

HSAC Minutes: February 24, 2015

Attendance: Debbie Greiff, George Goneconto, David Ofer, Sarah McLaughlin, Michael Kascak, and Shelly Santaniello.

Minutes:

1. The HSAC committee met for 30 minutes and then attended the public hearing led by Ralph Tella of Lord Associates, and representatives from the DEP.
2. Staff members commented that custodial issues seem to be better. The building has been cleaner lately.
3. Recently, people were hired to remove snow from the roof. Tom Franks has worked hard removing large icicles.
4. Next, the committee discussed questions they wanted to bring up at the public hearing, namely: a. Will the chemicals be applied over 8 weeks and then stopped, or will they be reapplied? b. Why are we remediating the soil at Hillside? Was the 2010 remediation project at MDL successful enough to warrant this new project? c. Does it make sense to remediate the soil at Hillside before we know more about the future of Hillside School?

5. Summary of Public Hearing:

Karen Stromberg of the DEP gave an overview of the Remedy Implementation Plan(RIP) which began in 1990 when the sub-slab depressurization systems were installed at Hillside. Next, Ralph Tella gave a 25 minute presentation explaining the proposed "Phase IV" of the RIP. This new plan is essentially a repeat of the In-Situ Chemical Oxidation(ISCO) done at the MDL site in 2010. Mr. Tella showed data (page 6 of the hand out) demonstrating that the levels of TCE in the groundwater on the MDL property dropped significantly. Lord Associates hopes that the same will be true when remediation is attempted on stubborn areas on the Hillside grounds. The chemicals will be applied for 6-8 weeks, testing will be done, and then chemicals will be reapplied.

5. Summary of Question/Answer Session:

A concern was expressed about the safety of the chemicals being used. Mr. Tella said that sodium persulfate is safe, effective at removing TCE, and has a longer life than the chemicals used in 2010. Others voiced concerns about the safety of the site while the plan is in progress. Mr. Tella explained that the project would be set up when school is not in session. Mr. Kascak told parents that Hillside will have no summer programs this year while the chemicals are being injected into the soil. Ports will be 15 feet underneath the soil. Storage tanks holding the chemicals will be secured at the MDL site. Parents brought up concerns about rebuilding, or remodeling Hillside on its current site. Mr. Tella, and representatives from the DEP, concurred that even if this Phase IV plan proves effective, the Hillside site would still need constant monitoring.

Minutes submitted by Shelly Santaniello, 3/1/2015.

