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Photo by Mimi Kelly Rev. James Clanton reads aloud a list of New Hill residents' concerns about plans for a regional sewage plant.

#### Cary Residents Support New Hill Fight Against Sewage Plant

By [Shawn Daley](#), editor  
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For three years the residents of New Hill have been alone in their struggle against the Cary-led Western Wake Partners' efforts to build a sewage plant in the middle of their community.

It seems now they might finally have some strong voices on their side.

Both Cary Mayor Pro-Tem Julie Robison and Karl Thor of the Cary citizens' group [davisandhighhouse.org](http://davisandhighhouse.org) attended a lengthy meeting last Wednesday night in New Hill.

A standing-room-only crowd packed into First Baptist Church for a question-and-answer session with representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The three-hour meeting focused on the environmental justice study currently underway and is just the first of several public meetings that will be held throughout the process.

Robison said she voted against her town's plans to condemn land in New Hill for the sewage plant and has been concerned about the project since it began.

The Cary official said she attended the meeting to hear what people had to say.

"Environmental justice and social justice and cultural justice are issues that have been a concern of mine since I became aware of the project," said Robison. "I felt this was a good opportunity to get information from the source rather than to read about it or hear about it.

"I thought the best thing to do was to come here myself and listen to those who are studying this and taking responsibility for asking and answering the questions. I felt reassured that I understand the questions and concerns on people's minds today."

Thor said he has spoken with officials from Chatham County, Apex, Cary and Morrisville who also have concerns.

"There's a lot of those people that feel this was just railroaded through by the previous Cary council and administration," said Thor. "We now have a new Cary council and what we'd like them to do is reevaluate the documents and evidence the New Hill Community Association has come up with.

"The allegations in there are quite embarrassing to me as a Cary resident. It makes us look like elitist snobs. We're taking our sewage and dumping it on some poor people who don't even get the right to vote for any of the

people dumping the sewage on them.”

The majority of New Hill residents who spoke at the meeting expressed their concerns about odor, noise and sewage spills and recommended that a new site be chosen for the plant.

Two residents that own land adjacent to the proposed site did speak in favor of the plant. But they were certainly outnumbered at the meeting.

“This is not progress,” said resident Dianne Bryant who opposes the site. “We are being taken advantage of and trampled on.”