

February 15, 2008

The special meeting of the Varick Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Robert Hayssen at 10:35 a.m. Present at this meeting were council members Jeff Case, Richard Peterson, and Kathy Russo, Planning Board, Kevin Swartley, Finger Lakes Times reporter, Paulette Likoudis and Town Clerk, Donna Karlsen. Also present was Joan Teichner.

Mr. Hayssen commented on how ironic it was that there was no public hearing held and little to no public comments made regarding the DEC proposal for the expansion of wetlands and yet the IDA was ridiculed by the public regarding the public hearing that was held and the steps that were taken pertaining to the proposed Sessler project.

Mr. Hayssen would like DEC to extend the comment period, conduct public hearings to receive further comment and technical information that could be held in the Town of Varick and offer the elected officials a tour of the area that will be effected.

It was noted that the expansion will effect Finger Lakes Technology Group, Biomass, and land owned by Wenger, Case, Fravil and an unknown party just outside Five Points Correctional Facility. The Ethanol Plant is not effected as they took into consideration wetlands prior to development planning.

It was noted that it is not normal protocol of the DEC to review specific areas, but to review a whole state at one time. The DEC had the opportunity to take over the Depot property at the time of closing, but couldn't afford to do so and decided not pursue the matter. In 1998 DEC reviewed the EFS and signed off.

Mr. Swartley reviewed with the board the wetland map and questioned what methodology was used by the DEC to determine the wetlands. He and Mr. Hayssen also indicated that the Town and County will lose taxable land value if this expansion is approved. It will also hinder the expansion of utilities and other infrastructure.

The following motion was passed unanimously addressing the boards concerns:

A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Jeff Case and so carried unanimously to direct the Town of Varick Supervisor to send a letter concurring with the letters sent by Seneca County Board of Supervisors and the Seneca County IDA to the DEC in regards to NYSDEC Wetland Designation Proposal dated January 9, 2008 to extend the comment period.

A copy of this letter is to be sent to Senator Michael Nozzolio, Assemblyman Brian Kolb, David Kaiser, Town of Romulus Supervisor, Stephen Absolom Seneca Army Depot, Paul Griswold, FLTG, Jeremy Wilhelm, Cilion Inc., Suzanne Sinclair, Seneca County Manager, Paul D'Amato, DEC Regional Director, Michael Palumbo, Flaum Management, and Steve Dennis, SCIDA.

The board also requests DEC to conduct public hearings to receive further comment and technical information, hold a public hearing in the Town of Varick and provide a tour for the elected officials to view the affected areas.

A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Jeff Case and so carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Karlsen