

MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 20, 2010 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CATHARINE
TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Ralph called the meeting to order at 6:07pm

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Ralph thanked everyone for coming and turned the meeting over to Allen for some ground rules.

The subjects discussed tonight were limited to the potential mining operations of Gulf Trading and Transport. Any and all guests were encouraged to present their concerns but no questions would be asked of the speakers.

Richard Hess was here tonight Read the Class 2 environmental assessment and wanted some clarifications on the assessment. Richard had understood that the limestone that would be mined would be only 240,000 tons per year but the environmental study reads that it would be approximately 480,000 tons per year. That would double the truckloads.

He also wanted to know about an existing rockslide that is on the property. Will the company bear any responsibility if the blasting disturbs the rock slide any further?

Richard Tate was here to express that he doesn't believe that the Quarry is going to be in a very good area. He is concerned with environmental effects and doesn't want to see a beautiful place ruined.

Rod Imler would hate to see the jobs lost but he is concerned with the conditions of the roads and safety.

Betty Kagarise took the stand and expressed her concerns with hidden driveways, school buses, traffic and sharing the road with trucks. She is concerned with dirt, dust, travel time. She believes that it's a bad place to put a quarry.

Gloria Sweeney took the stand and she had concerns with environmental issues but wanted to speak about the people who live there. She believes that the way of life for people who live around the quarry will change drastically. She is also concerned with road conditions.

Bill Sweeney took the stand and he is concerned with truck traffic and the peace and quiet for the community. He also wanted to express that the 35 ft setback as indicated in the land and subdivision ordinance would not be sufficient for the residents around the quarry. He believes that a larger setback would be required.

Rowdy Kagarise was here to express concerns and mentioned that he liked what Gloria had said about the people who live in the area. He and other residents are concerned with the safety of our children, bikers, hikers, and all residents in our community. The residents know the roads now but what is going to happen with other large trucks trying to pass farm equipment? He is not sure how that would happen with narrow roads. What's going to happen with damage to roads, wells, foundations on the houses and buildings in

the area, loss of property value, damage to the trail, river, birds, bats, and all wildlife in the area. Rowdy would like to see something written in the paper or verification that all of the jobs would go to people from Williamsburg. He is not in favor of the quarry.

Ian Swanson was here to support his friends and is concerned for the trail and would like to see it preserved for future generations.

Nelson Horton had some concerns with the graves and lots that are on the property. Will they be destroyed?

Palmer Brown took the stand and expressed that he couldn't find the environmental assessment easily but did manage to get ahold of it. ADT, average daily traffic, would be 100 trucks per day on Fox Run Road. He wanted to know if Penn Dot ever did a traffic study. He also wanted to know why the application was done out of the Levi area office and not the Westmoreland office.

Was there a favor done to get a favorable environmental assessment? He also stated that there may be some natural gas that is on the property that will be developed at a later date. He would like clear answers to these questions.

Rex Metz took the stand to talk about the impact on the local economy. He has a company that may be affected by the traffic from Gulf Trading and Transport. Mr. Metz has a CDL and mentioned that he wouldn't run trucks on Fox Run Road unless absolutely necessary. He believes that Fox Run Road is a dangerous road to run heavy trucks. He asked the supervisors to ask Gulf Trading and Transport to post a 100 percent bond.

Jennifer Barefoot was here as the President of Rails to Trails. Rails to Trails read over the environmental assessment and had concerns with it. Jennifer conveyed that Rails to Trails is only concerned with preserving and maintaining the trail. They will be keeping an open dialogue with Gulf Trading and Transport.

Stan Kotala was here representing the Audobon Society and 15 other groups that are opposed. He didn't think it was right that advertisement of the project was advertised in the Huntingdon Paper. He believes that there are discrepancies on the environmental assessment. He is concerned with the site being a hibernation site for the small footed bat, for streams on the property, noise, dust and traffic concerns. He wanted to note that the 15 groups and organizations did not oppose any other mine that opened up in the area because they did not have any substantial cultural or environmental affects on the life and surrounding areas.

Robert Brubaker was here to express that he was for the jobs that the quarry would provide.

Ray Brooks was here to express that the trail is a safe place for the kids on the track team to run. He wanted to make a point that it is a coaches dream to have a place like rails to trails to run and train the kids. He doesn't want to see the trail disrupted or made unsafe.

Jim Ross took the stand and opened by thanking the supervisors for the chance to speak at this meeting and previous meetings. The setback from the Rails to Trails will be 300 ft from the property line, not the actual trail. There is a natural barrier between the 300 ft setback and the Rails to Trails and the highwall will not be seen. There will be no mining activity inside that 300 ft setback. He gave other statistics with the audience and Gulf Trading and Transport is willing to stand and talk with anybody about the project at the end of the meeting. Rick Tote wanted to clear up about the information not being readily available. He wanted everyone to know that it is still very early in the process. The permitting process is still in the early stages and assured everyone

that the permit will be advertised according to regulations and everyone will have access and knowledge of this. It will be advertised in a local paper once a week for four weeks.

Rick Tote mentioned that they have been working through the endangered species and other environmental, geological and hydrological investigations.

Rick talked about blasting a little, he wanted to assure that Gulf is committed to hiring experts for the blasting and that it will be done in a controlled environment.

The reason was the property was acquired was to satisfy a contract with the Keystone Conemaugh Power Plant. To produce high calcium carbonate limestone for air scrubbers. If the project does not go through the project will be deferred to a Canadian outfit and 44 jobs will be lost.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32

Respectfully submitted,

Kara Deters, Secretary/ Treasurer