential Gardens, and the Fairgrounds on Jenkins Road have irrigation wells.

Mr. Orcutt asked about the safety of workers in trenches to install water or sewer services in the contaminated area. He asked if there are special construction methods to protect workers. Mr. Tull said there will be utility release abatement measures that will be addressed in the Human Health Risk Assessment.

Sewer Commissioner Jim Gmeiner said the Sewer Commission is dealing with the abutting 436 Main Street Trust (Thibeau) property. Gregory Thibeau would like to install a sewer connection to his property. They would use directional drilling to cross the unnamed brook. He asked about concentration levels and exposure to workers. Mr. Tull said there is no risk for workers in the soil for industrial or commercial utility workers.

Mr. Gmeiner asked what happens if the workers encounter groundwater in the pit. Ms. Kaouris said they may have to collect the groundwater at the time and transfer it to an appropriate site. They would not want workers exposed to contaminated groundwater. Mr. Tull said they must work with Mr. Thibeau on the installation of the sewer service line because there will be an intersection with the service line at the unnamed brook.

Chairman Hanninen requested that Honeywell send something in writing to the Sewer Commission regarding the installation of the sewer service to the Thibeau property. Ms. Kaouris asked that the Committee forward a copy of the meeting minutes to the Sewer Commission and Honeywell.

Member Deuger said this is still an open site. Therefore, Honeywell is still in charge. He said the Sewer Commission must work closely with Honeywell’s LSP about the sewer service line.

Member Deuger requested that the Committee have a representative at the MassDEP meetings regarding this site. Ms. Kaouris and Mr. Tull agreed.

The Committee thanked Ms. Kaouris and Mr. Tull for the presentation and for their work to keep the Town informed on the progress at the site.
MINUTES
The motion was made by Schulman, seconded by Horowitz, to approve the minutes of December 5, 2017. The motion passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING
The Committee will meet on Monday, March 18, 2019, at 6:30 PM to review and approve the minutes prior to forwarding the minutes to the Sewer Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette
Member