

"We have been able to find a common ground ... and they have realized that the best kind of public is an educated public."

Linda Segal, selectman

Raytheon ready to restore wetlands

By Melissa Beecher
NEWS STAFF WRITER

WAYLAND – Officials close to the massive environmental cleanup effort of the former Raytheon site on Boston Post Road are optimistic that a majority of their concerns have been addressed by the defense contractor.

Looking only at the affected areas in the wetlands of the 83-acre property, Raytheon has conducted more than 150 additional tests and continued an effort to keep conservation officials and the town's licensed site professional, Ben Gould, updated with the latest findings and potential actions steps.

"Each of the areas where we raised concerns are being responded to," said Conservation Commission member Andy Irwin. Irwin, himself a certified

Town, Raytheon close to agreement

RAYTHEON, *From A1*

licensed site professional, has been keeping the town apprised of the project.

Additional test sites included residential and business property across Rte. 20, which provide a closer analysis of the regions beyond the perimeters of the property.

The cleanup effort will be a delicate balance of correcting the environmental impacts that Raytheon, the responsible party, had to the site, without overly compensating in the highly sensitive wetlands area.

"We want to preserve the wetlands habitat, but not to the extent of having a sick wetland," said Gould.

In addition to the extra test sites, Raytheon has also released a draft of initial steps that will be taken in the permit process of the cleanup effort.

Although no definite timeframe has yet been released, officials are speculating that the actual cleanup will begin next summer. Raytheon has proposed a mediation that includes injecting affected areas with a compound that neutralizes certain pollutants into salts and compounds found in drinking water.

The lengthy permitting process requires the contractor to not only have an extensive review by the local conservation commission, but by the state Department of Environment Protection – which is also testing groundwater near Wayland's Baldwin Pond Fields – the state Executive Office of Environmental Affairs and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"We have been able to find a common ground and work with one another and they have realized that the best kind of public is an educated public," said Selectman Linda Segal. "Raytheon has really gone forward to engage what has become a wonderfully cooperative spirit with the town."

"We also feel positive about the progress made at the site and will continue to work closely with the town throughout this process," said David Polk, spokesman for Raytheon. "The permitting process that is before us is at the pace and degree that it should be."

The polluted site was leased by Raytheon from 1955 to 1995. For the past 20 years the corporation has been working under the direction of environmental agencies to detoxify the land.

Raytheon has paid Wayland \$25,000 for the work done by Gould, who reviews the work done by the company's engineers and own licensed site professional. Gould regularly updates the town with his findings.

"This is a daunting task and Ben's technical expertise is needed so that we can understand the science involved,"

said Segal.

The next Public Involvement Plan, or PIP, meeting will be held Oct. 3 at 7 p.m. in Wayland with a location to be determined. At that meeting Raytheon will address any concerns residents have, as well as explain the latest updates on the continuing remediation efforts.