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[News](#)

[Sports](#)

[Police Reports](#)

[Obituaries](#)

[Classifieds](#)

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New Hill residents ask board for help

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Editor
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By Shawn Daley

Editor

Two New Hill residents expressed their disappointment to the Apex Town Board concerning plans for a regional wastewater treatment facility.

Nancy Hall and David Bristol both spoke during the public forum portion of Tuesday's meeting.

Hall said New Hill residents were outraged by the lack of notification by the four partners in the plant – Cary, Apex, Holly Springs and Morrisville – that 200 acres of land in the heart of the community were being condemned to make room for the plant.

Cary holds the lead role in the partnership and is responsible for site selection. The Cary town board is scheduled to vote on the site selection during their June 23 meeting.

Residents of New Hill, an unincorporated town, will not be allowed to use the plant unless they are annexed.

"We are doctors, teachers and professors," said Hall. "We are productive citizens in the community with no voice."

Bristol, a 19-year resident of New Hill, said he was "very disheartened" in the "secretive site selection process."

He pointed out that the plant would be located near churches and historical buildings and put the future of a proposed community center in jeopardy.

"Who wants a community center next to a sewage plant," said Bristol.

Bristol asked why the towns hadn't contacted Progress

Energy about purchasing land located away from the center of New Hill.

Both Hall and Bristol asked Apex officials to urge Cary to look for another site.

Following the meeting, Apex Mayor Keith Weatherly said Cary was responsible for site selection. He also said the committee that searched for a site followed the proper criteria.

Weatherly said working out a deal with Progress Energy wasn't considered a viable option after Holly Springs decided it would not be a full partner in the plant.

"It had to be a site that is mutually accessible (to Cary and Apex) and have the proper topography," said Weatherly.

"We want to be a good neighbor but we need to look at all the items before us. We don't want to make the plant more expensive for the participating partners."

In other matters Tuesday:

-The town board honored the Apex High School lacrosse team that recently won the 4-A state championship.

Weatherly praised the players and coaches for their outstanding achievements.

In presenting school officials with a plaque, the mayor jokingly urged coach John Hayden to improve on the team's 23-1 record next season.

-The town rezoned 60.398 acres of land on Apex Barbecue Road from "medium density residential" to "conservation buffer conditional use."

The rezoned property will be added to a proposed education nature park and will provide a greenway connection to Kelly Glen Park.

-Graham Wilson was appointed to the Apex Planning Board. He will fill the vacant position left by Louis Iannone whose term expires Dec. 31, 2006.