

**SULLIVAN COUNTY BROWNFIELD ASSESSMENT AND
REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 26, 2007**

Mayor Steve Godsey opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.

Mr. Ken Rea of the First Tennessee Development District stated that Sullivan County received a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to complete environmental assessment work on the Davis Pipe property. He commented that the project did not involve clean up of the site, but the purpose was to complete assessments on the Davis Pipe property with the hope of placing it back into a productive use. Mr. Rea stated that EPA encouraged input from the community in assessing potential uses of the property. Mr. Rea stated that the knowledge of area residents may be of use in the assessment process.

The following persons involved in the project were introduced.

- Ms. Olga Perry from EPA in Atlanta
- Mr. Andy Shivas from the TN Dept. of Environment & Conservation
- Mr. Jack Lawson of Sullivan County Networks
- Ms. Jeanette Scalf of Sullivan County Networks
- Mr. Bruce Hickman, Hart & Hickman
- Mr. Ed Stephens, Hart & Hickman

Mr. Hickman made a power point presentation that explained the EPA Brownfields Program, the assessments to be completed on the property, and contact information. After the presentation, Mr. Hickman opened the meeting for questions.

A question was asked about the ownership of the property. Mr. Rea stated that the owner of the property died in a plane crash and the estate did not distribute the property. Thus, the legal ownership was in question.

Several residents expressed concern about traffic on Oak Street and Birch Street. Motorists were using these streets to avoid going through traffic lights in downtown Blountville. Oak Street is primarily a residential street and Birch Street is a mix of residents and businesses. Truck traffic was going through these areas and cars were going at speeds that significantly exceeded speed limits. The residents expressed frustration at this issue and had approached the planning commission. Residents were also concerned about children being out on these streets. Several alternatives were recommended including sidewalks, speed pumps, no through traffic signs and placing a cul-de-sac at the end of Oak Street.

Ms. Scalf commented that the purpose of this meeting was not to address the traffic concerns. However, traffic concerns would impact the potential use of the property when redevelopment was considered. For example, an industry with several hundred employees would not be a good use of the property because of the traffic volume.

A question was asked when the subdivision was built and when Davis Pipe was built. A resident of the area stated that homes in the subdivision were constructed beginning in 1969. Davis Pipe was built in 1971.

Several residents said they recognized the need for the property to be placed back into a productive use, but hoped that the type of development would not be high density residential.

Ms. Linda Brittenham, a County Commissioner for the area, stated that the County Commission was looking at placing no through traffic signs. She also encouraged attendees to petition the county commission for better traffic control.

Mr. Olga Perry commented that EPA strongly encouraged citizens to stay involved in this process and future meetings.

A resident asked about the asphalt cap on the site. Mr. Hickman stated that the cap was a barrier to water entering the site of the old pickling building. In addition, it was a barrier to wildlife coming in contact with the contamination.

Mr. Hickman asked residents about potential uses of the site. Parks and walking trails were mentioned.

Mr. Shivas mentioned potential uses based on several other brownfield projects in the State including parks and business locations.

Mr. Rea thanked all for attending and providing input. The meeting was adjourned.