

Environmental Commission Minutes September 11, 2008

Call to Order: Rayna Laiosa, Stacey Fiorina, Joseph Wotjecki, Rosanne Zagatta, Pat Hutzelman, Carmen Ruta

Guest: Mary Mahon, Krista Rambala, Renee Buchanan

- I. Attendance and Acceptance of Minutes –August 2008
Motion by Stacey Fiorina, Second by Rosanne Zagatta

- II. Water Report June and July Update Results
Charlene Elvin responded to the e-mail on August 18, 2008 regarding the tetrachloroethene and trichloroethene results. The e-mail states the following “A subsequent review of the noted report revealed that the third page was included in error. That page, identified below the table as Data File: AV3785, was actually part of the Influent (untreated water) Report. Dan had temporary help assisting him with copying and in an effort to get the reports to you for your meeting, they were not checked beforehand. Sorry for the confusion.”

Below is the response from Agra Environmental regarding the water test results in June and July 2008.

August 27, 2008

Via email and Regular Mail

Mr. Eric Maurer, Borough Administrator
Borough of Hawthorne Water Department
445 Lafayette Avenue
Hawthorne, NJ 07506

Re: Laboratory Analysis – VOC’s in Drinking Water

Dear Mr. Maurer:

On August 18, 2008, Mr. Dan Tedeschi from the Hawthorne Water Department requested that I reply to some recent inquiries concerning Volatile Organic Carbon (VOC) analysis in drinking water. Agra Environmental and Laboratory Services (Agra) completely took over all certified drinking water analysis for the Borough in early 2008. Previously, Accurate Analytical Laboratories was performing all certified drinking water testing for the Borough. As you may or may not be aware, the NJDEP and the Criminal Justice Department is currently investigating Accurate Analytical Laboratories for the potential falsification of lab data.

The purpose of this letter is to explain some of the concerns of various individuals in the Borough. After reviewing some internal correspondence, I would like to offer the following observations:

1. Ms. Rayna Laiosa from the Environmental Commission has stated in an email that certain reports were incorrectly labeled. The reports she is referring to with “exceedances” to NJDEP VOC standards are clearly reported as “Influent” samples. The “effluent” samples are reported as compliance samples to the NJDEP.

2. In the same correspondence, there is a concern related to the detection of acetone in several samples. Acetone is not a “regulated compound” in that it does not have an associated Maximum Contaminant Limit (MCL) and it is also considered a common lab contaminant. Agra believes the source of acetone is most likely from trace contamination in the hydrochloric acid (HCL) which is used as a chemical preservative.
3. Agra discovered this issue and immediately began working with Mr. Dan Tedeschi to improve the quality of the sampling procedures. Agra provides Hawthorne with VOC bottles containing ascorbic acid powder (used as a dechlorinating agent) and a separate dropper bottle of 1:1 HCL. Hawthorne Water Department personnel currently sample for all drinking water parameters. According to NJDEP sampling protocol for VOC analysis the HCL must be added to the VOC bottle “at the time of collection, but after dechlorination”. Agra currently supplies fresh VOC bottles (with ascorbic acid) every time there is a scheduled pickup at the Hawthorne Water Department. The 1:1 HCL dropper bottle is currently not being replaced at any set interval; hence the HCL is being stored at Hawthorne for repeated use.

Agra recommends, and will immediately implement, that the HCL dropper bottle be replaced with each delivery of bottles to the Hawthorne Water Department and the old bottle will be returned to the lab. This will ensure that the acid is always fresh and should alleviate the acetone issue. We also recommend that sampling personnel be provided training in all NJDEP procedures to ensure quality of all drinking water analysis.

We would like to thank you for bringing this to our attention and we look forward to continuing to provide the Borough the quality that they expect. We would be glad to attend any Borough meeting to discuss this very important issue. Please feel free to contact me anytime you feel at (973) 989-0010 with any questions and concerns.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Furrey
President, AELS

Cc. Mr. Dan Tedeschi, Hawthorne Water Department
Ms. Giselle Diaz, Boswell Engineering

The Environmental Commission accepts the explanation from Agra Environmental.

- III. ANJEC Environmental Award 2008 – Environmental Commission submitted an application for the Improvements of the 8 Acre Woods project. Waiting for response.
- IV. Status Update 2004 Passaic County Open Space Grant

- a. DPW Maintenance schedule of the 8 Acre Wood – Explained that the DPW on a weekly basis pick-up the garbage, recycling, and dog waste containers.
 - b. Environmental Commission is requesting that the DPW prune the vegetation back off the trail paths, replenish the wood chips on the trails, and prune surrounding the observation decks. E-mail will be sent to the Recycling Coordinator.
 - c. Investigate further on trail signs using recycling materials. Stacey to follow-up with Bob Maggio on proposals.
- V. Environmental Commission 2008 Budget –
- a. Discussed remaining budget with the Commission. Discussed putting together a brochure of environmental lessons for the 8 Acre Woods. Topics on Trees, Birds, Environment- Ecosystem/Ecology, and Habitats.
 - b. Carmen to contact Phil Savoie regarding the tree topic.
 - c. Birds - Krista Rambala and Renee Buchanan
 - d. Contact Scott Crimel regarding environmental lessons.
- VI. Thank You Article/Press Release about Ribbon Cutting Event – In process
- VII. Status Update Pan Chemical – NJ transit has decided not to purchase Pan Chemical. The Environmental Commission has safety concerns regarding the remaining buildings on the property.
- VIII. Report from Planning Board - Carmen discussed the recent 55 Westverlet Avenue project approval. Converting an industrial building to residential.
- IX. Updates on Issues and Commissioners Concerns, Next Steps
- a. Welcome Krista and Renee to the Commission for participating at our meetings. Both will be attending the meetings going forward and working with the Commission.
 - b. Mark your calendars April 4, 2009 is Cel-Earth-Bratton.
- X. **Next Meeting Thursday October 9, 2008**