

WPTF Radio Show with Kevin Miller

Background / Talking Points

- Introduce myself as President and Tonya Forbes as Publicity Committee Chair of New Hill Community Association (NHCA)
- Small rural unincorporated community
 - Buckhorn Township – County managed – not in any municipality’s ETJ (Extra Territorial Jurisdiction)
 - population approx 2000 – 2500 citizens
- No vote and no voice in sewage plant site selection process
- New Hill has had over the years multiple condemnations
 - Jordan Lake (1000s of acres)
 - Shearon Harris Nuclear Plant (25,000 acres)
 - Dixie Gas Pipeline (twice)
 - Electric transmission lines for Green Level – Cary grow)
 - Seem to be a target and no way to fight back
- No public notice until we found out about the site by sheer luck. Several New Hill citizens called a Town Meeting for May 31 in our historic New Hill Baptist Church to inform community. Almost 300 people attended
 - Two Wake County representatives attended (Dave Cooke County Manager and Phil Jeffreys County Commissioner). Stated that they too had just found out about New Hill site being selected
- Cary was going to condemn private property without any Public Notice
- Requested Cary Town Council to delay June 9 condemnation approval. They agreed to postpone the vote until June 23.
- Cary then held an information meeting for June 14. Public not allowed to ask questions except at booths
 - Organized “Walk Against Waste” march to Fire Station
- Many individuals began researching available data and documents. Talked out at many Town Council Meetings (Cary, Apex, Holly Springs) and Wake County Commissioners
- Called another Town Meeting for June 20 – approved proposal to organize community to provide us better political clout. Named organization – New Hill Community Association. Nominated and voted for various positions – Leadership and Committee Chairs / Co-chairs
- Got Wake County Commissioners to approve a resolution requesting Cary to delay condemnation 30 days to allow for evaluation of alternate sites. Apex Town Council also agreed to call Mayor McAlister to also request him to delay 30 days
- Cary ignored these (2) requests and condemned the property June 23 on a 4-3 to vote, Mayor McAlister casting deciding vote
- Paid engineers have already rated parcels on Progress Energy property as better than the New Hill site.
- Mayors and Council members were not aware of location nor impact to New Hill yet voted YES to condemnation of private property in center of our community, adjacent to our Historic District (Registered in 2001), (2) churches (ca 1888 and 1910), new playground, and approx. 20 homes
- No supporting cost analysis data available to bridge TM 8.0 sites dated August 31, 2004 to TM 8.1 sites dated March 16, 2005 (29 to 12 to 3). One site was on original 29, not in 12 but ended up in top 3! Funny that the (3) New Hill sites are spread out. Maybe wanted community to be divided!
- Cary saying Progress Energy property location would cost \$18M, then \$20M, and now \$27M – all in (4) days!
- Gag order on key project staff. All questions and responses must go through Kim Fisher. Seems like Cary doesn’t want project folks to say something they shouldn’t

Where Do We Go From Here?

- We know the regional sewage plant probably has to go in SW Wake – and we even question that. We can live with it in our back yard, just not on our front porch especially since there is NO benefit to our community
- Writing letters to Wake County Commissioners, DENR, Cultural Resources and Progress Energy
- Exploring legal options

Final Comments

- Listeners please write letters to your Town Council members and Wake County Commissioners requesting reversal of condemnation vote. Demand reevaluation of sites.
 - Working on getting information and contacts posted to our brand new website www.newhillca.org – just got up and running yesterday.
- Donations to:

New Hill Community Association (NHCA)
P.O Box 68
New Hill, NC 27562-0068