

Raytheon site's cleanup in progress

By John Hilliard / Daily News Staff

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WAYLAND -- Adding to the complexity of the Town Center project is an ongoing cleanup effort by Raytheon at the Rte. 20 site, which once served as the company's research and development facility.

Raytheon has established a deed restriction on the property that allows only commercial and industrial uses for the land, specifically forbidding housing, child care and other uses.

According to the town's environmental consultant for the Raytheon cleanup effort, Ben Gould, work is progressing.

In a June 15 letter to selectmen, he said soil was replaced last year in wetlands near the Sudbury River, plus work was "well under way" in an contaminated area south of the 400,000-square-foot building on the site.

Over the next few years, monitoring of both areas will be needed to ensure the cleanup is successful.

However, Raytheon is still planning a strategy for a contaminated area north of the building. That may take as long as three years to straighten out, said Gould.

The developers and Raytheon are discussing how construction could move forward while the company's cleanup continues.

Raytheon's Ed Madera told selectmen last month that the deed restriction could be lifted if no threat to human health existed on the site and construction did not interfere with the ongoing cleanup.

"We are working very well with the owner. We are working very well with the town on this project," he said.

Selectman Bill Whitney is optimistic that developers and Raytheon could hammer out an agreement.

"Raytheon feels very comfortable developing housing on the western part of the property," he said.

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