

Lyn Simmons

From: BobReckman@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, May 01, 2008 6:55 AM
To: BobReckman@aol.com; david.murphy8@comcast.net; dnarkewicz@comcast.net; Gwanorth@aol.com; JMDostal@comcast.net; Lyn Simmons; michael.bardsley@verizon.net; MLaBargeWard6@aol.com; mtcarney@comcast.net
Cc: Mayor of Northampton; Janet Sheppard; reckhow@ecs.umass.edu
Subject: Using the correct words

Dear Fellow Council Members:

I may not have been clear in my e-mail yesterday about the differences in the two types of meetings that are being considered for the landfill expansion. While we have not yet adopted rules for how we will deal with this issue, if we choose to adopt a modified set of the rules used by the Planning Board, then we will have "public hearings." These procedures for "public hearings" are well defined in the first few pages of the section titled "Northampton Planning Board Rules and Procedures" that Attorney Pill gave us several meetings ago. While we may choose to modify the process and details, I will use the term "public hearings" for the meetings the City Council will be required to conduct. The DPW/BPW is not required to use this procedure. I will try to use the terms "forums" or "public informational meetings" to refer to these meetings. It may help us to use different terms for the meetings held by the two groups, since different rules and procedures will apply to each set of meetings. Please let me know if you have any questions. I look forward to seeing you all this evening.

Thanks;

Bob Reckman
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From: BobReckman@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2008 2:46 PM
To: BobReckman@aol.com; david.murphy8@comcast.net; dnarkewicz@comcast.net; Gwanorth@aol.com; JMDostal@comcast.net; Lyn Simmons; michael.bardsley@verizon.net; MLaBargeWard6@aol.com; mtcarney@comcast.net; Mayor of Northampton
Cc: Janet Sheppard; reckhow@ecs.umass.edu
Subject: Proposed hearings on landfill expansion by the BPW

Dear Fellow Council Members and Mayor Higgins:

I spoke this morning with Janet Sheppard about the proposed hearings by the BPW on the landfill expansion. These are the hearings that David Reckhow wrote to us about earlier this week that would be co-sponsored by Mayor Higgins. Janet said that she thought they are a good idea. One thing that might come of them is that the BPW could modify their permit application based on what people say at the hearings. It is Janet's opinion that Council members do not have to be present if the meetings are taped. She does think that we should look at the tapes of the meetings before we hold our own hearings, but do not have to be at the hearings held by the BPW. Janet will be at our meeting on Thursday to answer any other questions that we may have. I am copying Janet on this e-mail in case I have not described what she told me accurately. I am also copying David Reckhow so he knows what we have been told. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks;

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Lyn Simmons

From: BobReckman@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2008 7:23 AM
To: reckhow@ecs.umass.edu; jmdostal@comcast.net; michael.bardsley@verizon.net; mtcarney@comcast.net; Gwanorth@aol.com; BobReckman@aol.com; dnarkewicz@comcast.net; david.murphy8@comcast.net; MLaBargeWard6@aol.com
Cc: Lyn Simmons; Lyn Simmons; Clare Higgins; Ned Huntley; jlaurila@nohodpw.org; ghartwel@smith.edu; mpparsons@comcast.net; roeschmidt@charter.net; susan.demaria@verizon.net; terry@crocker.com
Subject: Re: proposal for landfill meetings

Dear David:

My thanks to you and the BPW for proposing public meetings on the landfill expansion sponsored by the BPW and the Mayor. The outline format you lay out sounds fine to me. I am sure that the BPW will find ways to modify and improve it as it moves closer to reality.

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Lyn Simmons

From: David Reckhow [reckhow@ecs.umass.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2008 6:55 AM
To: jmdostal@comcast.net; michael.bardsley@verizon.net; mtcarney@comcast.net;
gwanorth@aol.com; BobReckman@aol.com; 'David Narkewicz'; david.murphy8@comcast.net;
mlabargeward6@aol.com
Cc: Lyn Simmons; Lyn Simmons; Clare Higgins; Ned Huntley; 'James R. Laurila'; ghartwel@smith.edu;
Michael R Parsons; Roe schmidt; Susan DeMaria; Terry Culhane
Subject: proposal for landfill meetings

Dear Councilors,

Please consider the attached proposal for the BPW to sponsor a series of public meetings on the Northampton landfill. Feel free to call me (cell: 413-626-5398) or email me with your thoughts/comments. Lynn, could you please send a copy of this to Councilor Ray LaBarge.

Thanks,
Dave Reckhow

office: 413-545-5392
home: 413-584-2395

No virus found in this outgoing message.
Checked by AVG.
Version: 7.5.524 / Virus Database: 269.23.6/1403 - Release Date: 4/29/2008 7:26 AM

4/30/2008

DAVID A. RECKHOW
45 HIGH ST.
FLORENCE, MA 01062

Received
4/30/08 LS

April 30, 2008

Northampton City Council
210 Main Street
Northampton, MA 01060

Dear Councilors:

I'd like to propose that the Board of Public Works hold a series of public meetings on the landfill in the coming months. This would provide an opportunity for the City Council and BPW to hear a focused presentation of facts by both proponents and opponents, as well as to receive formal public comment. I've discussed this with the Mayor and she supports the general concept. She has also offered to co-sponsor these meeting with the BPW. The Board also discussed this at their regular meeting last Wednesday. They were generally in favor, and offered some suggestions as to how we might proceed. The paragraphs below reflect my original proposal to the Board with some refinement from members of the BPW.

Given the multifaceted nature of the landfill debate, I think it's critical to separate the issues and focus on only one issue at any given meeting. With this in mind, I proposed that we hold 3 public meetings.

1. One on groundwater issues (could be done right away)
2. One on health effects (must wait for the Gradient study)
3. One on alternatives; including costs and environmental factors (must wait for the HDR study)

We might want to have a second meeting on any one of these subjects, depending on the amount of technical information that needs to be presented and the public's interest. We might also wish to separately address the odor problem in this type of forum.

We should hold these at the JFK Middle School since it is a city-wide discussion. This would also facilitate recording and possibly televising the meeting. We may need to arrange for someone to take minutes or transcripts too.

I'm proposing a format where experts on both sides would make presentations, followed by questions from the BPW and City Council, and then the public would be invited to ask questions and offer their opinions. As an example, we might invite our groundwater modeling consultants to meeting #1, as well as Dr. Newton to make presentations. Alternatively, we might want to formally identify a representative opposition group¹ who would then arrange for the expert opposing view.

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I think it would be important for the BPW and CC to pose questions to the experts in this type of open forum, but resist from offering personal opinions. I also think it would be important to provide a handout for all attendees listing some historical facts on the landfill and information on the process of a possible expansion. Any handouts should be posted on the city website ahead of time.

Proposed Format (2-3 hours):

1. Introduction (5 min)
2. Presentation of findings and conclusions from DPW & consultants (30 min)
3. Presentation by representatives of citizen group(s) with opposing viewpoints¹ (30 min)
4. Questioning of both groups by the BPW & CC (20 min)
5. Open public comment period with option for the public to pose questions of both groups (60 min); limit each person to 3 min

Meetings should be scheduled on weekday evenings (7PM), selecting the particular day so that we maximize turnout (CC, BPW and public). Of course, we also need to find a time when the technical experts can attend, and ideally it would be an evening when we could get NCTV to record. For the first meeting, I would propose one of the following dates (all are currently open for the JFK community room), pending availability of the city's consultant.

May 20	Tuesday
May 22	Thursday
May 27	Tuesday
June 10	Tuesday
June 16	Monday
June 17	Tuesday

The BPW is anxious to improve the accuracy of information on our landfill that has tossed about in public discussions. I think the meetings proposed herein will help to achieve this goal. I would welcome any comments on the proposal, and await your response.

Sincerely,



¹ This should probably be "Citizen's United for a Healthy Future", and if so, we would ask them to serve as representatives of all dissenting citizen groups.