

SUSSEX COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

OCTOBER 11, 2016

The meeting was opened at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Landrith. The meeting was held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-1 of 1975, as amended, and notice has been forwarded to the newspapers and posted on the bulletin board maintained at the Sussex County Administrative Center for public announcement.

ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT: James Landrith, Andover Borough, Chairman
Donald Ploetner, At-Large, Vice Chairman
William Koellhoffer, Byram Township
Allan Esenlohr, Green Township
Karen Hansen, Hampton Township
Nina Fradl, Montague Township
Eric Powell, Sparta Township
Christopher Fitzpatrick, At-Large

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Stephanie Pizzulo, Lafayette Township
Adam Vough, Town of Newton
Jo-Ann Williamson, Sandyston Township

STAFF MEMBERS: Autumn Sylvester, Acting Planning Director
Alice Brees, Program Manager
Antoinette Wasiewicz, Recording Secretary
Jennifer Terwilliger, Health Department

ALSO PRESENT: Reenee Casapulla, Recycling Coordinator
Tom Varro, SCMUA
Nathan Fenno, NYSW Railway
Thomas Graham, P.E., Dykstra Walker Design Group
George Valiotis, Pace Glass, Inc.
Joseph Staigar, Dynamic Traffic
Ray Schloss, NYSW Railway
Bernde Hefele, Esq., Attorney for Pace Glass

MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:

A motion was made by Donald Ploetner to approve the Minutes of July 12, 2016. The motion was seconded by Nina Fradl. All were in favor, with abstentions from Allan Esenlohr, Karen Hansen and Eric Powell. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Donald Ploetner to approve the Minutes of September 13, 2016. The motion was seconded by Bill Koellhoffer. All were in favor, with abstentions from Karen Hansen, Eric Powell and Christopher Fitzpatrick. Motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

Chairman Landrith did not offer any remarks.

PRESENTATION:

A. PROPOSED CLASS A RECYCLING FACILITY, PACE GLASS, ROUTE 669 (LIMECREST ROAD,) ANDOVER TOWNSHIP:

Thomas Graham said he is an Engineer with Dykstra Walker Design Group. They are the site engineers for Pace Glass. The applicant's property is in Andover Township, identified as Block 108, Lot 4.02. The property was formerly associated with the Limecrest Quarry. The area was previously mined for sand and gravel and has been used as a storage area for the rock product. Mr. Graham displayed a map and pointed out areas that are still piles of palletized, bagged rock material. He said that the property was part of a prior site plan application for Cambridge Pavers and that it had approval by Andover Township. However, the applicant never went forward with construction.

The property is in the General Industrial Zone and is about 78 acres in size. He pointed out an area which would be paved and said that it represents about 35% of the site. Andover Township's ordinance requires that there be at least a 100' buffer from any activity to a residential building. The 100' buffer was shown on the map. Mr. Graham said that the site has wetlands, stream corridors, riparian buffer zones and wetland transition zones which act as a buffer. All the activity on site will be several hundred feet from any of the adjoining neighbors.

This site is accessed off of Limecrest Road. There is an existing driveway and a gated entrance that will be upgraded as part of the overall application. There is also a proposal to incorporate a rail line to bring material into and out of the site. This will help reduce truck traffic and make the project more neighborhood-friendly. The project is in the preliminary stages of site planning, but the overall site has already been previously approved for an industrial use. The applicant feels the project will fit well into prior approvals. They are leaving the large paved areas for staging of the material before it is processed and for storage until it can be moved off-site, either by rail or truck.

George Valiotis said he is with Pace Glass, Inc. He said there is single-stream recycling throughout the country, especially in this region. Recycled material goes to a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) where the plastic, metal, paper and cardboard are removed and sold. The remaining glass, refuse, paper and mixed items are then landfilled. Pace Glass gets paid to take that product and they process it through their machinery. The glass is cleaned as much as possible and then it is separated by color. It can then be used by their customers who make glass bottles.

Mr. Valiotis said that glass recyclers need the glass to be recycled by color. Glass often gets broken and mixed with other organic contaminants. This makes it difficult for recyclers to treat the glass. Currently, there isn't anyone to take this material and it is being landfilled. He said he bought an existing glass recycling plant in Jersey City about four years ago and made extensive renovations to it, making it a state-of-the-art plant using technology from Germany and the US. That plant is up-and-running and they are now looking to expand. They want to expand their operation to take in almost one million tons of glass per year.

Jim Landrith asked if there were any types of glass that are not recyclable. Mr. Valiotis said the glass that is not recyclable are things like Plexiglas, Pyrex and ceramic, and they usually do not end up in the bin. He said that glass is a very difficult product to work with and currently it is just being landfilled. He believes that his facility would help improve glass recycling rates in the Northeast.

Christopher Fitzpatrick asked how many buildings are planned. Mr. Graham said they would have one main building for offices and administration. There is a staging area in the back for the initial separation of material. The material then goes to sorters. There will also be bins to hold the material before transporting it off-site. Covered areas will be for the sorting operation and separation of the glass once the bulk materials have been separated. When asked, Mr. Graham said the area is about 5,000 sq. ft.

Mr. Graham said he anticipates the need for 40-50 employees when they are fully operational. Mr. Fitzpatrick asked once they have their approvals, when would they be in operation. Mr. Graham said they would like to get preliminary approval so that they can start stockpiling material on the property. The plant needs a certain volume of material to operate and by doing this; they will be ready to go when the facility is completed. First they need approval from the town and then the DEP. He believes it should take eight or nine months before they will be operational.

Mr. Graham said there are representatives here this evening to answer specific questions about the rail line. Mr. Ploetner asked if there was a rail line spur off of this property. Mr. Graham said not yet, that is proposed. Mr. Ploetner also asked how many trucks would be coming into and out of the property. Joseph Staigar, of Dynamic Traffic said they expect about 150 trucks over a 24 hour period. At peak hour, about 20 trucks at the most. Mr. Ploetner asked how the plant will operate 24 hours per day without disturbing the neighbors. Mr. Valiotis said the building has insulated panels and it is relatively quiet. The machines and the work are contained in an indoor area and the property is very large. Mr. Graham said that noise is regulated by the State and the town. The project will have to conform to noise regulations.

Jim Landrith asked if the noise will be less than the quarry operation. Mr. Graham said that he believes it will be. The glass is handled inside the building, which has insulated walls.

Donald Ploetner asked if there are plans for the left side of the property. Mr. Graham said there is a pond and wetlands, which are regulated by DEP. He also said in Andover Township, the maximum lot coverage is 40%. Currently, this plan is at about 35%. The zone line between the general industrial property and the residential zone separates it. Additional use of the property would require use variances.

Mr. Landrith confirmed that they would only be handling glass products. Mr. Ploetner asked if it would be possible for SWAC to visit the facility in Jersey City. Mr. Graham said yes and that he is available whenever SWAC wants to visit the facility.

Alice Brees asked about delivery hours and asked if this has been discussed with Andover Township. Mr. Valiotis said he was not at the meeting and is not sure. He said they do not restrict the truck traffic, but they will make every effort to have the trucks come in without being a nuisance to the neighborhood. Ms. Brees said she understands more information about truck routes will be coming in November. She asked how often the trucks will be coming in from Route 15 and down Limecrest Road as opposed to Route 206. Mr. Valiotis said he did not have those details yet. Mr. Graham said that information will be provided.

Tom Varro said the SCMUA does not have an objection to the project, and the truck routes can be made a condition of approval. Mr. Landrith asked if he owns the trucks or are they private haulers. Mr. Valiotis said he owns 14 of his own trucks. Currently, they plan to do some of their own trucking but material will be brought in from a lot of places with independent truckers. When asked from how far away material will be brought in, Mr. Valiotis said from about 200 miles, maximum. It will not be economical for people to bring it from a greater distance.

Christopher Fitzpatrick asked what the assessed value of the property was. Mr. Valiotis said he was not sure. When asked, he said they are looking to invest \$50 million into the project.

Renee Casapulla said the applicant met with the SCMUA to tour the facility. She said that currently the value of glass recycling related to single stream recycling is a global concern. She asked Mr. Valiotis to talk about the sources for the glass. Mr. Valiotis said his biggest customer is Recommunity. They own about 44 MRF's in the Northeast. They also have another company which owns another 40 MRF's and there are also some mom-and-pop MRF's in New Jersey. He said commodities are very low and MRF's are struggling. With recycling, you have to make money from every by-product and you have to find someone who can use your by product or it becomes waste. His operation would alleviate the landfill costs and burden of MRF's to municipalities and anyone that produces glass.

When asked to talk about the services he would provide to municipalities, Mr. Valiotis said if towns can get the product to his yard, he will take it and process it at no cost. If it is 50-60% glass, he will handle it. He will also work with the towns if he has to collect the glass.

Ms. Casapulla asked what brought him to this site and Sussex County. Mr. Valiotis said that trucking is the preferable means of transport for 250-350 miles. They have hopes of getting their product on rail, because most of the customers that want glass are farther away. He believes that the railroad will work with him when they see the volume and drop their prices to accommodate the volume. The property is ideal because of its proximity to the rail line.

Eric Powell asked if there are plans to use the rail line to bring glass in. Mr. Valiotis said that is his eventual goal. Donald Ploetner asked what the timetable is in getting the spur to the rail line and if he does not get it, does that end his interest in this property. Mr. Valiotis, said "No." He said that they are asking for an easement on a little sliver of property. He will work with the railroad and will find a way.

When asked whether he worked for a real estate company or Pace Glass, Mr. Valiotis said he is not a realtor but works for a development company, which is the parent company. He works for the parent company and is also part owner of Pace.

When asked what he hoped to accomplish this evening, Mr. Valiotis said he hoped that the SWAC liked the project and use of the property. Alice Brees said a vote would occur at a future meeting. Mr. Valiotis said he was not expecting a vote tonight. He wanted make SWAC familiar with his company and to answer questions.

Eric Powell asked if he has met with Andover Township. Berne Hefele, the attorney for the applicant, said he wanted to talk about the easement. He said it would be an easement, not a subdivision and an acquisition of the property. The section they need runs through a part of the property that is not developable for anything else. He feels they will get the easement fairly easily because it is constrained environmentally by wetlands. With regard to Andover Township, he said he has spoken with the Township Attorney and will meet with him at the end of this week or next week. They will then submit an application to Andover Township. The acquisition of the property will take place in a couple of weeks. They are not purchasing this property contingent on development approvals. They will own it and want to put the recycling facility there. If they can't, they will do something else with the property, but it is not a contingent deal. They wanted to meet with SWAC to familiarize them with the project. They want to be transparent and let SWAC know exactly what the project is, how it works and what the impacts are going to be.

Autumn Sylvester asked about the expansion of the freight line and the need for permits. Mr. Graham said they will need some wetland permits. They are not going through wetlands but they will be within transition areas.

Mr. Varro said that the applicant is applying for an amendment to the Solid Waste Management Plan and that they will need to be owners of the property first.

Mr. Graham said they are putting all the pieces in place now and then they will be back to ask for the amendment. They will make another presentation and answer additional questions at that time.

Mr. Landrith said there was a Notice of Violation to the Solid Waste Act on the existing facility in Jersey City. He asked for details about that. Mr. Varro said there was an air contaminates issue, with dust. Mr. Valiotis said there was a plume of dust and that the problem has been rectified. The DEP has been to the site often and they are familiar with their use.

Mr. Ploetner asked how many times a day will rail cars be going in and out. Mr. Graham said a rail car takes the place of four trucks. So for every one rail car, there will be four less trucks.

When asked if the glass that is stored on the site will be contained, Mr. Valiotis said it will be covered and that it gets processed quickly. It goes through pre-screening which removes 90% of paper and organic waste, then it sits, then it gets processed again. It is contained because they don't want water in it. When they sell the product, there has to be less than 3% moisture content.

Mr. Landrith asked how much water will be used to clean the product. Mr. Valiotis said once it is established, they will have a system that filters the water and cleans the glass to eliminate dust. This will be done to DEP standards. Ms. Casapulla verified that they use heat to get contaminates off the glass. Mr. Valiotis said they dry it and burn the paper. Most of the paper is removed during the cleaning process.

Chairman Landrith thanked the applicant for his presentation. There was discussion about the visit to the Jersey City site. If there are seven or more members visiting at the same time, it would constitute a quorum and a meeting notice would have to be provided.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. DISCUSS POSSIBLE RESCHEDULING OF NOVEMBER 8 MEETING (ELECTION DAY):

Chairman Landrith said that the November SWAC meeting is scheduled for Election Day and asked if the meeting should be rescheduled to either November 1 or November 15. Ms. Brees said that Antoinette is not available November 1, so the meeting could only be rescheduled for November 15. Mr. Varro said that SWAC has met on Election Day in the past, except this is a presidential election. He also said that November 15 is League of Municipalities. After a very brief discussion, it was agreed that the November SWAC meeting will be kept to the November 8 date.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. REPORTING OF RECYCLING RATES FOR COMMERCIAL USES, FOR MUNICIPAL RECYCLING COORDINATOR (PRIOR DISCUSSION AT SEPTEMBER MEETING):

Ms. Brees said this discussion came up during the September meeting. A question came up about how recycling gets reported. Ms. Casapulla was not at the meeting, so this topic was placed on this evening's Agenda.

Allan Esenlohr said he was in ShopRite and noticed huge bales of cardboard and at George's Salvage operation, there are mountains of steel. He asked if the County gets credit for the recycling of those materials. Ms. Casapulla said, "Yes, absolutely." The Class B facilities (metals) report directly to the State and the State adds those numbers to the town's individual reporting. Some business just report tonnage per county, and the State will divide it up by town, based on population.

Jim Landrith asked when Pace Glass starts recycling thousands of tons of glass, will the County get credit for it. Ms. Casapulla said they already talked to Pace Glass about this. They will have to report where the glass was generated. The glass will also be coming from a facility that has processed it. They will have to work with the State for record keeping because the State will have to recognize that Andover Township would not get all the recycling credit. There will have to be a formula set up.

Eric Powell said if Pace Glass comes to fruition, he believes a lot of the towns in the County will look to create a glass collection system to either drop dumpsters at yards or for trucks to go in free of charge. The towns will get higher numbers in their tonnage report which will generate more revenue from the State. The municipal recycling rate will get 99% of the tonnage accounted for.

REPORTS:

A. SCMUA UPDATE:

Tom Varro provided SWAC with a Tonnage Bar Chart for Fiscal Year 2016 from December 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016. There were 81,217 tons collected, which is a 5% increase from FY 2015 for the same period. There was also a chart showing a breakdown by categories. ID-10 Household was up by 1.5%; Bagged waste was up by 1.3%; Bulky Waste at the landfill was up by 13.7%; and ID-13C (C&D Waste) was up 3.6%. He said this was positive even with Cavalier's activities. ID-13 CC Bulky waste at the convenience center was up 8.2%. Animal waste went down by 13.5%, but the number is comparable to the other years. Overall, there was an increase of 4.9% in tonnage and a 4.1% increase in revenue.

The report showed a 441.5% increase to ID27 Industrial/Asbestos/etc. Donald Ploetner asked what the reason was for this increase. Mr. Varro attributes this to work being done when the power line went through. The power line towers were asbestos coated and had to be brought to the MUA.

B. RECYCLING COORDINATOR:

Renee Casapulla reported that this past Saturday, the MUA had the final, free electronic recycling event. It was well attended by county residents, schools, towns and businesses. She is working on the 2017 Electronics Recycling schedule and hopes to have it completed in time for the December SWAC meeting.

There will be a Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Day on Saturday, November 5 from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Schools and towns will be permitted to bring materials in the day prior, however, this needs to be approved beforehand.

There will be a Municipal Recycling Coordinators meeting at the MUA on October 13 at 9:00 a.m. They have two meetings per year, discussing recycling tonnage reporting at the spring meeting, and in the fall, they discuss municipal, county and State recycling programs as well as new programs.

Ms. Casapulla also reported on a new Styrofoam Recycling Program that the MUA is starting. They are working with a company called "Foam Cycle" which has provided the machine that densifies the Styrofoam. She passed around a sample of the finished product. She explained that the Styrofoam goes through a machine that chips it up and it then goes through a warming tube. The machine extrudes the Styrofoam into the final product which can be used for moldings in construction of homes, businesses and cruise ships. It is also being used for making picture frames. Ms. Casapulla said the value of the final product is currently worth more than scrap metal. They will only be processing rigid, packaging Styrofoam. Styrofoam used with food products and Styrofoam peanuts will not be used because they have already been densified. When asked, Ms. Casapulla said that the Styrofoam should be taken to the MUA. It is not be put curbside.

C. STATE LIAISON:

The State Liaison did not attend this evening's meeting, nor did he provide a report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS:

A. PLANNING REPORT:

Alice Brees reported that she and Autumn Sylvester had a pre-application meeting with Pace Glass and MUA staff.

B. HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

Jennifer Terwilliger said that since the last SWAC meeting, there were no Waste Flow Referrals from SCMUA. There were 12 Notices of Violation issued and three Penalty Assessments. There was one Solid Waste Referred Investigation from DEP.

There were a total of nine Facility Inspections completed: two from SCMUA (working face,) Frankford Convenience Center, Stanhope Convenience Center, Stanhope Exempt

B (compost) and Stanhope Exempt C (tree parts,) Newton Convenience Center, RER (Class B) and RER (Class C.)

There were a total of 27 recycling/truck inspections at the SCMUA landfill: 13 inspections on September 22, 2016 and 14 inspections on October 7, 2016. Ms. Terwilliger also reported that there were two phone interviews for Exempt Haulers applications.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- A. SOLID WASTE FACILITY MONTHLY DISPOSAL AND MATERIALS RECOVERY REPORT FOR AUGUST 2016, C.E.C.S., 9/12/16:
- B. EMAIL FROM RANDALL SLINKARD RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE SC SOLID WASTE PLAN FOR PACE GLASS, 10/13/16:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

Ms. Sylvester talked about the Maggio site in Wantage. She asked if he will be coming in for a Solid Waste Plan Amendment. Karen Hansen said Mr. Maggio applied to DEP for an Exemption after his landfill was discovered. She believes it is being handled by the DEP. Chairman Landrith said if they are turned down by the DEP, he will have to come before SWAC for a Solid Waste Plan Amendment.

ADJOURNMENT:

All business having been completed, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Eric Powell. The motion was seconded by Karen Hansen and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.