

Feb 20 NSN Open House on the Tank Farm/Golf Course Proposal

Feedback from Dave Brown, RAB Public Information Chair

March 19, 2003

What I liked especially about *how* it was handled

- Good newspaper publicity beforehand.
- Friendly informal atmosphere: Met at the door by Dave Dorocz and others. Great snacks. Free to walk around and chat as you pleased.
- Easy-to-understand visuals and handouts, plus more details on the sites if desired.
- Several Navy staff and consultants at hand to talk with.
- Next steps were clearly indicated.
- Immediate feedback via comment sheets was encouraged.

Some ideas for the next one

- Have some signs from the outside parking lots to show where to go. None from the side where I parked.
- Make sure the explainers at the stations are fully briefed. This time, some did not have as much background as we RABers had about possible funding sources, cleanup procedures, likely design features, public access, etc. (Understandable to some extent, as this was preliminary. But next time they should be fully up to speed.)
- Maybe have a table "manned" by some citizen RAB members (could rotate hours) to help provide background and to share their reactions as individuals who have been following this for some time.
- Let other responsible groups have tables if they wish to provide their perspectives – e.g., the Aquidneck Island Planning Commission (AIPC) and its West Side Planning Task Force ... the Aquidneck Island Citizens Advisory Board for the EPA Technical Assistance Grant (AICAB/TAG) ... Navy staff/family/retirees groups.
- Have a chair grouping (maybe near the snacks and coffee) where attendees could sit, digest the information and interact after they've gone around the stations, and before they fill out the comments. Could have a neutral, low-key facilitator at hand to help "bring out" their thoughts. Could also have one or two citizen RABers at hand to help with this, instead of the special RAB table mentioned above.
- Have a NSN Public Affairs person there to make a videotape based on the exhibits and short interviews with the Navy people, citizen reps, etc. Could be used on community cable TV, made available on loan or NSN Environmental web site for those who couldn't make it to the open house.

Enclosure (3)