

Town discusses possible funding opportunity for projects

Max Borsuk Editor

The Ashford Town Board discussed projects within the town that could be considered for funding including the possibility of a town park. Supervisor Charles Davis, at the July 10 meeting, reported he has sent a letter to the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Hazard Mitigation Section regarding the submission of projects for possible funding.

One of the projects would be for the triangle of land between County Road 32, Ashford Hollow Road and White Street in Ashford. Councilwoman Jean Bond asked Davis whether the triangle affected by the hazard mitigation could be used as a town park and Council - man John Pfeffer asked if the property was going to be given to the town or be county property. Davis said a town park is possible for the land and he will work to get the exact information on the property for the board.

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority Energy Grant project is nearing its completion and the town is expecting to receive the funds for the project soon. The energy grant project included installing new efficient lighting at the Town of Ashford Highway Barn and the Ashford Community Center and the installation of a new hot water heater. Bond and Councilman William Heim brought up recent issues within the highway department with their radios, which appear to need updating. After discussing the possible problem with the radios, board members will meet with Ashford Highway Superintendent Tim Engels to get additional information and figure out the best solution to the issue.

In other board news: – Code Enforcement Officer Larry Feldman report - ed there are a couple of new builds and remodeling projects currently happening in Ashford.

– Davis reported he is planning a meeting with Congressman Tom Reed to discuss the classification of waste at the West Valley Demonstration Project.

The next Ashford Town Board meeting will be Wednesday, Aug. 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Ashford Community Center, 9377 Route 240, in West Valley.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF CLOSURE PLAN

The United States Department of Energy (DOE) as operator of the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) has notified the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (Department) of its intention to commence final closure of the Chemical Process Cell-Waste Storage Area (CPC-WSA) at the WVDP facility in West Valley, NY 14171-9799. The CPCWSA is one of several hazardous waste management (HMW) units at the WVDP facility that required closure under Title 6 of the New York Code of Rules and Regulations (6 NYCRR) Part 373. The DOE maintains a closure plan for each HWM unit as stipulated in §373-1.2(b) and §373-3.7. The CPC-WSA closure plan was revised in response to Department comments and resubmitted on June 11, 2019 for Department review and approval. Closure activities for the CPCWSA have already been implemented by DOE in the form of removing waste containers from the unit. The Department has tentatively determined that the revised CPC-WSA closure plan is consistent with the regulatory requirements for the decontamination and closure of a hazardous waste container storage area and, as such, can be approved. The intention of this public notice is to solicit comment from the public on the CPC-WSA closure plan,

The revised closure plan (Doc. ID Number WVDP-150, Rev. 14, dated 6/6/19) includes removal of all containers of hazardous waste, establishing a 20-foot by 20-foot sampling grid across the 60-foot by 120-foot waste storage area resulting in eighteen (18) grid areas, inspection of the gravel pad and collecting soil samples at a depth of 0-6 inches below the bottom of the compacted gravel pad in each grid area. The plan states that a biased sampling approach would be implemented to collect eighteen (18) soil samples from areas where staining is visible, otherwise the sample shall be collected from the center of the grid. The sampling equipment decontamination residues and wash washer would be collected, characterized and dispositioned as either a hazardous or non-hazardous waste, as necessary.

State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) status: Closure of the CPC-WSA hazardous waste container storage area will not result in significant changes to the surrounding areas of the WVDP facility. The closure activities will be performed entirely inside the CPC-WSA and will use only portable equipment. This action is intended to leave the CPC-WSA clean and uncontaminated. The Department has determined that the closure of the CPC-WSA is a Type II action which is not subject to SEQR.

State regulation requires that the public be given thirty (30) days to provide written comments on this draft closure plan. The public comment period begins on 07/18/19 and will extend through 08/19/19. A copy of the closure plan is available for public review at NYSDEC Central and Regional 9 Offices.

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Copies of the closure plan may be obtained by contacting either Mr. Patrick Concannon, Engineering Geologist, at NYSDEC Region 9, Division of Materials Management, 270 Michigan Ave., Buffalo, NY 14203 [Telephone Number: (716) 851-7220] or Mrs. Lynn Winterberger, Chief, RCRA Permitting Section at NYSDEC, Central Office, Division of Materials Management, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-7256 [Telephone Number: (518) 402-8651].

Comments on the closure plan must be sent no later than August 19, 2019 to:

Mrs. Lynn Winterberger, P.E. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Materials Management Bureau of Hazardous Waste & Radiation Management 625 Broadway Albany, New York 12233-7256.

All comments will be considered and evaluated in making the final determination for approving the closure plan. Prior to the approval of the closure plan the Department will respond to any comments submitted by the public. The Department will approve, modify or disapprove the draft closure plan based on the information received during the comment period and public hearing, if required. A notice of the final decision will be sent to each interested citizen or organization who submitted written comments or have requested such notice. #21