

## NHCA Community Meeting Agenda – January 27, 2011

**Location:** First Baptist Church -- 7 PM

**Attendees:** New Hill Community and friends of New Hill

### **Announcement**

- NHCA has dropped its lawsuit & protests to the sewage plant.
- There should be a News Release tomorrow (Friday) but I wanted you to hear it first from me.
- After several days of court-ordered mediation in our lawsuit against DENR and WWP, NHCA reached a settlement agreement that dismisses the lawsuit and drops all protests to the project in exchange for several community improvements near the plant site.
- One of the statements I made in the News Release is - "This has been a vigorous, robust debate in which the parties made a concerted effort to mitigate impacts to New Hill. We, the officers of the NHCA, encourage all of our association's members and community's advocates to accept the Western Wake Regional Wastewater Management Facilities. We end all protests to the project. In addition, we will not oppose the Chatham County pipeline and will not encourage other groups to use NHCA's name in opposing it."
- A statement Apex Mayor Weatherly makes in part is - "The New Hill Community Association has been a strong advocate for the interests of their community..."
- Under the agreement, the WWP will build two bus shelters near the First Baptist Church for school children and contribute \$500,000 toward a New Hill community center. Assuming the center is built within close proximity to the treatment plant, the Partners will also run water and sewer infrastructure to the New Hill community center. This is in addition to the Partners' promise to provide water and sewer to about three dozen homes near the plant.
- Another statement I made is - "Over the last five years, the New Hill community has come together as never before. The bus shelters, community center, and extension of services to those closest to the plant will help to mitigate the impacts to our community and will go a long way in moving our community forward"

### **NHCA Officers Request (complying with settlement agreement)**

- NHCA officers will end all protests to the sewage plant and will accept it.
- NHCA officers encourage our members to also end all protests to the sewage plant and accept it.
- NHCA officers ask that community members remove all anti-project signage and displays from their yards.
- NHCA officers will no longer participate in interviews, marches, or other activities that are negative toward the project and we encourage our members to do the same.
- NHCA officers encourage its alliances to end all protests on our behalf to the sewage plant.
- NHCA officers will not oppose the Chatham County effluent pipeline and we ask our members and Chatham alliance (Chatham County United) not to use NHCA's name in opposing the pipeline.
- We will be posting the News Release to our NHCA website, and distributing it to the local papers (Apex Herald, Cary News, Independent, N&O, and Southwest Wake News).
- If you receive questions from the media you may refer them to our attorney – Chris Brook.

### **Community Accomplishments**

This has been a very long road we all have traveled together for almost six years! We have many accomplishments we can all be proud of:

- First and foremost, the New Hill community came together like never before. Without the communities support, none of this would have been possible.
- Created and operated a community association that allowed us to have a real voice.
- Held numerous community meetings utilizing both New Hill churches and fire station.
- Participated and spoke at numerous meetings.
  - Counties - Wake and Chatham
    - Includes Board of Commissioners meetings and Southwest Land Use Planning
    - Presented to Wake County Delegation
  - Towns - Apex, Cary, Holly Springs, and Morrisville
    - Includes Town Council meetings and Apex Land Use Planning
    - Note: Holly Springs eventually dropped out of WWP due to our work regarding the Harris Lake discharge option
  - Federal (ACE) Project meetings
- TV, radio, and newspaper articles.
- EJ meetings:
  - NHCA held meeting for USACE, DENR, and EPA
  - NHCA held EJ Summit
  - NCEJN – guest speaker at their annual meeting.
- Petition with 500 signatures.
- Assembled a coalition of alliances:
  - Davis and Highhouse, Chatham County United, Morrisville Action, StopAnnexation, BlueRidge Environmental League, NC Environmental Justice Network, Cary Watchmen
  - Communicated with several in state and out of state organizations that were fighting their own issues. Provided guidance and advice.
- Many fundraisers (BBQ dinners, community yard sales, license plates, vehicle window stickers, Christmas cards, outright donations and grants, and of course our New Hill Oral History book!
- Three protest marches (New Hill, Apex and Cary).
- Wrote hundreds of letters to governmental agencies and newspapers.
- Three public hearings:
  - DENR Draft EIS
  - Federal Draft EIS
  - Federal Discharge Permit
- Two lawsuits (Towns and their mayors plus NCDENR).
- Rev. Clanton received the NCEJN Summit Award in October 2010.
- NHCA received the Indy Citizens Award in December 2010.

#### **Site 14 Mitigation Accomplishments**

- The original schedule was for the plant to go online this month. Because of the questions and issues our community raised, we forced USACE to conduct many Project Development Team meetings for more than a year. All of our efforts considerably delayed the plant opening until at least December 2013 if not longer.
- We were able to get a mitigation plan that included water and sewer connectivity for those property owners within the census node occupied by the plant.
- We were able to have the \$3000 cost allowance for water / sewer hookup removed. Cost will be paid in full.

- Able to have cost for water / sewer hookup billed directly to Apex by contractor instead of property owner having to pay upfront and then get reimbursed by Apex.
- We were able to get additional odor controls added to the plant design (covered headwork) which should significantly reduce odors.
- We were able to get a deeded 200 foot buffer along the property perimeter.
- Lighting changed to “task oriented”.
- Improvements to reduce noise and traffic flow to Shearon Harris Road continuing to Merry Oaks US 1 Exit / Entrance ramps.
- Settlement that included a New Hill community center and two bus stops.

All of this was accomplished by our community along with tremendous representation starting with first attorneys (Bryan Brice and Cathy Cralle-Jones). We then were very fortunate to engage with the Southern Coalition of Social Justice (SCSJ). Our lead attorney, Chris Brook, with assistance from Becky Jaffe has been side by side with us for two years. Chris was able to enlist the support of UNC Law School, obtain a \$10,000 grant from the California based “Impact Fund” organization. Chris was able to enlist the help of key “experts” at a reduced rate to assist with document reviews such as attorney John Runkle who also volunteered a lot of his time.

## **Moving Forward**

However, as of today, we need to move the community forward by looking to the future of New Hill with optimism. There are many things we can still do together:

- Community Center will become the focal point for us. Some examples:
  - Community meetings
  - Family events (weddings, birthdays, reunions, etc.)
  - Church events (revivals)
  - Educational classes
- Beautification projects. Some ideas:
  - Center of New Hill
  - Entrance / Exit ramps at US 1
  - Area clean-up
  - Signage – (need to discuss with NCDOT)
    - New Hill markers along Old US 1
    - New Hill Historic District
    - New Hill Community Center

## **Next Community Meeting**

- Next community meeting TBD.
- NHCA –
  - Need to discuss new NHCA Board direction and elections.
- New Hill Community Center (NHCC) –
  - NHCC will be a new organization (501c3) that will be responsible to design, construct, and operate the community center. SCSJ will assist with all legal aspects
  - creation, organizational structure
  - Board elections or appointments.
  - Need ideas and assistance with design and functionality

**Open Forum then Adjourn**