

12/30/16 (2 days ago)

Karen Mattatall
<karenharrismattatall@gmail.com>

to me

Dear Mr.DeVet

In response to your questions

The landfill you speak of has been officially closed as a landfill since the early 90's.

Following that until just recently, the site was used only as a transfer station for white metal, i.e freon free fridges, stoves, empty oil barrels.

It also was the place town residents could take yard waste i.e brush and the town public works stored used concrete blocks and old asphalt that are used in public works projects.

November of 2016, council decided that the area would no longer be used to collect white metals, yard waste or a holding area for material that public works would use.

The reasons for the decision are based on a staff report that was requested by council earlier in the year due partially to the fact that unfortunately some of those who were taking white metals, were not always ensuring there was no oil, freon etc.

Also storage of un-chipped brush was a being seen as a possible fire hazard.

Although the decision was made to no longer use the area, it was done for the reasons listed above while at the same time addressing the some concerns raised by the SEED group, in particular the potential fire risk by the storing yard waste there.

As for drinking water, the Town supports all residents having access to clean and safe drinking water and are more than willing to assist residents with water testing when necessary to ensure their drinking water is safe.

Hope this is helpful

Dear Ms.Mattattall,

I am working on a story on the impact of the landfill in your town on the Shelburne African Nova Scotian community. Last week I spent an afternoon with members of the SEED group, who as you know fear that the dump has affected their health for generations.

I was wondering what the Town's view is on these issues. In particular I have the following questions:

1 - Does the Town support the group's wish that a proper scientific investigation occur to determine whether groundwater in the area is polluted, and if so, how does that support manifest?

2 - I was told that the Town's expectation is that the Black community raise money to pay for access to Town water. Is this correct, and if so, doesn't the Town feel it has an obligation to support the community financially in such efforts? Would there be opportunities to seek provincial and even federal support?

3 - The group is also looking for reparations to the community for past suffering caused by the landfill. It believes racism is partly to blame for the situation. What do you think of this?

4 - I have been looking for the NS Environment decision that lead to the closure of the landfill earlier this month. Can you help me locate it?

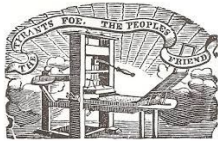
Ideally we would have a 15-minute phone call. Alternatively, a written response would also be much appreciated. We are aiming for publication in early January.

Many thanks,

Robert DeVet

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