

**Balf Town Committee Meeting  
Minutes  
October 19, 2015**

1. Meeting was called to order by Chris R. Schroeder at 6:03p.m.

2. Roll Call:

Committee Members Present:

Roger Bacon- Elector, Residential Representative  
Clarke Castelle- Town Council Representative  
Bernadette Conway- Elector, Residential Representative  
Beth A. DelBuono- Town Council Representative  
Edward Gilligan- Balf Representative  
Jay Slater – Environmental Quality Commission Representative  
Mary Udice- Alternate, Democratic Party Representative

Committee Members Excused:

*n/a*

Staff Present:

Chris R. Schroeder, Fire Marshal  
Meghan Manke, Fire Marshal's Office

Public Participation:

Alex Kosovsky – Lada Motors, 426 Hartford Ave.  
John Capalbo – C & C Automotive Service, Inc., 416 Hartford Ave.  
Frank Capalbo – C & C Automotive Service, Inc., 416 Hartford Ave.

3. Motion: (Conway/Bacon) to accept the regular Meeting Minutes of the October 20, 2014 as written.

4. Old Business

a. None.

5. New Business

- a. Schroeder gave a brief report on the blasting activity at the quarry during the past year.
  - i. Twenty three blasts have been conducted and no problems have occurred.
  - ii. Seismographs are set up in various places in order to get adequate and accurate measurements; all 2015 blasts have been under the regulated level.
  - iii. Gilligan reported that blasting for the year will be completed within the next 3-4 weeks, depending on weather, state needs for repaving projects, etc.
- b. Schroeder reported that the Fire Marshal's Office received 9 complaints:
  - i. April 17, 2015 – Noise; blast was very loud
    1. Schroeder reviewed the complaint, no official action required.
  - ii. April 30, 2015 – Blast; photos fell off wall
    1. Schroeder spoke with complainant and reviewed blasting report and regulations.
  - iii. June 5, 2015 – Blast; building was shaking
    1. Schroeder spoke with complainant and reviewed blasting report, records and requirements. No other action taken.

- iv. May 4, 2015 (two complaints) – Dust, not utilizing water trucks to contain dust
    - 1. Complaints originated in Town Manager’s Office; Schroeder spoke with Balf representatives on 5/5 regarding use of water truck. They had not been utilizing the truck on 5/4 (day of complaint), but would utilize it going forward. Schroeder also followed up with complainant.
  - v. June 25, 2015 – After hours noise complaints; originated in Town Manager’s Office
    - 1. Town manager spoke with several neighbors and a Balf representative regarding late night noise. No FMO action required.
  - vi. July 14, 2015 – Noise; quarry has been very loud past few weeks
    - 1. Schroeder followed up with complainant, reviewed blasting regulations and reports with the homeowner.
  - vii. July 22, 2015 – Blast/Noise; shook house, louder than normal
    - 1. Schroeder reviewed blasting reports and regulations with the homeowner.
  - viii. August 11, 2015 Blasting; louder than usual, blast shook house
    - 1. Schroeder spoke with complainant about concerns, reviewed complaints received by FMO to date, and provided him with Balf Town Committee meeting date and information to discuss concerns further
  - ix. September 15, 2015 – Blast; homeowner reported broken window
    - 1. Schroeder reviewed blasting reports and regulations with homeowner; provided contact information for the plant manager.
- c. Participants discussed new complaints related to blasting activity
- i. DelBuono / Bacon – Night work / Noise during nighttime hours
    - 1. Gilligan reported that the company has little control over these hours, as subcontractors doing state road repairs do so overnight and therefore need access during those hours.
  - ii. Slater – Blasting
    - 1. Discussion ensued regarding the regulated levels for these blasts; concern that the limit may not necessarily be indicative of whether or not damage can be done to surrounding properties.
      - a. Slater’s complaint regarding Blast # 17 (August 11) was discussed.
        - i. Schroeder – Blast #17 had readings of 0.90 (FMO reading), 0.43, 0.80 and 0.73 (Balf readings). The limit is 2.0.
        - ii. Schroeder reported that blasts under a 2.0 should not cause structural damage, according to studies done by National Bureau of Mines.
          - 1. Questions or concerns regarding making any change to this regulation should be directed to town government and/or state representative; FMO cannot do anything in terms of changing regulations, FMO tasked with ensuring Balf is blasting within these regulations, which they are.
      - b. C & C Automotive representatives requested FMO presence at their location to measure the next blast; Schroder will coordinate this and work with them in every way possible.
      - c. Schroeder – when such a complaint is filed with the FMO, they make every effort to assist. For instance, FMO seismograph will often be set up in the complainant’s yard during the next blast.
  - iii. Jordan Lane
    - 1. Inquiry was made regarding possibility of reopening Jordan Lane at any point in future; Schroeder reported that the road is unsafe and impassable. Towns of both

Newington and Wethersfield supported the road closure; there are no plans of reopening the road due to safety and concerns over previous illegal activity.

iv. Dust concerns

1. Representatives from C & C Automotive and Lada Motors expressed concern over dust conditions, stated that water trucks not being utilized as they should be to control dust following each blast.
  - a. Schroeder – FMO is on scene for every blast, and all complaints are dealt with appropriately and timely by FMO, or referred to most appropriate agency (e.g. Health Department, Police Department, etc.)
  - b. In reference to dust complaint made on May 4, 2015. Officials referred complaint to Central Connecticut Health District (CCHD), who later investigated the dust condition.
    - i. Schroeder spoke with plant manager, who stated they were not utilizing water truck on 5/4, but began utilizing again following this call (5/5). Schroeder then followed up with complainant.
    - ii. Concern over how quickly the complaint was handled by CCHD was raised; findings of that inspection are likely available through their office. Castelle stated he would follow up on this.
    - iii. Udice – suggestion was made for business owner participants to try recording (photograph, video) dust conditions so that they can be referenced at a later time, should the required officials not be immediately available.
2. Recommendation was made to reach out to Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) officials regarding these complaints.
3. Slater – Environmental Quality Commission will continue to monitor and investigate these conditions. Slater will also forward photo records he has to Town Council and FMO representatives.
4. Discussion ensued regarding state regulations for dust control; inquiry was raised regarding any standing agreement between Town of Newington and Balf regarding frequency and use of water trucks.
  - a. Town Council representatives (DelBuono / Castelle) will look into this further.
- d. Conway – inquiry as to why Balf Town Committee was initially established
  - i. Gilligan – Committee was established to routinely discuss and address citizen and businesses concerns over blasting activity in the quarry.
  - ii. Dust concerns were a primary complaint at the time the committee was established.
6. Motion was made to schedule a follow up meeting of the Committee to discuss present issues (Slater / Conway)
7. Motion to Adjourn: (Bacon / Udice) at 7:00 p.m.