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New Hill residents ask for cooperation

By [Shawn Daley](#) Editor

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New Hill residents could have been forgiven if they exhibited any signs of gloating.

Instead, they opted to take the high road.

About 20 New Hill residents attended the Apex Town Council meeting on Tuesday night to deliver a message that focused on cooperation.

Just two weeks ago, the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources released a report that requested the Western Wake Partners to provide more accurate and detailed information concerning a planned regional sewage plant in New Hill.

The DENR report practically echoed concerns raised by New Hill residents about the site selection process and the lack of input by the public.

The project has been delayed while the Cary-led partners of Apex, Holly Springs and Morrisville resubmit data for the draft environmental impact study.

Rather than saying, "I told you so" to town council, New Hill residents implored the councilmen to take advantage of their second chance to include them in the process.

Of the nine residents who spoke at the meeting, nearly all stressed the importance of the two communities working together.

"New Hill residents were given no opportunity for input," said Randall Sink. "DENR made a strong recommendation that (they be included). I hope you don't squander this opportunity."

Cal North said he believed most Apex residents did not favor building the sewage plant in the middle of New Hill. He was also critical of Cary's poor record with sewage spills.

"I hope the mayor and council will join the people of Apex in telling Cary that this pig won't fly," said North. "Let's cooperate in finding a solution to this thorny problem."

Dan Brubaker said it was a mistake for Apex and the other towns not to include New Hill residents in the site selection process. He said that DENR officials came to that same conclusion as evidenced by the recent report.

"It's only a mistake if you don't correct it," said Brubaker. "Let us be part of the process. Together we can move forward. If we continue to butt heads there will just be more delays."

"New Hill needs your help and you need our help," said Vivian Joyner. "Let's get it right this time."

Carolyn Sink told town leaders they were fortunate to receive another chance to make the right decision.

"How blessed you are," said Sink. "How many times have people said, 'I should have said something,' or 'I should have made a stand,' or 'I should have taken the high road.' Now, because of DENR, you have been given a second chance."

Councilmen Bill Sutton and Bill Jensen, both of who are critics of the site selection, said they wanted council to review any information about the project before it was sent to DENR.