

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

VERBATIM NOTES

PUBLIC PRESENTATION ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE MEADOWREST MEMORIAL GARDENS CEMETERY, WHITTAKER'S MOUNTAIN, ST. CATHERINE

HELD AT FRASERS CENTER COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2018

Project Proponent:

Meadowrest Memorial Gardens (The United Church Corporation)

Submitted to the:

The National Environment and Planning Agency

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**VERBATIM NOTES OF THE PUBLIC PRESENTATION ON THE
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED
EXPANSION OF THE MEADOWREST MEMORIAL GARDENS
CEMETERY, WHITTAKER'S MOUNTAIN, ST. CATHERINE HELD AT
FRASERS CONTENT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ON THURSDAY,
MARCH 29, 2018, COMMENCING AT 5:48 P.M.**

1. INTRODUCTION

The Public Presentation on the Environment Impact Assessment report of the proposed expansion of the Meadowrest Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Whittaker's Mountain, St. Catherine was held at Frasers Content Community Foundation on Thursday, March 29, 2018, commencing at 5:48 p.m. (Appendices 1 and 2). The event was chaired by Mr. Lenworth Kelly. There were thirty-one(31)attendees and the consultation was facilitated visually by way of a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation.

PRESENT WERE:

The Panel

Mr. L. Kelly - Chairman
Mrs. B. Brown Smith
Mr. R. Nelson
Mr. D. Parkes
Mr. L. Palmer
Mr. L. Lorde
Mr. K. Paign

Participants

Ms. K. Brown
Mr. S. Parkwell
Mr. D. McLaren
Mr. S. Parker
Mrs.C. Parker
Ms. P. Williamson

... and other residents (Appendices 3 and 4)

2. VERBATIM NOTES

The Chairman: Ladies and gentlemen, good evening. We would like to get started, momentarily.

Good evening, again, I trust it wasn't too arduous getting here given the security arrangements and the traffic ahead of the long weekend. But I just want to thank you all for coming out.

First, I am Lenworth Kelly, I will be chairing this evening's meeting. And, we will go through, some technical -

Resident: Could you say which organization you are with?

The Chairman: No, I am the Chairman, I am not with an organization. I am neutral, the Chairman has to be neutral. But if you mean organization like where I work or anything like that, I am a registered - I can't be any of those, I would have to move out of the neighbourhood to come and chair it. I reside in St. Ann, alright.

But I am a registered Professional Engineer, I am the First Vice President of the Incorporative Master Builders Association, and I am a Past President of the Jamaica Institution of Engineers. I don't know if that counts for anything, but if it is you need to find me you could probably go through one of the two, alright.

So, we are going to proceed as follows. Before we start can we - I would just like to, you know, ask the Lord's blessings on the proceeding.

(Mr. Lenworth Kelly prayed)

So just to - I won't try to pre-empt any of the speakers, but just in case you are - to make sure you are at the right meeting, this meeting is the public meeting, you have to do a public presentation as required by the National Environment and Planning Agency, when you are doing certain types of projects. The project here, under consideration is the expansion of Meadowrest Memorial Gardens which is the cemetery up the road. Just want to make sure that everybody knows that they are in a building - I am in a public meeting and people say them think they come PTA. So, I just want to clear up, make sure that this is not a PTA meeting or anything like that, so let me just get that out of the way.

So what whether we will have some comments from the regulatory body, the National Environment and Planning Agency we call NEPA, and NEPA is responsibility for analysing any request, certain request for development and approving them.

This meeting is very important for you the residents, right, so you can understand

what the project is about, and how this project may impact you.

Now, you need to kind of appreciate what it is. So I am here to chair, so people don't come and ask, when you are going get light or when water is going to come, it don't have anything to do with the project. So I kind of guide the question and there are some questions that I don't allow because they are not related to the project, okay, so just to make sure we don't stay here beyond curfew and can't go home. Well I live in St. Ann I need to go home right.

So, just to kind of make that clear.

So first up, I will just introduce some persons who are here with us and, who will be presenting: Mrs. Beverline Brown Smith, she is the Project Consultant, that is the lady by the column, quite elegant looking, in a pinkish looking dress.

Also Mr. Richard Nelson, a Senior Manager from NEPA, the gentleman in the front there on his laptop. And Mr. David Parkes, the gentleman seated at the table. Beside me is the Managing Director of Meadowrest Memorial Gardens.

So first up, we will invite the National Environment and Planning Agency, to make a statement. Mr. Nelson.

Mr. Nelson:

Thank you, Chair. Good afternoon community members, my name is as said, Richard

Nelson, I am a Senior Manager at the National Environment and Planning Agency, and normally at community meetings of this nature NEPA is asked to make a public statement before proceeding any further. Hence, my primary role here this evening is to bring the statement on behalf of Mr. Peter Knight, the CEO of NEPA, and here it goes.

On the 29th of January 2014, National Environmental and Planning Agency, received an application from the United Church Corporation Meadowrest Memorial Garden for a proposed cemetery at Whittaker's Mountain St. Catherine.

The information submitted in support of the application was reviewed, and it was determined that an Environmental Impact Assessment would be required for the project. A terms of reference was drafted and subsequently accepted on the 24th of October, 2014. The resultant final EIA Report was submitted to NEPA on the 6th of March, 2018, and circulated internally within NEPA for review. And also it was, externally circulated to the National Works Agency, the Forestry Department, Ministry of Health, Water Resources and the St. Catherine Municipal Corporation for their comment.

The comments once received will be reviewed, collated and communicated to the

United Church Corporation Meadowrest Memorial Gardens, the applicant.

The EIA was posted publicly at the NEPA Documentation Centre, the St. Catherine Municipal Corporation, Spanish Town Library and Spanish Town Post Office for public viewing, as well as, on the National Environment and Planning Agency Website.

Notice for this public consultation was publish in the Gleaner and the Jamaica Observer on the 7th, 22nd and 28th of March, 2018.

This public meeting is a preliminary action and no final decision has yet to been made. Participants should to note that the public meeting is deemed important, and the outcome from this meeting will be submitted to the Natural Resources Conservation Authority to guide the decision making process. The agency's representative is present to support the process, and to ensure that the public presentations are undertaken as per the guidelines.

Naturally, the NEPA's team role is not to make comments or answer questions in relation to the development, however, if there is a need for clarification on what is contained in this statement that I am reading, then you can seek or we will seek to explain it.

Of note too, is the process with respect to the public presentation which is enumerated as follows:

Copy of the minutes, which is called verbatim minutes, the raw minutes of this meeting will be submitted to NEPA by the applicant within seven (7) days of this meeting.

You the public is allowed up to 21 days after the date of this meeting to provide any further comments to NEPA. Upon receiving of these comments, NEPA will put them together and send to the applicant for a response. Once the response is received to the agency's satisfaction, then a submission will be taken to the Natural Resources Conservation Authority for a final decision. Please note carefully, that the final decision on the application is the sole responsibility of the Natural Resources Conservation Authority.

The agency views the public presentation and the public consultation process as extremely important in the decision making process. Public presentations provide an additional opportunity for stake holders like the community, to give their concerns, comments, opinions and views on development projects; and afford the applicant the opportunity to address these concern raised by stakeholders.

Any additional comments after this meeting, can be sent to NEPA's Application Secretariat Branch at 10 Caledonia Avenue, Kingston 5, or by e-mail to, and the e-mail address is; applications@nepa.gov.jm Please be reminded that the EIA Report is still available for access by the public at the following locations. NEPA Documentation Centre, on the NEPA web site which is www.nepa.gov.jm at the Spanish Town Library and at the Spanish Town Post Office.

Thank you very much. Over to you, Chairman.

The Chairman:

Thank you very much, Mr. Nelson. Just to remind those here present. Mr. Nelson is not here to answer your queries, only so far as any clarification of what he has said is required. And just to remind residents that after this meeting, if something slips you and you did want to say something and you didn't say it, you can always send an e-mail, to NEPA with those comments that you wanted to say. Alright. So I just want to remind you, so it is not just here that you can voice what you want to say, Alright.

So next up we will now invite comments from the - what you refer to as the project proponent or the owner of the project or the promoter of the project which will really be the people who is going to undertake the development.

So I now invite Mr. David Parkes, the Managing Director of Meadowrest Memorial Gardens to provide his comments.

Mr. Parkes:

Thank you very much, Mr Chairman and Members, just a slight amendment. I am the Operations Manager right, and just to acknowledge the presence of Mr. Leroy Lorde, who is the Managing Director, he is now a former managing director and he is now a consultant to the United Church of Jamaica and to Meadowrest in facilitating this process.

Mr. Lorde, was an early conceptual of this idea, a resting place is crucial for all of us, right, crucial in Jamaica and to the entire Kingston and St. Catherine and the Municipality of Portmore that broad-based.

We just see arrive our Financial Manager, Mr. Paign, Kipling Paign, from Meadowrest, they know the history of the operation of Meadowrest. So I am just highlighting some basic information to you all. I am new on the ship. There is a transition time period too, and I am learning and I am recognizing more and more, that, as a planner as an urban planner too, that we have to plan for every cycle of our lives. So Meadowrest has been operating for over twenty years in this community and in mind, Meadowrest is more than a cemetery, Meadowrest is a property landscape area, Meadowrest is a community driven

operation, implemented by a Church body and provide that peace and tranquillity for all of us. And the journey is a continuous process, alright.

This is a mandatory exercise, for our operation out a Meadowrest and we are going through step by step. We were able to contract a consultant who is informed in this process activity, and the consultant through Mrs. Brown Smith will lead that process.

We are also hoping for dialogue, and we allow the process to continue. Thank you very much for your cooperation. But before, Mr. Chairman, we also have a community resident who is our Chief Operating Officer at the cemetery and the Superintendent, Mr. Read, who is quietly standing right there, and they all know him, right. So I introduced most members of the team, alright. So, I am looking to hear your concern, and hear the feedback coming from the Environmental Impact Assessment Study. Thank you all.

The Chairman:

Alright, thank you very much David. At this point, we are going to get into the main presentation which is the presentation of the Environmental Impact Assessment and the findings and measures to minimize the impact of the development of the community. At this stage because we are going to be projecting on the screen here, most of those who are

outside, when this presentation starts, will have to look through the window. It is a small room and we can't have people continuously, crossing the path of the presentation. So they can come along the side and look across.

Mrs. Brown Smith, you are getting your screen set up? Has everybody registered? You have your names set down?

Citizens: No.

The Chairman: No, Okay.

(Register passed around) While we are here, can I see the hands of the residents from Frazer's Content, very good, and those from Green Acres yes, anybody from Fall Mountain, anywhere else Johns Road, Spanish Town, Fairview. Anyhow, I must say that this is a fairly good representation. There are some meetings where the officials outnumbered the residents, right so this is encouraging, I must applaud you for coming out and I think you should applaud yourselves. (Applause)

Alright, so we are now going to start, with Mrs. Beverline Brown Smith, she is the person with the main presentation. And let me just say this up front, you are not going to understand everything but just kind of, pay keen attention. And some of the things that you may not be so sure about. When she is finished you have the opportunity to just ask for her to clarify

those things, alright, so we are not throwing something over your head that you don't know nothing about so you can't say anything, alright. So over to you Bev.

Mrs. Brown Smith: Good evening everyone.

Residents: Good evening.

Mrs. Brown Smith: I am here giving this presentation for the proposal, as the Chairman mentioned, for the expansion of the Meadowrest Memorial Gardens.

The project is a proposal of the United Church Corporation where the vision is to contribute to meeting the demand of the burial space within the Kingston Metropolitan region. I will explain a little bit more about that in a while.

The Environment Impact Assessment, if you have had a chance to look at it you will see that there are thirteen main headings starting with the; executive summary, introduction, legislative and regulatory considerations, project description, description of the environment, socio economic environment, public participation, environmental impacts and mitigation, residual impacts, analysis of alternatives and the appendices.

Now this is just a summary, it is a two hundred and five-page (205) document so this is basically a summary of what is in there, just so that you can understand. If you still need to have a look at the

document, the Chairman did mention where you will be able to access them.

We all know where the cemetery is located, but, we are all from the area, we all live in the area, but for those who might not be aware it is, located in Whittakers Mountain in St. Catherine. It is close proximity to Green Acres, Frasers Content and we mentioned some other communities. And of course, it is off the Paul Mountain Class C road.

We will proceed with the project description it is summarized here, I am not sure how clear it is... (Fixing the overview) Alright thank, you so much, it is somewhat better. Here we are.

The proposal is really for the development of 49 acres and there is a break out of the exact activities that are to be undertaken. And you will see at the end the project, the projected period of development is 42.6 years, on average there should be about 2,500 annually, let me read what is there.

The projected annual burial for single vaults is 1,000 per annum and doubles 1,500 per annum so basically, 40 per cent of the vaults would be for single vaults, and the other, the most would, be 60 per cent for the double, so we arrive at the 47 acres there are some areas because of the terrain development will not occur

there so they will be left in their natural state, so we assume that 47 acres of the 49 acres will be utilized. So in the end, as I said before, the total would be over the period roughly 106,596 vaults and that is 42.6 year period, right, which the average would be 2,500 vaults per annum. This gives a guide of the site, most of the new development will be to the East, sorry, to the West South West, you will see there are some areas that are already developed as you all know, so the additional areas, the arrows are pointing to those areas.

Okay, we look at the project infrastructure, we are looking at road, transportation and traffic. As we all know, the main road way that allows access to the vaults will be, well most of us probably would have been to the cemetery and we know there is a main road, and we have little passages, tracks that take you to the vaults. So for this extension as well, you will be having a main access road.

Portable water will continue to be from NWC, and the reserve storage drums that are there for when there is not sufficient water supply from NWC which is quite often I understand.

Waste disposal, like sewage the existing facility will remain, there will be no

need for any additional sewage disposal facility.

Waste disposal, specifically solid waste, this is managed at the location by the management of the cemetery. So there are a number of waste streams and these are taken care of.

The storm water drainage most of it is directed to onsite drains, okay.

We move on to the description of the environment. This diagram shows all the various components that are covered under the description for the environment.

We look at the physical environment, the carrying capacity of the environment, the natural hazard that might impact the development. Heritage relates to any archaeological structures or actually any elements of heritage architecture that might be on the property.

We looked at the biological aspect of the area and also climate change. And we will proceed to describe each of these.

Topography and soil, the area basically subdued karst topography which means that it is really limestone. And there are elongated limestone hills South and Southeast. There is a flat gentle slope, however, towards the Southwest. The flat to gentle slopes, we have a gradient of 4 to 15-degrees, and the subdued limestone

hills probably take up about 40 to 45 per cent of the Land.

Removal of limestone material for the preparation of burial site is also from the limestone hills?

Percolation tests were done and we found that the area is mainly of lateritic soil of approximate 3-meters thick and the percolation rate is low to very low.

It is not normal for me to do this, but the person who was to assist me had to turn back because of the traffic.

Okay, let's move on now to the geology.

The project area is located within the limestone outcrop region of the basin.

The Walderston Browns Town Formation that underlines the project site has been characterized as a limestone aquifer or the Jamaica's hydro-stratigraphic suite.

Ground water; depth to ground water is approximately 30 meters.

The faults, the nearest observed geological faults is roughly 15 kilometres northwest of the project site, and trends northwest/southeast. Hydrology, that relates to water. The project site falls within the lower Rio Cobre sub-watershed. The Rio Cobre is the primary surface water feature within the hydrological basin. The reliable surface water resource for the lower Rio Cobre has

been quantified as 146 times 106 cubic metres per year.

Unidentified surface drainage feature runs along the eastern boundary of the property.

The Cut Throat Gully is located 4.69 kilometres east of the clear drainage feature associated with it.

Peak storm water flows from the site is estimated to vary between 0.4 to 0.8 cubic metres per second, while the total run-off volume is estimated as 3,619 to 18,911 cubic metres.

The development of the site will increase the peak flows to the gully by 2.9 to 0.6 per cent from the two to hundred-year storm events. This really means that the peak and total runoff is not expected to have significant impacts downstream of the site.

These are some images from the site if you are familiar with Meadowrest you will see the lawn at the top right hand corner, and also it shows what the new area, where the cemetery will be expanded to. There is also at the bottom, the bottom right hand corner, one of the drainage structures of the property, to the middle of it you will see excavation works, and on the left, the bottom left you will see there is a section that shows you, where the stock piling of the earth takes place, which

also helps to protect the adjacent community.

Other aspects of the environment will be climate change, any potential impact of climate change on the development, or development on the climate change. We use this on-line risk adaption tool, and we found that the climate influence activity - the proposed project is a climate influenced activity of medium priority, this should require ongoing monitoring. And, for example, we found that the main concern may be for irrigation water as one of the consideration is that, with climate change there might be droughts, more frequent droughts as well as there could almost be frequent and heavy rainfall events, but if there are significant influence of drought, there is a consideration here that there may need to provide additional water for irrigation.

For the carrying capacity it is really the eco-system of the KMA that extends beyond its urban boundaries. It means that within a particular area, all the activities that occurred within that area we could probably call their eco-system. And in the case of the KMA which includes Kingston and St. Andrew and parts of St. Catherine, we will see that the eco-system for the KMA extends towards, outside of the main urban area. This is because the cause for services such as interment, you

wouldn't be able to find enough in the city. So it automatically becomes, the area automatically becomes a part of the ecosystem of the KMA, you understand that. Among the nearby resources essential are KMA interment facilities, such as KMG it provides that basic ecosystem service.

Within the ecosystem also there is the limited exposure - there is limited exposure of the water resources through any negative impact to - (Adjusting slide)

Okay, we look now at natural hazards. We found that there is low landslide susceptibility that is, well the risk for landslide is quite low. Stable rocks slope is undisturbed, so if it is not disturbed then you would not have a problem with slippage.

No area of major erosion concern observed low risk of land subsidence collapsed. During excavation of limestone there is risk of damage from blast energy unless controlled, technically appropriate blasting occurs.

The nearest source area for faults is the Rio Crawle River fault about 15 kilometres from the site which we mentioned earlier. There is a system of internal drains potentially vulnerable areas are the culvert to the South and adjacent areas of

Green Acres community during extreme weather events.

However, as we said we did not see over the hundred-year period a significant increase in the run-off. It would increase only from 0.7 per cent to 1.9 per cent. And this will only occur during extreme weather event such as hurricanes and tropical storms.

Finally Heritage. No significant archaeological impact was detected. However, because the area is documented to be part of the historical estate undetected features may still be present, so watching briefs are recommended during clearing and excavation. So in general, the Jamaica National Heritage Trust have no objection to the proposed expansion of the MMG cemetery.

You look at the biological environment and there are three distinct areas that were identified, three habitat types, one disturbed woodland patch, two disturbed forest patch and three disturbed woodlands. Basically evidence of charcoal burning was observed. And within those habitat we found that their flora, the plants, the trees include yellow candlewood, prickly, yellow logwood, lead tree, naseberry, fig and for shrubs are include guinea grass. Christmas candlestick, deadly nightshade, button, weed these are examples. And for avifauna

fauna, these are birds, 21 species have been observed, there are six endemic sub-species, nine residents, two winter migrants, and one summer residents. The birds include a bananaquit, Jamaica vireo, verain hummingbird, northern hummingbird, black-faced grassquit, mourning dove, and Jamaica lizard cuckoo.

We finish with the physical environment and we go on to the socioeconomic aspect of the environment of the area.

I mentioned earlier that we are basically looking at the KMA which the area for us include St. Catherine, Kingston and St. Andrew with a total population of just over a million in 2011; which represented 40.7 per cent of the island's population.

For zoning the area falls under the Town and Country Planning (St. Catherine area), Draft development Order, 2017. Proposed action falls under the jurisdiction of the St. Catherine Municipal Corporation.

Burials, the socio-economic physical planning and spatial implication of the proposal of the proposed cemetery expansion is of significant within the context of the KMR due to the general low capacity of facilities for burial within the region.

Just a summary of social services in the general area. Spanish Town Fire Brigade Station will serve the project area,

potable water supply as we know from the NWC. Onsite, the waste water treatment onsite solution solid waste as we mentioned earlier also, would include vegetation, potting site, clearance - vegetation cuttings from site clearance, earth from excavation works, and rocks from blasting activities; and these would be the responsibility of the management of the facility.

Traffic when we did the traffic study that was in August 2014, we found that it was considered level of service C, along the intersection with St. Johns Road and Frasers Content Boulevard. It is described as steady traffic but limited.

We did, I will just mention that we recommend that a additional lane be included, so that for those who want to come to the cemetery it is easy for them to access - to get on to the Frasers Content Boulevard, in other words, it is called a turn lane, that is what is recommended, a turn lane.

Here we are, as a part of the public consultation process, but this is not just all that we had to do, we also had to do a survey, a community survey, we did face-to-face interviews as well as we had telephones calls, we made telephone calls. So all those four made up the public consultation efforts for this project.

When we did the survey, we used the convenience and purposive sampling strategies because we wanted just to speak to persons who are in close proximity to the cemetery. In total there are 45 respondents, and the break down as you see, in the diagram from Green Acres 29 per cent, maxim 9 per cent, red pond 38 per cent, lower Frasers content 11, and Frasers content 13 per cent.

This table summarises the responses. The length of time living in the area. More than ten (10) years we find that Green Acres there are more citizens living in Green Acres, 62 per cent of the persons lived there for more than ten (10) years. Among the number of persons interviewed were almost equal number of male and females. Houses ten (10) years old, pretty close to Green Acres 69 per cent the other communities 59 per cent, size of dwelling 31 per cent of the persons who responded in Green Acres their houses more than five habitable rooms, construction material, concrete one hundred (100) per cent in Green Acres, the number of persons occupying household were more than 6 persons rather 15 per cent in Green Acres and 31 per cent in other communities.

Awareness of plan for expansion, most persons in the Green Acres were aware of it. Family members buried at MMG, most

person seems to have family members buried at the cemetery.

Concerns for environmental effects, most responses were positive 97 per cent from Green Acres and 92 per cent of other communities.

Contribution to local economy. Persons were positive 97 per cent of Green Acres and the others 92 per cent. Negative effect on land values, they did not see that as negative even though the response was more positive from the other communities than Green Acres.

Did they consider the project to have a negative effect on tropic? Mostly no, 90 per cent from Green Acres and 100 per cent said no.

We will jut proceed with some of the potential impacts. We looked at erosion, hydrology, the local climate - I am just trying to show you the other areas that we covered, social infrastructure, employment, land use and land values, tropic air quality, noise and vibration.

Okay erosion, the main concern with respect to erosion is removal of vegetation, so that would result in run-offs and of course; along with it sediments. In order to mitigate this to ensure that excavation actually aligns with the vaults and access roads construction, that is, you do not go ahead

and clean off everywhere and then you wait to do your vault construction. How you synchronise your vault construction with the clearing of the land.

Hydrology pollution could occur from suspended material in storm water from spills or leaks of pure oil and construction material et cetera. Peak flows and total volume were estimated from run-off models should be used to assist in the designs of the internal drainage system. That is to prevent potential flooding of waterways.

Local climate, it is likely that microclimate at the project site will be altered from the present condition due to the need to extensively remove the vegetation. So to mitigate that is to try as quickly as possible to re-grass, replant trees that are conducive to the environment or to the area.

The local climate is likely that the microclimate - we went through that already.

Social infrastructure the demand for interment facilities for the KMR is high and is expected to remain so, given annual population increase in the region. We did not have any mitigation for that because that is actually a positive, provided the facility provided additional interment facilities.

Employment, MMG is the source of employment for the adjacent communities priority for employment is given to the residents within the immediate communities. There is no mitigation there that is a positive.

Land use and land value, the potential effects on the existing communities and the compatibility of the land use. Application of best practises to minimize impacts and also adequate screening methods should be used to minimize visual impact. Screening methods - eventually you might be able to plant trees along the boundary to reduce the visual impact for those who might not want to look directly at the cemetery.

Traffic we did do traffic. Let's go on to air quality. The main concern of persons is dust and stock piles needs to be covered if possible, and any trucks carrying any loose material should be covered. Also there is to be some sprinkling daily for those areas that are - where you have the stock pile, preferably on a daily basis.

Noise and vibration, the idea is not to have any need to generate noise due to say blasting or anything like that, if necessary, it should be done within 9 am and 5 pm so it would not affect them and also adjacent communities and also there

should be controlled blasting if necessary.

That is the end here, but I will just mention just before, that there is also - well, I did mention when we looked at the headings in the EIA that there is also the monitoring plan and also the solid waste management plan which are in place to ensure that the impact on environment is as miniscule as possible.

Thank you very much. (Applause)

The Chairman: Alright, thank you very much, Mrs. Brown Smith.

Alright now, I know a lot of the presentation may seem foreign to some of you, but I am going to try and simplify some of it for you. Can I do that Bev, I will try and simplify it, alright.

Now, essentially Meadowrest Memorial Gardens is a cemetery right? Now, if you bury people in - the current site is 20 acres, not the expanded site, the current the burying space about 30. So anybody have family plot like your family have land where they bury people on, anything like that, but you run out of space after a while, so you cannot put anymore. So that is what is happening now at Meadowrest you run out of space. Now, everybody in Kingston and in St. Andrew and St. Catherine, all people from St. Thomas come and bury over Meadowrest or

Dovecot, when you probably go to the further parishes they probably have cemeteries down there. Kingston, don't have any more space, right. You have a little space up in one or two other little cemetery and one or two church may still have a little place you can 'kotch' if you small, you understand. So everybody basically come to Meadowrest, so the thing run out, if you have piece a land and you a build house, it is just the same thing, you run out of land you cannot build no more. So what Meadowrest need is more space, but they cannot just go start bury people on the space of land, they have to go through an application process to get permission to start building, and they are looking down the road.

So they say, for the next 40 years we are going to need this amount of space based on the amount of people who bury per year, they take up x amount of space and you cannot build everywhere because some of it nuff rocks, some steep that kind of a thing. So essentially, what the consultants have been telling you, the reason why they need to do that and they investigate where birds live, so those of you who shoot birds a bush, then you wouldn't get any of that bird bush... (Laughter) ...because a Meadowrest land, but you understand, you get the idea. So you look on the impact, well may be some bird who live in the habitat some of the birds

dem would fly in from certain time of the year and then do dem thing and then go way back.

So you have some minimal impact of that. Probably one of the main thing to think about is, run-off, but we have a commentary, it is not a house, so water can still soak and go down, and how it is done they plant back grass. So even when you a build your own a yard, don't concrete round the yard, leave little grass so water can soak down like what dem do over the cemetery. One day you might have to bury in the same yard, you understand, if Meadowrest don't have no space. So I hope I kind of get you to kind of understand. Nuff of the other things dem trust me, unno nuh really need to know all of the details, you just want to know how the cemetery being expanded going to affect your life, that is what you need to think about. And some of the things may need to come to you after tonight, right. But I am going to give everybody a smart phone, you cannot use no banger... (Laughter) ...use your smart phone and send an e-mail to NEPA, and say, I was at the meeting, you name de pon the list, and you have this concern. I did not get to say it at the meeting, and you send them an e-mail, simple, no WhatsApp, they don't take that, alright.

So I am going to go into a question and answer. So am going to ask you, you just put up your hand, I will acknowledge you, and you state your name, full name, not alias, that is if you name droops or whatever. The name that is on your birth certificate please. And then you state your question, and I will ask the relevant person to answer.

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

The Chairman: So we will start with the lady at the back there.

Ms. K. Brown: Good evening everybody. I am Karen Brown, from the Green Acres Citizens Association and we have a concern. There was a mention about percolation and the fact that the percolation level rate is low. That is one of our concerns in Green Acres, that there is seepage from the cemeteries, from the graves into the water table. So could you explain to me what test were done, and how you have come to the conclusion that it is low and you don't need to worry?

Mr. Parkes: Beverline, I will just give some primary information. My name is David Parkes right. Part of our operation, we place persons to rest in a sealed environment. We use concrete mix, concrete brought from a local hardware store, we use reinforcement that is steel, we buy blocks which are totally approved from a local community person, and we create a

sealed zone. And I can state here, that it is totally safe in that environment, it is a sealed environment. The location of Meadowrest is on a mount, on a plateau, way above with general wide scale limestone rocks, that in itself is a natural sieve, and you can check that on the internet. So, I am confident that what the consultant has explained, that it is a safe totally safe environment. No seepage will occur in that space that is build, and total tested. Thanks.

Mrs. Brown Smith: Well, thank you. Mr. Parkes and we also, did water quality tests at the nearby wells and they were found to be...

Ms. K. Brown: When you say we, who do you mean? NEPA, oh, the consultants from Meadowrest.

Mrs. Brown Smith: No it was done by the NWC. It is the NWC result that we got.

Mr. Palmer: I am Leroy Lloyd Palmer, Managing Director of Meadowrest. When Mr. Parkes talked about sealed the bottom is also sealed. It is not at the side and the top are sealed. Before the interment takes place, the bottom is sealed, as well, with concrete.

Mrs. Brown Smith: And beside the water table is quite low as we had mentioned earlier.

Ms. K. Brown: I am sorry, I did not understand that, what do you mean by quite low?

Mrs. Brown Smith: The depth of the water table.

Ms. K. Brown: It is far down?

Mrs. Brown Smith: Yes, it is far down that is what I mean.

It is way down.

The Chairman: Okay, one of the things I will encourage residents, like in this case, the concern would be if any seepage takes place from the grave down into the ground water. Now NWC would treat and supply to you. So you can enquire also of the NWC. And you would kind of expect that they would make some noise about it, if they saw anything on toward coming up into the water supply because they do continuous testing. Just to make it a little simpler for the people here too, just like in areas where they have a well they don't you use no make pit, because you are pumping water out of the ground, and your pit is sending down into the ground.

So it is for the same reason, but you your pit cannot be sealed it has to soak, and it would be like a basin a full up. So the graves are to be constructed is to make sure that nothing can sweep out of the grave so they use concrete, so it is like a concrete base and they cover the top so now water nuh full up in there, because you might see some coffins floating.

Alright, so you are satisfied with the response?

Ms. K. Brown: Yes, I am.

The Chairman: Thank you. I take this gentleman on the side. Remember your name, where you are from, and then your question.

Mr. S. Parker: My name is Sydney Ian Parker. I am from Frasers Content. My question is, she talked about surveys were done. What is the sample size and who was the sample taken from?

The Chairman: Alright, Bev can you answer that.

Mrs. Brown Smith: The sample size indicated 45 persons.

Mr. S. Parker: 45 persons.

Mrs. Brown Smith: Yes.

Mr. S. Parker: Was that of two communities..

The Chairman: Hold on, allow her to answer and then you if you have a follow-up question then you can take it.

Mrs. Brown Smith: Over the period that we we did the survey for about two days, and we basically spoke with persons who were available at the time, that is why it was a convenience sampling and well we did indicate also that we wanted to speak to the people who live in the community. So that is number of persons we were able to interview during the period allocated for the survey.

The Chairman: Alright, that answers your question, Sir?

- Mr. S. Parker: Yes, but I am not satisfied with the sample size.
- The Chairman: But Bev, can you explain the reason for the - because obviously you may be aware that you cannot sample everybody.
- Mr. S. Parker: I am aware of that.
- The Chairman: So Bev, can you comment on sample size relative to the population.
- Mrs Brown Smith: But maybe you can assist me. What is your main concern?
- Mr. S. Parker: My main concern is that the sample size, I am not sure of the amount of persons living within the communities, but a sample size of 45 persons based on my estimation is below ten (10) per cent, way below.
- The Chairman: Bev, can I take this one. Let's clear up something. When - and I kind of just want everybody, just think it through. When they do those surveys on TV and dem say, especially like when election come, any of you ever get any question in any of those surveys?
- Citizens: No.
- The Chairman: So that is really it, they have to - statically speaking they have to take a number, there is a, nominal, you can't sample that big because Meadowrest would not bother pay me,

it would probably be too expensive to try and get the process up and going. So there is a number you have to use and you have to also spread it. So if you are in Green Acres you might say, but how it so small I don't know nothing about it, but that is how samples are, right. You won't necessarily know anything about it, it is a part of the process, and it is - if the regulators have any issue with it then they will raise that as a concern. Remember we are not here to go back to do another survey, we just note your concern. You understand papa? There is this gentleman here and then I come back to the lady at the back.

Mr. McLaren:

Thank, Mr. Chair. I am Donavon McLaren, Acting President of the Frazer Content Community Development Foundation I have a series of question having the FCC, and I have read the report, and examine the report, and we have a concern on behalf of the citizenry ranging about seven or eight; but we will take them one at a time.

You spoke earlier about the depth being 34 meters, the groundwater, one pointed question we would like to ask first of all. The Rural Water Authority, why is it the consultant

was the same one who did the report, did the hydraulic report?

Mrs. Brown Smith: Sorry, could you repeat the question?

Mr. McLaren: Why is it, was it the consultant who did both the assessment report and the hydraulic report or the last report which gave you the definitive aspect. What I am asking clearly is that, normally you would have an external source like the Rural Water Authority speak definitively to the 34 meters that you mentioned, they could say this is so, and this is why, now we are getting it from the consultant yours is the only definition, why?

Mrs Brown Smith: Because the consultant would have already sourced the data, the information from the authorities which would be Consultant's figure, the Consultant would get information from the source.

Mr McLaren: Well based on your report, based on the report which is posted at the Parish Library, the Spanish Town Library, it stated clearly that the report and the source of information came from your agency, and it gives no secondary source when this information was extracted from the Rural Water Authority.

Mrs Brown Smith: So you need citing, citing is the...

- Mr. McLaren: Well, as it stated as I am saying, based on the documentation stated there all it says is you did both. And the question now lends itself to, how do you put it delicately. You are the same one who is giving authority on your own research?
- Mrs Brown Smith: Well actually, the Consultant who did the work would have - he probably did not cite the source of the data, so in that case I guess it would be probably something that if you have a problem with it we could get...
- Mr McLaren: Well, let's put it this way. It is not probably, because he cited your organization as being the author of the information based on the document at the Library.
- Mrs Brown Smith: I understand what you are saying. This is the source of the information the citing NWA or...
- The Chairman: But can you state definitively the source of the hydrological survey?
- Mrs Brown Smith: Well, I am - the consultant who actually did the work he was on his way here but was unable to make it, but it is something that we can get.
- The Chairman: Alright, so can we provide that clarification for the purposes of the questions that we are getting here?

Mr. Parkes: Let me introduce something here, Mr. Chairman, to the audience. There are three predominately communities here right, the scheme above Green Acres, a sub-division approved by St. Catherine plus this. I am going to throw out a question. Where is your primary source of portable water supply? From the NWC?

Citizens: Yes.

Mr. Parkes: All piped right.

Citizens: Yes.

Mr. Parkes: Where is that sourced water coming from? Where is it? Is it underground or from a river-based source?

Citizens: Underground.

Mr. Parker: So there is a well?

Citizens: Yes.

Mr. Parker: Where is that well, leads, somewhere that side, in Green Acres. And I think I point out, where Meadowrest is located, is on a steep incline above, and it is predominately limestone right. So I am just emphasizing that part. So conservation about water table you need to factor that in your assessment, alright. I am just putting that on the table.

The Chairman: Thank you David. Just allow me, Mr. McLaren. The residents have a

question about the source of the hydrological survey that is plainly what the question is. So we are asking the consultant to eventually just verify that source so that the citizens can be satisfied with what the actual sources is. That is it, alright, reasonable enough?

Citizens: Yes.

The Chairman: Can we now take question two, because it cannot be answered now when you are doing EIA, you may have two three consultants who work on it in the different sections. So you didn't cite the source of the information. So it appears as if it is the consultants themselves generate the information, whereby a lot of times you really go to Water Resources Authority or wherever and they already have the info and you use that. So we are asking, the consultant will have that clarify. And we can actually - Mrs. Bev, we ask you make your e-mail available so that the residents can communicate with you and get that response from you. Alright, reasonable we are looking solutions.

Mr. McLaren: Under water management we are speaking definitively about the report, Table 11 which speaks to preparation, construction,

operations, management, and maintenance. And we are speaking to the areas of maintenance of health and safety, you still follow right, Mrs. Brown Smith?

Mrs. Brown Smith: Yes.

Mr. McLaren: Ladies and gentlemen, I am quoting from the report, the actual report. And the question is, when it comes to portable water the concern is, your report says that the NWC is to monitor, the water that is coming out, and here there is what we are looking for is the leaching that comes from it, and when we speak about the leaching we are talking about the chemical that comes out at the casket especially those that are embalming fluid, I am using terms here. The embalming fluid in all of this. You mentioned that the limestone, your report stated clearly as you stated earlier also, if construction is not done by 4 or 4.5 meters that said limestone to which you speak can also give way to leaching coming through. So the question we are asking is this: One, how do we ensure because Green Acres raised the same concern and we are also raising the concern. Leaching is our concern going forward, it is ground water that it will go into,

and although you say you do concrete, and you do concrete to seal it. What your report says, the two words you use is, **it is unlikely** and **it is the likelihood**, you have not used anything definitive like **this will not happen**. The only time we are hearing it is this verbally, but in writing it is a different thing. Can you speak to that?

Mrs. Brown Smith:

Okay, I think we have pretty much being there before. We are back to where we were when we said that the developers do make every effort to ensure that the vaults are totally sealed to reduce any potential effect of leaching on the ground water.

Mr. Parkes:

Can I expand and let me support that view too. We continually used Portland cement, we use top-line aggregate, our process is sound, the environment is totally sealed that is a given right, and we don't go very deep. We use concrete blocks, we use Portland cement or we are going to mix it and we apply with reinforcement. So the vault space follows good construction technology, and I am confident that that environment with all the conditions, other conditions, that environment is totally sound and sealed, right, based on construction methodology.

The Chairman: It is a response based on your question. Now remember, that if you are not satisfied with the responses you can send your comments to NEPA, also, so you can e-mail I think it is application@nepa.gov.jm right, so this is not the only forum for hearing your thing. So you may not be satisfied. Is it one of the seven or it is the seventh?

Mr. McLaren: No.

Mr. Parkes: Let me support that point too, Mr. Chairman. We have an approved vault space diagram from the St. Catherine Parish Council who is the Local Planning and Building Authority. So we have to match that, their expectation, so we are regulated by that authority right. So for that defined space vault space, whether it be single or double, alright so nothing is in it.

Mr. McLaren: Thank you for that, Sir. In regards to what Mrs. Brown Smith pointed out, the carrying capacity, the report speaks to 5.3.2 and the answer you gave a short while ago, falls in between A, B and C. And let me give you a response that further in your same report speaks to that. B of the A, B and C says clearly it gives no definitive assurance, it states appears... the word you used in the

report says it appears to be some protection. And what you quote is that from the Dovecot EIA Report 5.5. And the unfortunate thing about it, the source to which you quote, Mrs. Brown Smith, the source is dated, because the EIA report for Dovecot is 2014. You are quoting are report to solidify what the Managing Director just - sorry, what the Operation Manager just give us an assurance is so, which basically it is not because he is giving a HC and he is quoting a 2014 document that Dovecot used to validate that position. Now I am not too much of bright man, but climate change things are going to change, you cannot use 2014 to judge for 2018, and based on that, you are going further with this. So I find that a little bit concerning. This from your report today, you know, this was extracted from the report. And as is stated here, the limestone specifically will definitely deteriorate over time, this is what the Dovecot report graph 5.5 for reference as outline, dated 2014. That is the base on which you are now stating in your report 5.3 under carrying capacity while it is sound for you to continue in this way. I find that concerning.

Mr. Parkes:

Let me respond again. You introduced limestone that is the base. We build, on top of the limestone base or the earth, a sealed vault environment using concrete blocks reinforcement with aggregate and cement together, right. So ultimately reference with the leaching of limestone, limestone is a natural good sieve right, a natural sieve beyond this in any environment for road et cetera and it filters anything, it is not a perfect world, you know. An absorption pit which referred they use sand. So I am saying there are two, a combination of one a vault environment sitting on a land limestone filled environment, double security, I can say it profoundly.

Ms. K. Brown:

Just a follow-up. Now, over the last few months, Karen Brown, Green Acres Citizens Association. To follow-up on Mr. McLaren concern, we are just saying that over the last three months we had earthquakes, right, so I know you cannot get a guarantee concerning a natural disaster. But are there any kind of measures that you have in place that you can put in place to ensure that the seepage is kept at a minimum it is not you know, completely irradiated. We just wanted to make sure that the water supply that we and our children and

grandchildren will enjoy will be clean.

Mr. Parkes:

I will say at this forum, we buy on a regular basis reinforcing steel bars that is a - an engineer is here to support my statement that, re-enforced the slabs and the vertical wall, right that is a protection mechanism for the two movements, vertical and horizontal. So we put that in place, that is no secret, we buy it from the local hardware store here. And the concrete mix, et cetera, secure that environment to minimize the risk, the eventuality of that. So we try our best and we do regular routine preventative maintenance of our garden space, right and we budget for that that also.

The Chairman:

Mr. McLaren for the purpose of the meeting can you state which question, number you are at?

Mr. McLaren:

I am still at the same one, ground water as pointed out, sir that is the more critical one. (Laughter)

The Chairman:

I just wanted to be sure that is the same one, because you said that you have seven.

Mr. McLaren:

We are dealing with the ground water.

The Chairman:

Continue, people this is the exact reason why we have these meetings for these

things to be heard and addressed right, so don't take it is simple very important. Continue.

Mr. McLaren: Through you to the Operations manager.

The Chairman: And this is a specific question to him?

Mr. McLaren: Oh, yes. As it relates to the carrying capacity, and, we talking from the report 9.2 with the heading other residual impact under that report, it speaks very clearly as it relates to earthquake that one, the crack vaults will crack after earthquake. And the last earthquake although it might not have been five point something, but the vaults will crack, seepage will happen. What we are asking you is that, once such is done what is the remedial effect? All we are hearing is what you plan to do, sorry, what you have been doing? We are asking definitively, this will happen, the earthquake will come, the vaults will crack, from your report here, what mitigation is there in place to address this? Will you therefore engage the road authority to try to clean it up, do something that is what we are trying to get from you something this is just me saying that?

Mr. Parkes: An interesting point, you introduce numerous data right there. The event of an earthquake, we also need to also apply the burial timeline. Meadowrest has been resting persons out there for every 20

years, in a defined space, and it is a given, right, that when that body - I am careful how I use that terminology - when that body is placed, it is a level of deterioration the shortest possible time, after that it is insignificant alright. So you have a vaulted space something happen, in a short period of time boom, right. Therefore, leakage or whatever should not have occurred based on the fact that we have proper construction technique et cetera, right, as a sealed environment. And I don't know when was the last earthquake?

Citizens: The other day, two weeks ago.

Mr. Parkes: Where exactly? I am throwing out the term that earthquake apply, I am throwing it out the line et cetera, the data flying we have to interpret it. We have no cracks up there; we have not cracks on the mount up there.

Mr. McLaren: You are saying that definitively, sir?

Mr. Parkes: Well, I have not seen any cracks, I am applying a lot of factors you asked a specific question. Right.

The Chairman: Mr. McLaren, let me just allow this lady to bring a question in to kind of break the monotony somewhat.

Mrs. Parker: Good evening, my name is Charlotte Grey Parker, I live at Frasers. I believe the concerns for both Green Acre and Frasers Content community is the safety of the

community members. Now, being that we can't give a definitive plan as to if land slippage and leaking and all these things that take place. What I would like to know, is there any new mechanism in place in case these things happen, because I believe, I don't think many of you live around this side, I am not talking the residents. But we live here, and we have to some concerns and we want some definitive answers to that. Not that you have all of it tonight, but we would like to know is there, because as I was looking, I was really writing down many of these reports 2014, this is 2018, and a lot what you call it natural disasters take place. It was a couple weeks ago, my neighbour, not that I am using it as an example, but their pit started to come underground to fill my pit, I drained it in three days and the pit full back. So I know that water can walk under and come. Now this is our concern, because we are in the slope here, we are in the hills and it can walk regardless of the limestone, and I don't want to hear about that limestone thing again, please. I get that a lot, I don't want to get it anymore, thank you very much. The limestone and the reinforcement yes, we know that our community members supply these things but regardless of all of that, all these mechanisms can fail. But what we would like to know is there any new mechanism in

place just in place because we cannot x out that, it can happen. So is there any ongoing or dialogue as to, should this occur, what will happen to us, do you have anything in terms of what. We want to know.

Mr. Parkes: Let me say forthright here. There are many options in construction based on what we are saying. We have been in a defined space, we can put sand beds, and sand traps to protect that defined space. I am making some examples, you talk about water, water travel in a particular direction right or any fluid since you are fearful of that so-called fluid right, I am just using some terms. So you have a sealed environment building fifty batches or possible in a zone, an acre zone you can put sand bed around it to protect it and double secure it, you understand, just give me some examples.

Mrs. Parker: I hear that, but the question is, is there anything new missing in place, just in case, remember we don't know when an earthquake will come, but when it do happen we have to make some, we have to adjust.

Mr. Parkes: Build to building standards that is the key term.

Mrs. Parker: All buildings are built to standard but they do fail.

Mr. Lorde: May I just say too that one of the things that will always done is continued inspection of the vaults and so on, that is part of the whole..

Mrs. Parker: But that is one.

Mr. Lorde: ...it is not only that, but continued inspection to see if there is an adverse effect on what is happening. So that is part of the monitoring and so on.

Mrs. Parker: Can I ask you guys to probably report back to the MO that our concern is that we knew not only what you just said, that but we want to know that something is there to say okay we are on the lookout but just in case it happens we have a plan. Because we cannot wait until it happens then we say okay after persons have been whatever we say we are going to do.

And one more thing concerning the travel. Oh Lord, on a Saturday and on a Sunday. Well first thing on a Saturday when you go to market and you cannot reach back to your home in time because of the traffic. And the persons that are coming from the various places they don't drive properly. I seen the report, it says that there on-going monitoring of policing, but I don't see it. Persons hang out windows, and the bus and the roof, ladies too and they drive with it. We have children in this community and if they are going to come through, there has to be something in

place to protect us from persons coming from wherever they are coming from. So I am asking, please put that in to the necessary authorities and let them do something concerning the people passing through our communities and it is not safe for us. Thank you.

The Chairman: And I want to again repeat that you can keep send your comments directly to NEPA.

Mrs. Parker: But they send you... (Laughter) we a tell you.

The Chairman: No, no, I think you may misunderstand my role. I am not employed by anyone; I am a neutral moderator.

Mrs Parker: Please on their behalf.

The Chairman: No, no, that is not my role either because you are asking me to take a side, I cannot.

Mrs Parker: No, I would never.

The Chairman: No, man no. So what I am saying to you, you as a citizen have the right to go to NEPA and say these are my - but it is recorded you know, it is recorded and the minutes are available for public consumption. So if you look in there and you don't see nothing that was said, you can site that when you make your comments back to NEPA. So I just want everybody to understand, you don't need to go through nobody you can do it yourself.

Mrs Parker: When we send message by mouth...

The Charmin: No, not by mouth

Mrs Parker: No, we have other mechanism, but I am just saying.

The Chairman: The representatives are here from NEPA alright; I am going to come back to you Donavon.

Ms. Williamson: I am Pamela Williamson representative from 22B Frasers Boulevard. I just like to endorse what Parker just said. I personally is afraid of going on the road on a Sunday and I am an adult, Saturdays and Sundays. I am careful, the buses and cars they drive down on to the sidewalk on you. And I am telling you, it is scary, it is like a scary movie, I am telling you, I am literally afraid to go on the road on a Saturday and a Sunday. So this consistent - you see the bikers the noise, the noise disturbance. Now, they are going to a cemetery to bury somebody, now what is all this - what is all this hurry about? The bikers with all this - they have these bikes that make these horrible sounds. And I don't find it funny, I don't find it funny at all, it is very disturbing. So if anything at all can be done, I would really appreciate that something be done. Now police, I don't see any policing going on. I come and I am going about my business and I cannot get where I am going because I have to get out of the way for the fire brigade and the police or the emergency vehicles are coming through. It

is very disturbing and I am very concern about that.

The Chairman: And I also want to encourage that there are other mechanisms that you can use. You might be disgruntled with some of them, but there some issues also for political representation to take some actions on also and for security personnel to take action on. And I want to just encourage you residents, use every possible, every possible avenue to vent these things, use every possible avenue, alright.

Mr. McLaren I can come back to you now?

Mr McLaren: Yes.

The Chairman: I am just mindful of curfew and I need to leave the neighbourhood.

Mr. McLaren: Let me state, the foundation supports Meadowrest in all of its endeavours, they are good corporate citizens. But as stated earlier, we are looking down the road at our grandchildren, so, don't take that as being ungrateful as far as we are concern.

The Chairman: Let me clarify again sir, you do not need to apologize for any questions you ask, again it is well within your rights.

Mr. McLaren: Two last questions and I am through. One your report, we are talking ground water, table eight point eight, and it states cumulative impacts and it states even one sentence and it read, **the ground water, will be reduced.** now that makes it very

clear, **the ground water will be reduced.**

Our question to you here, Mrs. Brown Smith, what will you do, because you are going to take ground water from us period, that is what the report states in no uncertain terms with the construction of annual expansion, all well and good. But you can't take the water, water is life. What you are going to do to give it back to us or increase it, but you can't just take it from us or reduce it and leave us with very little, that is very, very concerning. And we are not talking about the ground seepage now, we are talking about once the construction is in place if we usually get ten gallons we are going to go get four and four are certain, not just we here in Red Pond, the Green Acre people too, and the older the pump, the super pump and the generator is going to get and that is going to cause now social think because a man is going to come to mi yard him a come in a mi tank and all type of things because you take six out of the ten that we get now. So what can be done about that six that you take?

The Chairman:

Before the question is responded to, Mr. McLaren, comment is by way of example, let me make that clear. It is by way of example, so there is nothing definitive to say, they will take six and leave you with four, just by way of example they can half and leave you with nine and a half; so keep your mind clear and keep it neutral.

Bev, you will respond to the ground water reduction comment?

Mrs Brown Smith: With respect to reduction in the ground water...

Mr. Parkes: They are not hearing you, and let me state something also. While you might have a figure in your head, our operation methodology will keep abreast of the change in time. We will be using soft construction we will be replanting trees too right. And as she said how we do our operation in a selected particular areas right.

Mr. McLaren: Sir, with all due respect, what you say in Government they say if it is not written it is not said. We can say this to you. You have presented a document to us and we are questioning you on the document that you have presented. What you have just said you still have not addressed the question at hand. You are taking the figuratively you are taking the six and leaving us with four, what are you doing about it?

The Chairman: Okay, can I ask the Consultant to have that particular questions clarified and answered. Mrs Brown Smith, now what I will ask, because we can't be here all night but the questions is important and it must be addressed. So we are going to ask that you take - Mr. McLaren, can you state for

the meeting your e-mail address so we can have a response?

Mr McLaren: It is on your record.

The Chairman: Oh, it is in the register. Okay good. So we are going to ask that and the minutes are taken as we speak them. So, that question will be answered, the consultant will supply you with some clarification on that particular matter. We are just asking you kindly if you can just share liberally with all the others who are here who you can communicate with, alright. You have more question.

Mr. McLaren: One last question. As your report states the last questions here, it is stated that annual recreation, it states that there is no recreation in the Frasers area and children in the Frasers Content areas has to be playing in front of the gate of the cemetery, okay, be that as it may. The question is, since Meadowrest is aware of the plight of our children playing in front of the dead would it not be prudent for Meadowrest to finish the facility that we have over here and remove the children from the gates of the dead to their own facility here? That is what your report states here, I am not making it up that is what your report said, the heading where it is at?

Citizens: Amen all who agree - Yes.

The Chairman: Let me for the minutes, let me clarify that you are agreeing with the statement made by Mr. McLaren?

Citizens: Yes.

The Chairman: I just want to clarify that for the minutes, it should be clear. And one of the things that I will encourage since I sit on the fence here, is continued dialogue which I am pretty sure it exists to some extent. Continue dialogue between a corporate entity which is Meadowrest Memorial Gardens and the citizens seem to have a fairly vibrant Citizen's Organization and I ask you all to continue that dialogue. It can only work out best for our children. Alright, so I want to ask you but, you must always ask the hard questions. I am here to facilitate the hard questions, make sure that they are recorded and you can go and read it, it should go up on NEPA's website you look for your own the Meadowrest Memorial Gardens thing and you look and you read and you see if your name call and whatever and what you say and all of that, if all of your stuff is there.

Mr McLaren: So the Operations Manager is going to answer us now?

The Chairman: No... (Laughter) that particular matter, I am afraid to inform you is outside of the remit of this meeting. But as soon as you step through the door, as soon as you step

through the door you can have that discussion. Are there any other questions?

Alright, I want to now thank you all for coming, for participating as I said sometimes you have public meetings, I have done a couple and two people not even in there. You have more officials than people who attend, which suggests to me that the community has something that is vibrant and I will encourage you to use that, use that, use every little channel available to you, use the little channel. Yes you are going to make up noise up front here, but you still have to use the little formal official channel, talk to NEPA, talk to the Minister, talk to the Deputy Commissioners or whoever go and talk to them. Go to Parish Council, talk to the Secretary Manager and then you come tell the Councillor same thing and everybody know, right. So when people come out and say, how we don't know about this, you can say, no, n, a nuh a suh it guh. And you can say that because it is on record here, alright.

So I want to thank you all for coming you have all been wonderful and I understand that there are some refreshments here, it is not bun and cheese, a little sugar me get back to let you get around the curfew.
(Laughter)

Mr Parkes: Mr. Chairman, a half a second. I have heard the pronouncement from you all and Mr. McLaren, I like your presentation, it is a grand opportunity now Mr. McLaren and the community leaders to put in place - this thing about writing, partnership, partnership support Meadowrest has been here for over 20 years. There is a road access, there are ways and means and I am saying it in profound way to get awareness, to get action in a partnership approach to address this roadway. Put it, start the e-mailing, start the texting, you have a good voice, you have a good timing now, and timing is key. And there are ways and means for road improvement, take it from me, alright. (Applause)

Ms. Williamson: One final one. Pamela Williamson. One final one, whenever it rains and there is funeral at Meadowrest, there is an area, the road that leads off to the cemetery is not paved. And so the mud, very muddy, and I will appreciate it so much, if Meadowrest will just fix that. The fact that people are spending so much money you have to walk with two pairs of shoes, you know, if it was concrete or grassy it would have been better. But it is dirt and you know how the dirt is up the top, up there. So please, I will appreciate it if next time you go there it is fixed.

The Chairman: The comments are noted. At this point this meeting is formally closed, because we are going to go on minute-ing, minute-ing community issues which don't have anything to do with the development per se. So the meeting is closed, anything you want to know about what you want Meadowrest to do they are here. (Laughter)

The meeting is closed.

Adjournment taken at 7:34 p.m.

3. APPENDICES

1. NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC MEETING

NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC MEETING

THERE WILL BE A PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
OF: PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE MEADOWREST MEMORIAL GARDENS CEMETERY AT WHITTAKER'S MOUNTAIN, ST.
CATHERINE

VENUE: FRASERS CONTENT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION.

FRASERS CONTENT BOULEVARD

FRASERS CONTENT

ST. CATHERINE

DATE: MARCH 29, 2018

TIME: 5.30 PM

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONSULTATION BY WAY OF ASKING QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE
PROPOSED PROJECT

A COPY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT MAY BE CONSULTED AT:

THE SPANISH TOWN LIBRARY	THE ST. CATHERINE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
THE SPANISH TOWN POST OFFICE	NEPA'S Documentation Centre at 11 Caledonia Avenue, Kingston 5
NEPA'S Website: www.nepa.gov.jm	

For further information contact:

EPN CONSULTANTS LIMITED: Telephone: 934-0909, E-mail: epnconsultants@gmail.com

2 ADVERTISEMENTS

The Gleam, Wednesday, March 7, 2018

NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC MEETING

There will be a Public Consultation on the Environmental Impact Report of: Proposed Expansion of the Meadowrest Memorial Gardens Cemetery at Whittaker's Mountain, St. Catherine

Venue: Frasers Content Community Development Foundation.
Frasers Content Boulevard
Frasers Content St. Catherine

Date: March 29, 2018

Time: 5:30pm

The public is invited to participate in the Consultation by way of asking questions relating to the proposed project

A copy of the environmental impact report may be consulted at:

- The Spanish Town Library
- The St. Catherine Municipal Corporation
- The Spanish Town Post Office
- NEPA'S Documentation Centre at 11 Caledonia Avenue, Kingston 5
- NEPA'S Website: www.nepa.gov.jm

For further information contact:
EPN CONSULTANTS LIMITED
Telephone: 934-0909
E-mail: epnconsultants@gmail.com

NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC MEETING

There will be a Public Consultation on the Environmental Impact Report of: Proposed Expansion of the Meadowrest Memorial Gardens Cemetery at Whittaker's Mountain, St. Catherine

Venue: Frasers Content Community Development Foundation.
Frasers Content Boulevard
Frasers Content St. Catherine

Date: March 29, 2018

Time: 5:30pm

The public is invited to participate in the Consultation by way of asking questions relating to the proposed project

A copy of the environmental impact report may be consulted at:

- The Spanish Town Library
- The St. Catherine Municipal Corporation
- The Spanish Town Post Office
- NEPA'S Documentation Centre at 11 Caledonia Avenue, Kingston 5
- NEPA'S Website: www.nepa.gov.jm

For further information contact:
EPN CONSULTANTS LIMITED
Telephone: 934-0909
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Handwritten: Thursday, March 29, 2018

The Gleam, Wednesday, March 29, 2018

NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC MEETING

There will be a Public Consultation on the Environmental Impact Report of: Proposed Expansion of the Meadowrest Memorial Gardens Cemetery at Whittaker's Mountain, St. Catherine

Venue: Frasers Content Community Development Foundation.
Frasers Content Boulevard
Frasers Content St. Catherine

Date: March 29, 2018

Time: 5:30pm

The public is invited to participate in the Consultation by way of asking questions relating to the proposed project

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- The Spanish Town Library
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- NEPA'S Website: www.nepa.gov.jm

For further information contact:
EPN CONSULTANTS LIMITED
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3. IMAGES



4. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

PUBLIC CONSULTATION
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