A summary of a meeting held on June 28, 2012, with Chan Morgan, Adam Winstanley, Bob Flint, Arne Jonynas and David Pisha at the Winstanley offices in North Springfield is contained in this report.

The following questions were compiled prior to the meeting in conjunction with Board members. What ensued at the meeting was a discussion about the project; not a direct question and answer session. Even so, many of the questions were answered. The answers of the Winstanley representatives are shown in italics. They are the statements made by those representatives and reprinted here as accurately as possible to capture their intent although they are not quoted verbatim. No guarantee should be implied to the completeness or accuracy of these answers or of any technical assertions made by them.

They have indicated a desire to invite other interested individuals to these small group sessions in the future.

BIO-MASS QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. Does the change in the application require a new hearing before the Public Service Board? If so, when will these hearing take place?

 *The application change does not require Winstanley to begin the process from ‘square one.’ Now that the application has been modified, the process begins where it left off.*

2. If the State of Vermont issues a permit to a truck, does that imply they can use any route they choose to reach the plant or can there be a variety of routes required to be used so as to mitigate the amount of trucks going through Chester?

a. Will a more comprehensive traffic study ever be completed? Origin/destination, etc.

b. Will the trucks be traveling 5 days, 6 days or 7 days?

c. How many truck round trips per work day do you believe will travel through Chester when the bulk of the raw material will be coming out of New Hampshire?

d. Current study only goes to 2019. What happens after that date?

e. Somebody needs to distribute the truck traffic in a permitted fashion to alleviate Chester citizen concerns. There needs to be method of enforcement.

f. Bio-Mass plant should be responsible for enforcement of the above concern. This would go a long way to alleviate citizen concerns. Okemo and Act 250 already do this.

g. Chester is concerned about the roads and paving schedules. Not a Bio-Mass issue so they should be aware of what we intend to do.

 *The traffic study that was done was accomplished by physically watching the vehicles*

 *Trucks will be traveling to and from the plant 5 days per week.*

 *There is sufficient material from a 30 mile radius around the plant to supply its ongoing needs, therefore there is an expectation that trucks will come from various directions.*

 *They seemed willing to work with the permitting process to require different routes be used to reach the plant.*

 *They cannot affect the State’s scheduling of road projects they said. They do believe the existence of the plant will be leverage for the surrounding communities to work with Regional Planning and to lobby the State for increased attention to their roads.*

3. As logging and chipping occurs on Chester’s many dirt routes, can the Town control the time of the year and weight of these vehicles to preserve our roads? Mud season certainly would be a time the Town would not want these trucks on its dirt roads. And some truckers may overload their vehicles which again would not good for Chester roads. The Town has a concern about these activities and how they can be controlled so that the needs of the plant are met, but also the needs of the Town.

 *The plant will maintain a 30 day supply of chipped material so that adverse weather, road conditions or other supply problems, should be able to be overcome.*

4. What kind of noise can those properties bordering the plant expect? Will there be an extensive chipping operation? Will there be typical industrial plant noises coming from the plant?

 *They do not intend to conduct a chipping operation on-site. They will only receive already chipped material.*

 *They will not burn industrial waste or other similar material; only chipped logs.*

5. Over the decades will the ash slowly become a problem? There are some people that think that tons of ash accumulating over many years will cause a variety of problems. What is the make-up of this ash?

 *The particulate matter coming from the plant on an annual basis is equal to 50 non-EPA compliant residential wood stoves. On the other hand, the electrical output from the plant could light 25,000 homes.*

 *The operation intends to work with the EPA to buy non-compliant residential wood stoves in the area so the plant will be particulate matter neutral or better.*

 *On a typical day a person will not see any emissions coming from the plant’s stack. Only when the temperature is 15 degrees or lower will there be a vapor plume.*

6. When the steam loop is complete and other industrial park tenants are attracted, is there any estimate of additional truck traffic moving to and from the area?

 *There is no way to answer that question at the present time.*

 *What they feel is important is that heating a building in Vermont is one of the leading expenses a business can have. Supplying heat as part of their manufacturing process is also a costly proposition. They intend to provide this heat to the businesses in the industrial park and help them lower their expenses. They see this as a way to, at least partially, preserve approximately 500 current jobs by lowering the cost of production for those companies operating there.*

 *They hope the park will add new business as well because of this heat option.*

 *They hope that additional jobs will be created so that the area will have an enhanced economic profile that will benefit everyone.*

7. Who proposed changing the Industrial Park entrance to only allow for Route 10 traffic to come and go from Chester? Is this still in the plan? Apparently cars can go any way they want, but it was reported that trucks could only access the plant via Route 10 through Chester.

 *That statement is not true and is only a rumor they said.*

8. Some people are disappointed in the information flow to Chester and do not like the only source of information to be the media.

 *They offered to hold more informational meetings like the one described herein.*

9. What about insect infestation? The importation of chips to the plant could speed up the issue.

 *There are Federal regulations that must be followed which they intend to do. They are willing, they said, to ensure a safe operation free from these insect pests.*

10. Forestry management was not one of the questions developed prior to the meeting. They did however have the following to share.

 *The Bio-Mass plant with have a staff forester. He will be responsible for assisting surrounding land owners develop a sustainable forestry management plan.*

 *They have estimated that there are enough trees within a 30 mile radius of the plant to keep it supplied in chips. They added the plant will consume approximately 31% of each year’s annual tree growth in that same area.*

 *The plant will also be available to receive wood from storm damage.*

 *They expect at least one company or individual to start a chipping plant in the area since they will not do any chipping at the Bio-Mass plant.*