

Community Transition Advisory Committee (CTAC)
Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2009

CTAC meeting was held on 10/8/09 in the Extension Office conference room in Whitehall.

Attendees were Tim Dimock, Liz Kidwell, Ed Handl, Tim Mulligan, Ken Weber, Tom Harrington and Nancy Wheeler. *Guest:* John Brower.

1. Tom called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. with introductions.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Tim D. made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 9/10/09; Ken seconded the motion. Minutes were approved as published.

3. Golden Sunlight Mine (GSM) Operations

a. Current Operations Update

Tim D. reported the mine is maintaining the accelerated mining rates in the open pit and that's what the mine is proposing to continue doing if their new plan is approved. Instability occurred in the pit Tuesday afternoon in the same area as the last failure on the west wall and geotechnical engineers will be at the mine next week to evaluate the situation.

b. Pit Lay Back Progress / Permit Expansion Update

Tim D. said in the layback plan one of the main dumps at the mine will be utilized to better stabilize the Sunlight block failure. Active in 1994, it moved five-six feet down the mountain and the mill was shut down for several months. The mine discovered the failure when they put a waste dump on top of it and it started moving. Back then, the mine unloaded the top of it and put waste on the bottom to stop it from moving. In 2007 it moved about an inch. Tim said with the high waters, it could possibly move and become a long-term maintenance issue for the mine so they plan to put a bigger waste dump on the toe of it and will use the waste dump from the layback to stabilize it. This was part of the original operating permit in 2008 when the mine received approval for expansion. After further study a better orientation for the dump was discovered and it was determined the dump would be more stable if brought down further and across the front. Tim D. showed the proposed new boundary expansion on a map from the mine. The added disturbance requires a permit modification and the DEQ requires a checklist environmental assessment. The mine doesn't expect a long timeline for the process.

c. Alaska Presentation Status

Tim D. reported Alaska guests, village people and leadership, will visit the mine October 28th and he would like to schedule the next CTAC meeting for Wednesday, October 28th at 8:00 a.m. The Alaska guests have been visiting annually for a few years now and enjoy attending CTAC as this gives them an opportunity to listen and ask questions to community members on how a large scale mining operation can operate in harmony so close to a community and to rivers, mountains and animals, how it works and what the impacts might be to them. Ken said some CTAC members have also visited a village in Alaska to speak with them about impacts and the benefits mining can provide for them and gave them suggestions as to what they may want to ask the mine to participate in locally. Tim D. said the Donlin Mine project in Alaska is still in the permitting/feasibility stage.

d. Chad Hymas visit in November

Chad is a motivational speaker that the mine uses to help motivate better safety behaviors. He will be presenting at the mine and is also scheduled to speak to grades K-6 at the Whitehall Elementary School on Thursday, November 12th from 12:00-12:45 p.m. and to grades 7-12 at the Whitehall High School on Friday, November 13th at 9:00 a.m.

e. Wind Development Update

Tim D. will be calling the wind developers for the status on their models and hopes to have further information to share at the next CTAC meeting.

4. Golden Sunlight Mine (GSM) Environmental Update

The mine has no violation but is struggling with the new drinking water increased standards. Regulations continue getting more stringent and the mine is experiencing problems meeting the chlorination treatment by-products and is working on a solution.

The National Summit of Mining Communities will be held in Butte on October 12-15. Mark Thompson will be presenting on Tuesday, October 13th at 3:30 p.m. Visit the Summit's website, www.miningsummit.com for more information.

5. Sunlight Business Park Overview

a. Phase II Grant Status & HUD Special Grant

Tom said the EDA is still finalizing the Phase II grant process. JLDC has a contractor finalizing the updated Environmental Assessment required to release the funds from the HUD special grant.

b. Subdivision Update

Tom said are still in a holding pattern. A preliminary plat is done and as soon as grant funds are received, contracts let and construction done, JLDC will go for final plat. Stahly Engineering, the selected lead engineer for the park project, is in the process of doing the Phase 1 lot re-write for the first 47 acres of the park and expect to be completed with the re-write in November.

c. Tax Increment Financing District (TIFD) Update

The map and legals were received from Barrick and given to the Jefferson County Planning Department. Notices for the TIFD are required to be posted. October 14th the county will amend the growth policy to address the TIFD. October 23rd there will be a public hearing for both the Sunlight Business Park and the TIFD being worked on for the north end of the county. The land use for the Sunlight Business Park needs to be changed from industrial mining to a zoned area for the Department of Revenue. Tom had a copy of the document that would govern the zoning district. After the 45-day protest period following the public hearing, the Commission will then give their final approval, or not, for establishing the TIFD's. Discussion followed.

d. Biomass Meetings

Tom said there is a working group looking at biomass projects and two biomass meetings have been held this past month. A lot of tax incentives and grants are available as it's a key topic at the national level due to the state of the forests and the call to utilize this wood somewhere.

6. Pavilion Construction – GSM Assistance

Tom said the Community Development Board (CDB) is scheduled to meet again later this month but thought the pavilion will most likely be located by the fire hall.

Ed said Rotary gave a presentation to the Town and Park & Recreation Board last week. The Board agreed to adopt Rotary's recommendation to grass-in the area around the Fish Pond so road access from the highway back to the railroad tracks would be broken and there would be a continuous park from Full Circle Tire to the Fire Hall with a fire lane access behind where the existing Veteran's memorial is now. The fire hall would still have two accesses for emergencies. The proposal was adopted by a subcommittee and will be acted on by the Town Council later this month. If adopted, the Rotary will take the lead in enhancing that section into a nice looking park area. Discussion followed.

7. Fire Relief Update

Tom said the total collected for the Fire Relief Fund was originally about \$42,000 with a \$3,000 balance obligated to one of the businesses for a website/advertising and also to support the theater with some of the roof system drainage resulting from the drug store demolition. There was a disbursement to the drug store to help with remodeling at their new location. JLDC still has an offer in with the owners of the empty fire lots; however, nothing is happening at this point. The fire relief fund will be closed out either this month or next.

8. Other Items of Discussion

a. Liz said the first Whitehall Revitalization Forum will be held Thursday, October 15th, 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. The Forum will be a variation of the Study Circles to get input from community members on all of Whitehall's future, not just the downtown businesses. There will be a total of six, two-hour sessions held each Thursday from October 15-November 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Tom gave an overview of the speakers, format and focus for each week.

b. Liz said a Local Business Expo will be held at the Whitehall Community Center on Saturday, October 17th from 10:00-3:00. All businesses in town have been invited to participate and about 22 businesses are interested with more still contemplating. The expo will focus on the many home-based businesses in Whitehall that aren't publicized and people are not aware of.

9. Next Meeting Date/Time

Next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 28th, 2009**, 8:00 a.m. at the Extension Office Conference Room. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Nancy Wheeler, Note taker