

Asbestos concerns rise as roof collapses at club

BY BRYAN FUMAGALLI
OF YORKTOWN NEWS

A roof collapse at the Holland Sporting Club was causing materials exposed to asbestos to spread around a section of the 14-acre grounds on Mohegan Lake last week.

The Yorktown Town Board authorized a \$7,200 to be paid to Excel Insulation for a cleanup project after the collapse, the date of which is unknown.

The original asbestos abatement contract with Excel Insulation in the amount of \$64,000 called for removal of asbestos from the roof.

However, inspectors found that since the roof collapsed into the building, materials that had been exposed to asbestos had spread not only into the casino, but onto the grounds outside.

As a result, after being granted a variance from the state Department of Labor to perform additional work at the site, the Town agreed to a \$7,200 proposal from Excel Insulation for the cleaning and disposal of “category 1 non-friable roofing pieces” at May 11’s emergency meeting.

It is unknown when the roof collapsed and for how long materials from that roof have been exposed

to open air, Town Supervisor Michael Grace said.

EMERGENCY MEETING

“This was an emergency situation, we had a roof collapse at the sporting club and materials with asbestos were found on the property,” Grace said. “We had no choice but to hold a meeting and get it cleaned up as soon as possible.”

When calling a special Town Board meeting, procedure calls for written notice to be sent to each Board member and for community notification. The meeting, which took place at the Friday morning’s

Yorktown Community and Cultural Center’s ribbon-cutting event for the newly refurbished senior center, was not made public and there was no written notifications sent to Town Board members.

“I found out about this Friday morning and since we were all at the YCCC event, I saw no reason to send written notification,” Grace said. “This is superfluous anyway because I have the authority to change contracts within a certain threshold in my position as supervisor.”

Town Clerk Alice Roker says she and Grace spoke about the notifica-

tion process before the Board met.

“Michael asked me if he could call a meeting and I told him normally we need to give written notice. He told me there was a problem with asbestos, and that all the Board members were with him, except for one who was on a plane to Italy,” Roker said. “Each one of them said to me they wanted to meet, and we even left a message for Councilman Nick [Bianco] and sent him an email so that he was aware of it.”

Bryan Fumagalli can be reached at fumagalli@halstonmedia.com.