
Permit Renewal Zoning Board Hearings Land Development Hoff VC HSCA site remediation

Paradise Watchdogs is a non-profit, environmental preservation community group, established in 1987. Following a 12-year battle, the Watchdogs succeeded in preventing a landfill on the current Gibraltar Rock property. We have been opposing a hard-rock quarry, asphalt plant, & concrete plant for the past 17 years.

Since 2011, when the state DEP notified residents of the hazardous waste site at the former Good Oil Company, our focus has been on preventing additional illness and death from cancer through migration of the toxins to private wells in the area. The proposed Gibraltar Rock quarry is located adjacent to the hazardous waste site.

In this issue:

- **Gibraltar Rock mining permit - update**
- **Gibraltar Rock's 4th application**
- **Gibraltar Rock submission of Final Land Development Plan – update**
- **DEP on-going clean up of the Good Oil Site (Hoff VC HSCA)**
- **New Hanover Town Center - update**

Update: Mining Permit and NPDES Permit (approx. 241 acres)

In our February 2018 newsletter, we gave you an overview of Gibraltar Rock's mining permit issues from 2009–2014. In 2014, the *PA Environmental Hearing Board* ordered Gibraltar Rock to apply for a mining permit renewal that includes the NPDES permit (*National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System*). On July 2, 2018 (*last month*), the PA-DEP (*Dept. of Environmental Protection*) issued a renewal permit to Gibraltar Rock with conditions involving any migration into the quarry from the adjacent *Hoff VC HSCA hazardous waste site*.

At the July 23, 2018 New Hanover Board of Supervisors meeting, the Board voted unanimously (5-0) to appeal this renewal of the mining permit. The *Paradise Watchdogs-Ban the Quarry* has also filed an appeal of this decision. We do not expect a hearing with the *Environmental Hearing Board* before January 2019.

Application # 4 - Gibraltar Rock (82 acres)

The zoning hearings for this application concluded last summer. The *Zoning Hearing Board* granted a special exception (*required by state law*) for Gibraltar Rock to quarry on HI-heavy industrial parcels only. The Zoning Hearing Board also attached 16 conditions to the decision.

Following this decision, New Hanover Township filed an appeal in the Court of Common Pleas. Shortly thereafter, Gibraltar Rock attorney Stephen Harris also filed an appeal of this decision. (*Mr. Harris wants the "conditions" to be eliminated by the court.*) And the Paradise Watchdogs-Ban the Quarry filed a petition to intervene in both appeals. It is our hope that the court will combine both the township's and quarry's appeals into one case, a cost-saving measure. We have no news on the status of this appeal.

Update: Gibraltar Rock submission of Final Land Development Plan

In Aug. 2017, Gibraltar Rock submitted a final land development plan to the Board of Supervisors. They have had "preliminary approval" since June 2015, for the 163 acres south of Hoffmansville Road (*GR-1*).

As of this mailing, the township consultants have just started their review of this plan.

Update: State clean up of Hoff VC HSCA site (Good Oil Co.)

Since 2016, we have been awaiting information from the DEP on the total removal of contaminated soil surrounding the concrete pit that contained many hazardous toxins. On July 12, 2018, we received a message from the Clean-up Specialist at the Southeast Regional Office of the DEP, advising:

“The soil removed included the digging up of the contaminated soil, confirmatory sampling, the shipping of the contaminated soil offsite, and the restoration of the Good property.”

The final site restoration activities were completed in late Spring 2018. On July 18, 2018, we received a copy of the **“Hoff Waste Pit Excavation Report”** that is currently being reviewed by: our Township, the township Environmental Advisory Board, and the Paradise Watchdogs.

Please remember – this concrete pit was just one of several sources of the Good Oil contamination, according to the DEP. They have a long way to go. Should the DEP allow quarry blasting next door?

Update: New Hanover Town Center (Wynstone)

We are still attending both Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors meetings regarding this development. The Town Center has submitted multiple plans with different configurations and differing number of residential units. Near the end of 2017, our township manager informed the TC representative not to submit another plan until they have addressed the township traffic engineer’s concerns and requirements. They did go before the Board of Supervisors this summer to “discuss” a few issues, to see what the Board thinks. The Board informed them that anything the Board said at that meeting was “non-binding” and was simply a discussion.

On **August 16, 2018**, the TC was scheduled to appear before the New Hanover Zoning Hearing Board to ask for a variance to the township ordinance requiring a certain number of parking spaces for the commercial areas of the town center project. The Town Center cancelled their meeting with the ZHB.

If anyone asks you - there is currently a court-ordered injunction preventing Gibraltar Rock from starting the quarry until they have a township-approved final plan.

You can help pay for legal and engineering consultant fees.
All operating expenses are paid by our committee.

Please come out to our monthly bake sales at Freed’s Market, Gilbertsville, usually on the 3rd Saturday of each month, from March-through-November (*weather permitting*).

During spring, summer and fall, we often sell shrubs, perennials, and fresh garden flowers. Sometimes we also sell local crafts.

Donation envelope enclosed. No amount is too small. Thanks for your support!

Make checks payable to: Paradise Watchdogs - **OR** - Ban the Quarry

MAIL TO: Paradise Watchdogs / Ban the Quarry P.O. Box 115 Frederick PA 19435