

Place: Raymond High School, Cafeteria

Call to Order: 5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Ernest Creveling, Community Development Director; Richard Mailhot, Code Enforcement Officer; Kevin Pratt, Fire Chief; Dennis McCarthy, Public Works Director.

Also present: Robert Price, Planning Technician; Bette Patterson, Administrative Assistant.

Community Development Director Creveling gave an opening statement about the role of the Technical Review Committee, and how it is their duty to forward recommendations to the Planning Board, but not to make any approval or denial decisions on an application.

Public Hearings

Thibeault Amended Excavation Plan

Continued from March 20 TRC - An application for an Amended Excavation Plan has been submitted by Thibeault Sand & Gravel, LLC, on land known as Nashua River Land Corporation, to amend their Excavation Permit to add a quarrying operation. The properties are shown on Raymond Tax Map 32, Lot 43; Map 32, Lot 68; Map 37, Lot 2; and Map 38, Lots 12 and 13; accessed via NH State Route 27.

Community Development Director Creveling stated that the questions submitted by abutters were forwarded to the applicant. The applicant has answered each of the questions in writing and copies are available for review.

Vinnie Iacozzi of Thibeault Corporation, went through each question and answer. *Note: Any additional answers or comments during the meeting have been added.*

Thursday, May 10th, 2007

Compilation of Questions for the Technical Review Committee

Environmental

We are requesting a copy of the environmental impact statement.

All Environmental Regulations have been addressed and are on file at NHDES or Town of Raymond.

Who did the survey and who paid for it?

Eric C. Mitchell & Associates, Inc., (ECM); Thibeault Corporation.

There are more wetlands than what are marked. The delineation of the due east wetlands from the quarry are not properly represented. How will this be addressed?

ECM delineated wetlands for Tax Map 37, Lot 2 and Tax Map 38, Lots 12 & 13 and wetlands outside those lots are not being impacted. The total acreage is close to 300 acres.

We request amendments to be made and the process to be fully transparent.

No comment necessary.

Where is the sediment basin location? We request a map.

Detention basin located on the north end of the quarry. Plan on file at Town of Raymond.

What are the specific materials that are going to be coming out of the quarry? Please list all types of rock that will be quarried.

Crushed stone of various sizes; Granitic Gneiss.

It appears that a corridor will be cut off to protect animals. There should be room for wildlife as well.

Only approximately 40 acres of the 300+/- acre parcel will be disturbed.

Has the conservation commission evaluated this plan as they should and what are their recommendations?

Plans submitted to the Town of Raymond. Conservation Commission will comment if necessary.

The maintenance of wildlife corridors has proven to be highly important in the sustenance of wildlife, yet this project will only allow 150 feet of land from our properties.

See Wildlife Comment above. The operation will not be disturbing wildlife.

Have the new plan "copies" dated information from an old plan rather than updating with recent surveys of the river channel, floodplain, new neighborhoods, etc.?

All information is current. The survey was done in the spring, summer and fall of last year. A lot of the plan was done last October and November.

Have you used a certified soil analyst to survey and map the wetlands? If so, who did the survey? We request a company name and contact information.

Yes, Mike Lambert, Certified Wetland Scientist. He can be contacted at Eric C. Mitchell & Associates, Inc.

Water Related Questions

Well location for future town water supply is onsite.

No comment necessary. The wells would be located on an easement previously granted to the Town.

How is this well going to be safeguarded from pollutants?

Town of Raymond consultant will review plan. When the well fields are done then they will be reviewed by the appropriate DES division.

Are there onsite monitoring wells being used to establish well levels and evaluate quarrying impact on the water table? How can Thibeault prove this?

No, there are no wells being used to determine the ground water table impacts.

Testing will be done on abutting property before start of quarry activity. If problems related to the quarry arise additional testing will be done. Water flow analysis allows the town and State to monitor the wells.

One resident says his well is 475', how can a guarantee be made that his well won't siphon out?

Preblast Surveys and Well Analyses will be performed prior to start of quarrying activities. As explained previously, there will be a base line survey conducted.

How is the well damage of any resident's well within the specified range proven to be the fault of Thibeault?

Thibeault will provide a base line survey of wells prior to the start of quarrying activities and the abutters will have to provide data that the quarry is responsible.

If Thibeault guarantees the wells of residents of abutters and beyond we will need a guarantee of this in writing in their company letterhead with the Town of Raymond on copy.

The guarantee will be part of the Planning Board approval.

We will also need in writing a guaranteed limit of how many days it will take them to fix the problem on their dime.

It is difficult to determine the length of time to fix without a specific problem.

Item #1 on work plan site future pond location conforming to the 100 year flood plan. Is backwater on the plans the same definition as wetlands?

N/A to proposed Quarry, Backwater is within limits of wetland.

In light of Raymond's recent flooding issue, we request added protection in the permit to flooding issues:

No comment.

What are the 100 year flood plain restrictions?

See Town of Raymond regulations. Proposed Quarry complies. We will not be operating anywhere in the 100 year floodplain.

Have current flood zone studies been required to establish accurate flood zones on and near the proposed quarry site? Raymond was flooded on a large scale this spring and last spring.

Plans are in accordance to 2005 FEMA Maps of the Town of Raymond.

- An earlier plan stated by Heffron and Thibeault, says two ponds would be built and the larger pond would be no closer than 150 feet from the Lamprey River and the smaller one would be no closer than 100 feet from the River. This does not appear to be the case now; did you amend the previous agreement?

N/A - Doesn't apply to proposed Quarry, covered by Existing Earth Excavation Permit.

- It appears as though the rock processing will be located in the flood plain? This is questionable based on the recent floods that occur on an annual basis. The USGS confirmed that in Southern NH, we've officially had another 100 year flood, on top of the one from last year.

Rock processing is not located in the Flood Plain.

- Is the State, who gives financial relief in times of severe flooding, aware of Thibault's plans as they relate to the Lamprey River and the floodplain?

Yes, the State is one of the permitting agencies.

Where are the aquifers? What is the distance in feet from the quarry? Where is it on the map?

Aquifer is shown on Sheet 1 of 7 of the Plan Set.

We request to see all related documentation and request to view maps of aquifer placement.

See Town of Raymond Aquifer Maps for confirmation of the line and the ECM Plans.

Will Thibault have a closed loop water system in place?

No.

How will they control discharge? We request documentation.

Though the Sedimentation Basin and Proposed Quarry Floor, refer to information submitted to NHDES & Town of Raymond.

How will they control the rain and the effect it has on runoff?

Rainfall runoff will be controlled by detention pond and quarry floor storage.

Do you have scientific proof the aquifer drinking water source will not be harmed? If so, by which scientific group?

No we have no scientific proof, please refer to previous well questions.

Aesthetic:

Could you explain details of the future use of the quarry after the end of operations?

Industrial Development.

How do we know it isn't going to become an eyesore.

Reclamation Standards at the State and Local level. The project will also place a reclamation bond at time of approval. There is a limited area of disturbance.

Is proof written in permit application?

Yes.

Safety

If blasting occurs 150 ft from residential land, which the plan proposes, and rocks from quarry blasting can fly over 1000 ft, how will Thibeault prevent their operations from being a Public Safety Hazard?

Blast face will be directed away from residential property and extreme care is taken by the Blasting Contractor who is regulated by the State. The quarry is proposed no closer than 500 feet to an abutter and blasting will be a minimum of 800 feet away from the nearest abutter. The operation will not reach towards Ann Logan Circle until approximately 2010.

What written proof will residents be given that Thibeault will compensate them for property damage?

Blasting contractor will have adequate insurance and will be provided to Town prior to start.

More importantly, what written guarantee for compensation will be given to residents if personal injury of residents occur due to their quarry operations 150 ft away from residentially zoned properties?

See Above Response.

How can Thibeault protect Raymond citizens when blasting attempts have failed to prevent the property disasters that occurred only a few years ago? How will they protect children playing in their yard or hiking in the woods from flying rock?

See Above Response.

A 6' chain link fence begs for a child to climb over. How will Thibeault address this public safety hazard?

A 6 foot fence is a deterrent for responsible individuals.

Why would the fence not be sound proof as those used on highways, especially as the quarry as proposed by Thibeault is surrounded by residential land?

A sound proof wall will not be effective for sounds generated at the quarry floor.

How will Thibeault contain silica, another Public Safety Hazard?

Dust controls will be in place. The State and Federal regulates this and they are all on line.

What are the specific explosives that will be used? Where will stockpiles be kept?

Explosives will be determined and stored by the Blasting Contractor. No explosives will be stored on site.

Will the Town of Raymond withdraw the permit if Thibeault has yet another violation?

No Comment.

Who is responsible for oversight of the operation? There are many issues to be monitored, including environmental, safety, and traffic issues, including what leaves the quarry site?

Town of Raymond and NHDES.

How often will on site monitoring occur, who will pay the cost and who will do it? Will the taxpayers foot the bill?

In accordance with the permit conditions and Thibeault will pay the cost of on site monitoring.

Who is the blasting contractor?

To be determined.

This is of prime importance to Public Safety. Does the Town of Raymond have a say in who Thibeault uses in light of the “mistakes” during blasting that have occurred in the past?

Blasting Contractor has to get a permit from the Town of Raymond.

Permitting Process

How did the town get that conservation easement alongside the river?

Part of previous Permit.

Who has received permit applications and who will receive them?

Town of Raymond and NHDES.

Time of blasting and rock processing in both daily hours and season? Rock processing could be allowed until 6pm to our knowledge, as we are sitting down in our homes eating our dinners. The blasting and process season changed from the 1st tech review to the next? What will be on the permit?

See Note #9, Sheet 1 of 7.

Who do residents call when the quarry operates outside of permitted times? Will their home phone number be given to the residents when it happens after hours? Who do we call when this person is not available? How much time is allowed for a reaction?

Town of Raymond has a complete list of contact personnel during business and non business hours.

What is the nature of State involvement in this process? What has been done by them so far? Given conflicting requirements between state and local, the more stringent rules shall govern.

NHDES Alteration of Terrain Permit.

Note #5 on page 1 of the plan refers to “parts of the excavation area are within or adjacent to the conservation area and open space district.”

Standard Note and Part of Previous permit approved.

What is the difference in the permit process required for a sand and gravel pit and for a rock quarry?

None.

Is our town equipped financially and with adequate manpower to watch a quarry operation with the necessary vigilance? We request a detailed list of all checks that will be done and by whom and when.

Yes, there are existing quarries with the Town of Raymond.

When the other quarry was started, the State stepped in to decide if it was viable. Are we on our own in Raymond with the decision to grant the new permit this time? What has changed since 1992?

Yes, Raymond has the authority to grant Permit.

(Planning Office) the 1992 permit application plan including a letter of 5/13/92 indicating yet to be resolved issues with the permit, things like missing info., etc. pursuant to the first plan. How can we be sure more attention will be paid to this permit?

The Town's review process will determine the completeness of Application.

Why wouldn't the quarry be a warrant article and something the townspeople could vote on?

Earth Removal is an Allowed Use in the Industrial Zone.

What is going to happen with the sand pits? If worked, how deep will they be.

N/A, Earth Excavation previously approved.

On the permit, what is the maximum decibel level discharge allowed and what is the quantifiable comparison i.e. like a fire truck, rock concert, etc... If the sound is exceeded using this quantifier, who do we call? Will they home number provided? Who do we call if this person is unavailable.

Permit not issued yet, maximum decibel level to be determined as part of permitting process.

Economic Questions

What are the actual tax revenues received by Town?

For Real Estate Tax, please refer to Town Records. Thibeault will pay 2 cents per cubic yard removed on top of Real Estate Tax.

Has an independent residential home evaluation been done by the Town to gauge the effect the quarry will have to property values in this high tax base? We request an independent town study. Having blasting occur 300 feet from our homes is insanity and will at least cause lawsuits to both Thibeault and the Town from Public Safety Hazard and worse, injury.

No.

Has the Town considered the implications of allowing another blasting permit in our town as a detriment to attracting new home buyers?

No comment.

What is the plan for increased road wear?

All traffic directed to State roads and this plan doesn't increase traffic above previous permit issued.

DOT involvement?

As requested by NHDOT.

Abutter comments and concerns:

Concern about how residents will know if a well will be replaced and if this will be in writing. If there was a community well that was damaged would Thibeault provide water for the community until the well is replaced or fixed?

Mr. Iacozzi replied that there would be a third party review of the well including testing and if it was caused by us, then we would repair or drill a new well. We would provide potable water for any loss of well because it's a health and safety issue. We have a response plan to emergencies and it could be amended to include this.

In response to a questions regarding how long the project would take, Mr. Iacozzi replied that the gravel excavation has approximately three years to go for processing. When it's reclaimed we will be submitting a plan for commercial development of that area. If we came in with a development for the quarry area, it would still be brought down to the level shown on the plan. This means that the stone would be leaving site very quickly rather than at the pace proposed.

MOTION: Public Works Director McCarthy made a motion to forward the application for consideration for an amended excavation plan from Thibeault Sand & Gravel, LLC to the Planning Board for a Public Hearing to be held on July 5, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the Raymond High School Dining Area with the following conditions:

The Planning Board should require...

- A Hydro-geologic Study with peer review by the Town
- A Sound Study to establish baseline decibel levels at the property line, to which the applicant must adhere
- A Traffic Study (in coordination with the DOT) addressing the adequacy of the exterior bridge
- Adequate analysis of the exterior second bridge
- Detailed Phasing and Restoration Plans
- Program to monitor all wells in the neighborhood, and guaranteed replacement if warranted
- Substantial safety fencing along the top of the slope
- Wildlife Habitat/Corridor Study, including investigation as to endangered species, animal and plant life
- Wetlands/Vernal Pool Study
- Amended Operations Plan
- Property Value Analysis
- Evaluation of recently experienced flood elevations
- Extended Pre-blast Survey

Code Enforcement Officer Mailhot seconded. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Adjournment

MOTION: Code Enforcement Officer Mailhot made a motion to adjourn. Public Works Director McCarthy seconded. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bette Patterson
Administrative Assistant