

TOWN OF YORKTOWN

PLANNING BOARD

Yorktown Farms, Section 17.06 Block 2 Lot 32 Public Hearing for DEIS and Subdivision.

May 9, 2005 9:15 p.m. 363 Underhill Avenue

Yorktown Heights, New York

BEFORE:

Jeremiah Dineen, III, Chairman (Absent)

John Flynn, Board Member

David Klaus, Board Member

Robert Giordano, Board Member

ALSO PRESENT:

John Econom, Deputy Town Engineer
Linda Grant, Deputy Town Attorney
Robyn Prestamo, Secretary to the Planning Board



APPEARANCES:

FOR THE APPLICANT:

ZARIN & STEINMETZ

BY: DAVID STEINMETZ, ESQ.

81 Main Street, Suite 415 White Plains, New York 10601

ALSO PRESENT:

Joshua Moreinis, Tim Miller Associates

Dan Ciarcia, Ralph Mastromonaco Engineering

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MR. KLAUS: Item nine, Yorktown Farms
DEIS and subdivision.

MR. STEINMETZ: Good evening.

MR. KLAUS: Okay. Good evening.

MR. STEINMETZ: Mr. Chairman, members of the board, David Steinmetz from the law firm of Zarin and Steinmetz, for the applicant, BS Construction.

Mr. Chairman, we're here tonight in connection with the proposed Yorktown Farms subdivision. With me is Joshua Moreinis from Tim Miller Associates, Dan Ciarcia from Ralph Mastromonaco Engineering. We're here tonight in connection with a public hearing, both on Draft Environmental Impact Statement that we presented to your board, as well as the preliminary subdivision approval.

Briefly, we are dealing with a 34-acre site in northeast Yorktown right on the Somers border. We have frontage along Route 6 to the north, as well as at the end of Gay Ridge Road where it comes off of Perry Street, which provides us with some access



1	point along the westerly side of the
2	property.
3	The proposal before your board is a
4	34-lot, single-family residential subdivision
5	presently in the R-20 zone. We also
6	contemplate dedication of a two-acre parcel
7	containing a soccer field as well as
8	approximately seven and a half acres of
9	additional open space area in our
10	environmentally sensitive areas for
11	conservation purposes.
12	This site, unlike other sites that have
13	been before the board this evening, does have
14	public sewer and public water, and what we
15	would deem to be adequate infrastructure to
16	support a subdivision of 34 homes.
17	Josh Moreinis is going to take you
18	through briefly some of the issues we dealt
19	with in the Environmental Impact Statement.
20	Dan will talk briefly about stormwater design
21	and how we believe we can handle the runoff
22	that will be generated from this particular
23	project.



The purpose of tonight's hearing, as you

PLANNING BOARD PROCEEDINGS

1	know, is for us to receive comments from your
2	board as well as members of the public. We
3	do have a stenographer with us this evening
4	taking down all of the comments, and we will
5	respond to the comments that are presented in
6	our Final Environmental Impact Statement.
7	So, with that, I'm going to let Josh take
8	us through some of the environmental
9	component.
10	MR. MOREINIS: Thank you. Josh Moreinis,
11	Tim Miller Associates. We prepared the Draft
12	Environmental Impact Statement, or the DEIS,
13	for the project. The DEIS reviews a range of
14	effects of the project, both direct impacts
15	of construction on the site as well as
16	indirect impacts on the surrounding community
17	and the areas surrounding the site. We've
18	also looked at nine alternatives to the
19	project in the DEIS as is required for SEQR
20	law. The alternatives were defined in the
21	scoping document and the town has asked us to
22	examine a few additional alternatives since
23	we initially submitted our DEIS in February



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of 2004.

1	The DEIS in terms of land use impacts
2	with 34 homes on 43 acres, we have
3	demonstrated that the project is consistent
4	with the density of homes in the surrounding
5	area. We have approximately eight-tenths of
6	an acre average per lot, with many of the
7	lots ranging much higher in terms of their
8	size.
9	In terms of community services, we have
10	looked at the tax benefits of the project, we
11	have look at school enrollment impacts. The
12	soccer field that's proposed has been
13	included at the request of the recreation
14	commission. This would address a very strong
15	need in the Town of Yorktown for soccer
16	facilities.
17	we looked at the population,
18	approximately 125 people would be residing
19	here, 30 of whom would be probably school age
20	children. The alternatives that we looked at
21	range around those numbers, with several of
22	them having up to 39 homes. We looked at
23	several cluster layout alternatives, we
24	looked at several lower density alternatives.



1	we looked at alternatives that have
2	alternative road access connections to
3	Stonewall Court or to Jefferson Court. We
4	also looked at office complex alternatives
5	for the project site.
6	In terms of impacts on land, this would
7	increase impervious surfaces, the road and
8	the buildings on the project, by
9	approximately six acres, lower than
10	alternative five that we looked at. We found
11	that with some of the lower density
12	alternatives that we examined, there the
13	impacts on wetlands, for example, were not
14	significantly decreased. And that's due to
15	the presence of a central strip of wetland
16	that needs to be crossed to access the rest
17	of the site.
18	We've looked we have included in the
19	DEIS a wetland functional analysis that
20	includes detailed analysis of wetlands on the
21	site and measures to expand some of the
22	existing wetlands to compensate for direct
23	impacts to approximately three-quarters of an
24	acre of wetland on the site.



1	The DEIS also looks at impacts such as
2	traffic. We're expecting that the project
3	would generate 33 trips in the a.m. peak
4	hour, 41 trips in the p.m. peak hour. This
5	will not change the level disturbance on
6	surrounding intersection that we examined.
7	For example, in terms of I think the
8	office complex alternative stands out above
9	the other alternatives in this respect, it
10	would generate up to about eight times as
11	much traffic as the alternative that we
12	looked at for this proposed action of 34
13	homes.
14	Dan Ciarcia from Ralph Mastromonaco
15	Engineering, he's going to take you through
16	some of the engineering aspects of the
17	project. We look forward to your comments
18	this evening and responding to them in the
19	Final Environmental Impact Statement this
20	summer. Dan.
21	MR. CIARCIA: As Josh mentioned, there
22	were nine alternatives that were looked at.
23	And, actually, through the genesis of this
24	application it was even more than that. This



1.	evening there's nine that we're focusing in
2	on and now represent an elimination of some
3	of the alternatives previously looked at.

The two key elements this layout has that were important in the design were, first off, maintain two points of access to the subdivision. The board had indicated early on that that was a very important element. There were other proposed connections, such as the Jefferson Court connection, which we could provide access to in the future, in that our client does not have control over that right-of-way. Therefore, they would be unable to guarantee when that project would be completed. We do, however, within this plan now provide a right-of-way should some day in the future that access be realized.

The other important element being the recreational soccer field which is contiguous to the existing town owned land that's part of the town park over in this area. The stormwater management of the site is accomplished through three systems, the back third over here of the project is actually a



- tributary to the New York City Watershed and is -- therefore, we're required to meet their design requirements in this area.
- The rest of the site flows generally
 northerly across Route 6 in three locations
 and to a tributary to the Peekskill Hollow
 Brook. There is stormwater practices over on
 that side of the site that comply with the
 New York State DEC regulations.

As Josh mentioned, we have facilities available in that we are in the Peekskill Sewer District and we are in the -- we're in the district and the plant has adequate capacity to take the flows proposed. There's two existing force mains on Route 6 that were constructed as part of the reserve in Somers. We're proposing to pump effluent from our site into that existing system.

We're solving the public water, it's readily solvable, in that there is a dead end water main at Gay Ridge Road, as well as, a water main out at Route 6. So, connecting these at the existing dead end and looping the water through our site. And, basically,



- that's the fundamentals for the engineering.
- Thank you.
- MR. KLAUS: Your proposal, before you
- 4 sit down, the proposals are that you're going
- 5 to treat and manage all your stormwater on
- 6 site?
- 7 MR. CIARCIA: That's correct.
- 8 MR. KLAUS: Pre and post conditions?
- 9 MR. CIARCIA: That's correct.
- MR. KLAUS: Okay. Could you point out
- on the map just -- well, I guess the areas
- will vary depending on what the layouts are
- 13 -- but can you give a general concept of
- where you're proposing to do some of your
- stormwater treatment on site?
- MR. CIARCIA: Well, what the proposed
- 17 plan is, there is two basins back here that
- handle roughly this portion of the site.
- 19 This is approximately a third of the site.
- 20 Flows down to here, and basically, there is
- 21 two basins that flow in series here to
- accomplish that. Then you have these two
- 23 systems which basically split up, flows that
- lead to the north and a portion that flows



- 1 through this corridor over here and end up in 2 this basin. And this road and some of the 3 stuff through the back here ends up in this basin. 4 5 MR. KLAUS: Okay. Thank you. Anybody 6 from the board have any comments? MR. GIORDANO: You mentioned the 7 8 Peekskill plant has capacity? 9 MR. CIARCIA: Yes. 10 MR. GIORDANO: And that doesn't 11 necessarily mean you get the connection for 12 the asking, it means --13 MR. CIARCIA: Oh, no, we don't have to go 14 to Westchester County. We're already in the 15 sewer system. We don't have to go to the 16 Board of Legislatures. We're in and we have 17 -- basically, what we need to do is get the 18 approval of the town and go to the 19 Westchester County Planning Department. 20 it's all local facilities we're dealing with. 21 MR. GIORDANO: Thank you. 22 MR. KLAUS: As you stated, you guys
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submitted quite a few alternatives. We were

able to whittle them down. The one that you

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1	have up on the board now is your preferred
2	alternative?
3	MR. STEINMETZ: Correct.
4	MR. KLAUS: Which is a 34-lot
5	subdivision, half acre zoning.
6	MR. STEINMETZ: With connection to Gay
7	Ridge.
8	MR. KLAUS: With a connection to Gay
9	Ridge. We don't have any comments from staff
10	on this yet. We have an e-mail submission.
11	Anybody from the engineering or planning
L 2	department have anything they want to ask of
13	the applicant right now? We're still waiting
L 4	for their written comment on environmental
L5	planning and engineering. Why don't we just
L6	open it up to the public. Anyone have any
L7	questions on the Yorktown Farms subdivision?
L8	Yes, sir.
L9	MR. KIELY: My name is Dan Kiely,
20	K-I-E-L-Y. I live at 71 Stonewall Court. I
21	sort of had maybe three areas that, in a
22	quick review of the draft, seem to jump out
23	at me. First, was the statistical analysis
<u>!</u> 4	that they used or basis that they used to



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project financial impact on the community was based on 1994 study on 1987 data. In essence, data that's 20 years old by the time this project is finished. I would submit, that if the plans -- the plans from the planning board or the town board were 20 years ago, the likelihood of them appearing to be accurate today would be slim indeed.

The traffic study that they did, I would also submit that if we were -- it happens to be around Route 6, but 202 on August 12th will also be pretty light. They chose August 12th to do the traffic studies during the summer, perhaps, if not the lightest, one of the lightest days of the year.

The third is, when the engineer just described where the water flows were going, he described up here and he described over here. Over here is nothing except backyards of the -- of the houses there, and the water does flow down. And removal of the trees, putting in driveways and houses, things pooping up back there is going to increase



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it. A neighbor a couple houses down, from those rains we had a few weeks ago had -- the fire department was pumping out the basement. More water in there. And I had three sump pumps going here. So, we really can't afford

to have any more water coming back in there.

MR. KLAUS: Okay. That's the southwest.

MR. KIELY: Southwest. Let me see, 31, 30, 29, those are the ones that are -- well, maybe it's 30, 29, 28, those right behind there.

MR. KLAUS: Okay.

MR. KIELY: And there doesn't appear to be anything that's there.

MR. KLAUS: We'll take a look at the topo and see. Okay. Thank you.

MR. KIELY: Thank you.

MR. KLAUS: Anyone else from the public have any comments on this?

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SPEAKER FROM PUBLIC: I just have a general comment here. I really haven't looked at the development carefully. There has been some pressure by administrative groups to increase the amount of impervious



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surface in the town. Basically, there is concern that there is too much water flow into basins which is causing, basically, too much pressure in lower lying areas. Which, in a sense, is resulting in very, very high increase in water table for short periods of time, especially in the town.

In the spirit of that study, which I can't recall right now, because I wouldn't --I didn't come prepared, will the developer put in impervious surfaces in the driveways?

MR. KLAUS: We can ask him. We can ask him. Anyone else from the public? Yes, sir.

MR. BARRETT: My name is Lou Barrett from 79 Stonewall Court.

MR. KLAUS: Excuse me, repeat your name, please.

MR. BARRETT: Lou Barrett.

MR. KLAUS: Go ahead, sir.

MR. BARRETT: Yes, I wish to complain. Every time there is a rain or even a large runoff, my backyard is more or less inundated with water. On many occasions there is -it's been in the basement. I have a sump



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pump put in and it still comes in. Boy, anymore is -- I'm right on the back where they're planning to build. If they begin taking down trees, I don't know if that's going to start the water from increasing.

MR. KLAUS: Okay. They're charged with -- they have to demonstrate that they're not going to -- they can't make the situation any worse. We can't necessarily mandate that they improve it, we can ask them to, in most instances they do. We'll make a note of your concerns. We'll take that into consideration. Thank you. Anyone else from the public wish to comment on this project? Yes, sir.

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MR. MONTELLO: My name is Jack Montello. I reside 85 Stonewall Court. And I was the gentleman that they were referring to earlier by having their basement pumped out by the fire department. My concern, again, that's been stated before is, I'm going to be living adjacent to this development and it does push back towards my house. And I haven't seen anything, what's in the plans to direct the



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water away from my house? And I have water in my basement, I'm afraid I'm going to have a swimming pool, and I don't want that.

MR. KLAUS: Okay. Thank you. Anyone else have a comment on this subdivision? All right. You have a couple written comments tonight. Clearly, what we're hearing from the public, the biggest issue right now is water, and primarily across that southwest section -- yeah, southwestern corner. Take a look at the topo. What I would like to do is adjourn the hearing and we'll adjourn it to -- wrong book. May or June?

MR. STEINMETZ: Mr. Chairman, can the applicant be heard on that?

MR. KLAUS: Sure.

MR. STEINMETZ: We had a noticed public hearing. We heard from the members of the public that spoke this evening loud and clear. Our development team is certainly going to endeavor to answer the questions on drainage and any other issues that are raised by your board or by your professional staff. You know that SEQR allows you to have a



1	ten-day written comment period. We would
2	certainly recommend that the board close the
3	public hearing this evening, leave the public
4	comment period open. If anyone did not have
5	a full and fair opportunity to appear this
6	evening, they can certainly submit written
7	questions and comments in the next ten days.
8	And we look forward to getting comments from
9	the staff. I would ask though, Mr. Chairman,
10	that you close the public hearing tonight in
11	light of the fact that we only had four
12	speakers
13	MR. KLAUS: I'm inclined to keep it open
14	for two weeks, the pubic comment period.
15	What I also my concern is that our staff
16	is going to be able to adequately review this
17	within two weeks. So, I would ask what I
18	would like to propose is that we close, and
19	actually, we have to sort of ask this
20	question to Kevin. I would entertain a
21	motion to close the public hearing, public
22	portion, public comment period, hold it open
23	for two weeks for written comments. But in
24	the event our staff is going to need more



1	time for review, it may not necessarily be
2	able complete it in two weeks. That would
3	can we then extend the period of time for
4	staff review at that point or should we
5	should I close the public portion, public
6	comment portion tonight and hold it open for
7	a month?
8	MR. TREGEDER: The public comment, you
9	mean the actual hearing?
10	MR. KLAUS: The actual hearing, yes, to
11	allow public comment for two weeks. My
12	concern is I don't want to lock staff out.
13	This is a fairly large subdivision.
14	MR. TEFEDER: If the applicants were to
15	consent to allowing additional time without
16	raising any statutory time limits, that would
17	make the situation easier.
18	MR. KLAUS: Yeah, I'm just concerned
19	about that meeting. As David said, there is
20	a huge amount of public here and that one
21	how would you feel about if we closed the
22	public portion tonight, left it open for
23	comments for two weeks for the public and
24	staff. But, in the event that we need more



1 time to gather information from staff, you would be able to hold it open until June. 2 3 Do we have a realistic MR. STEINMETZ: expectation from staff that we think we can 4 5 make that goal? And the only reason I ask 6 that, you will recall that we, I think, had 7 this DEIS accepted in March. MR. KLAUS: Yeah. 8 9 MR. STEINMETZ: And we asked -- and ordinarily SEQR would have us in front of 10 11 your board for public hearing during the 12 month of April. Because of scheduling, and 13 it didn't work, we agreed to --14 MR. KLAUS: Yeah. 15 MR. STEINMETZ: -- the May date in 16 cooperative fashion. And we want to continue 17 to work, Mr. Chairman, with you and your 18 board and the town in a cooperative fashion. 19 If I know that staff is going to endeavor to 20 meet that two-week deadline and thinks it 21 can, you know, I think my client is willing 22 to continue to cooperate. 23 MR. KLAUS: They will. We have two major -- more than two major -- projects. 24



- 1 And as you know, the comp plan review and
- everything else is going on.
- 3 MR. STEINMETZ: I'm aware.
- 4 MR. KLAUS: These guys are pretty
- 5 stressed out right now. That's, as you can
- see, there's only three people here tonight.
- 7 So, would that be agreeable then?
- 8 MR. STEINMETZ: Yes, my client indicates
- 9 yes.
- MR. KLAUS: Do I have a motion to do,
- 11 you know, what I just said, close the public
- portion of the hearing tonight and we hold
- open for comment for two weeks with the
- 14 possibility to extend for staff review beyond
- 15 that?
- MR. GIORDANO: So moved.
- 17 MR. FLYNN: Second.
- 18 MR. STEINMETZ: Thank you. We
- 19 appreciate it.
- 20 MR. KLAUS: Public comment in two weeks.
- 21 However, if staff needs more time for review
- 22 and comment --
- MR. STEINMETZ: Robyn will call Josh or
- 24 myself and we'll deal with it.



Т	MR. KLAUS: Yeah, we should have a
2	pretty good feel. Bottom line is, sort of
3	the May 23rd date. Hold it open until June
4	3rd for staff comment.
5	MR. STEINMETZ: Thank you.
6	MR. KLAUS: That concludes the public
7	hearing.
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9	(Time noted: 9:40 p.m.)
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1	CERTIFICATE
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4	I, Michael McAliney, Court Reporter and
5	Notary Public of the State of New York, do hereby
6	certify that the transcript of the foregoing
7	proceedings, taken at the time and place
8	aforesaid, is a true and correct transcription of
9	my shorthand notes.
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15	Michael McAliney,
16	Court Reporter
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June 25, 2007

Yorktown Farms Major Subdivision Section 17.06 Block 2 Lot 32

Adjourned Public Hearing on Supplement to Environmental Impact Statement

Location:

Route 6 & Somers town line, Jefferson Valley

Contact:

Ralph Mastromonaco, PE, PC & Tim Miller Associates

Description:

Proposed 22-lot subdivision on 43.5 acres in the R1-40 zone.

Following are the minutes from the June 11, 2007 public hearing.

David Steinmetz, project attorney, and Dan Ciarcia, project engineer, were present with applicant Val Santucci. Steinmetz stated this application has been before the Board in the past. This is a proposal for a 22-lot subdivision. Steinmetz stated the Board reviewed and accepted a DEIS. The applicant has been involved with a series of mitigation measures. Additionally, the Board is aware of the applicant's involvement with the community. Prior proposals included a 37-lot subdivision, 34-lots, 28-lots and now a 22-lot subdivision. Steinmetz stated the current proposal has been before the Town Board and the public. Steinmetz felt the NYS DEC letter will take everyone through another bureaucratic circle as it encouraging access to Route 6. We are, however, all aware that NYS DOT will not allow this connection. Klaus stated tonight's discussion regards the Addendum to the Impact Statement. Steiniger stated there were previous submissions which included active recreation and this element has changed. The applicant is also discussing sewing the 22 lots of the subdivision and the 67 adjacent lots. Klaus stated the applicant will need to indicate the limit of disturbance and address the Planning Department memo which recommendation changing the position some of the interior lots. Klaus opened the meeting to the public.

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Mr. J. Montello, 85 Stonewall Ct. Mr. Montello was concerned with the 67 homes that were to be sewered. He explained he had received a letter about sewered although his property was already connected to sewers. Mr. Montello asked why the applicant did not know we were on sewers. Additionally, Mr. Montello stated the area had a watertable issue. Mr. Montello explained he had spent a great deal of money on his property, and contacted a lawyer to ensure this proposal would not cause him additional problems. Klaus explained that the Board studied the drainage issues, and the applicant was obliged not to make the situation worse. Klaus stated what the Board has found, at times, a well engineered subdivision, will reduce run-off. Sometimes the applicant's drainage problems help neighbors solve their drainage issues. Ciarcia explained the Montellos were adjacent property owners, but not one of the 67 lots to be sewered.

Marie Panella, 105 Jennifer Ct. I have been part of the discussions for 18 months. The Town Board eliminated the soccer fields and suggested a \$225,000 fee in lieu. One of the other compromises was the reduction in lots with access to Route 6. The Town Board felt if there could not be direct access, there should be no access to Route 6.

Klaus there will be more public hearings as tonight's discussion regards only the environmental issues. There will be additional meetings to review the proposed layout.

<u>Jean Schenck 3702 Curry St.</u> Ms Schenck stated she has been working with the neighborhood community and feels frustrated at how long this process takes.

<u>Larry Armstrong</u>, 95 Gay Ridge Rd. Mr. Armstrong understands the frustration his neighbors were voicing.

<u>Roxanne Johnson, 3845 Gomer St</u> Ms. Johnson stated she has paid sewer taxes for 25-years, and could speak for herself. She informed the Board that 87 people signed a petition requesting the approval of this subdivision.

Flynn explained the Planning Board is a review body that reviews the technical details of a proposal, and must take the necessary time to ensure proper building plans.

Klaus stated that due to an error in the public notice the public hearing would be adorned, however, the applicant could move forward with the DEIS.

Upon motion by Flynn, seconded by Crispi, and with all present voting aye, the public hearing was adjourned until June 25, 2007.

Following are the minutes from the adjourned public hearing on June 25, 2007

Klaus explained this was an adjourned public hearing on the Supplement to Environment Impact Statement that was noticed incorrectly and adjourned until tonight. Klaus asked if there's anyone present that did not speak at the previous meeting.

Dan Kiely, 71 Stonewall Court. Kiely brought up the issue of water and runoff. He said plans indicate some temporary barrier during construction but what happens once this is removed. Klaus said someone spoke of this at the last meeting and the applicant cannot discharge water onto your property. In many instances, they have to contain runoff. Applicant will have to install curtain drains and calculate runoff. Kiely said, the SEIS states reduction in number of homes but no impact in fiscal impacts but this doesn't make sense. Number of school age children - 13% reduction with public vs. private. This number is incorrect. Kiely claims he won't have any knowledge of number of kids attending the public school. Kiely asked after the final review, can there still be an impact after that? Klaus said there shouldn't be since the FEIS gives the Board the technical documentation: the facts and figures. What the impacts are and how they are going to solve those problems such as stormwater, traffic. Flynn added it's a very complex process. Steiniger added the FEIS boils it down to whether the Planning Board should go ahead with the project, make a determination on which way to proceed. DEC, DOT, DEP, many agencies are involved.

Larry Armstrong - 95 Gay Ridge Road asked what are the next steps? Timeline? Klaus said there is no estimated time. It's up to them to come back to us. When we get the FEIS, it's circulated to other departments for any comments, any other questions. Once we accept it as complete, we have 30 days to make a decision. Then we look at the design stages, physical layout of the subdivision, preliminary approval, then final approval.

Upon motion by Steiniger, seconded by Giordano, and with all those present voting aye, the adjourned public hearing on the Supplement to Environmental Impact Statement was closed.

Upon motion by Giordano, seconded by Steiniger, and with all those present voting aye, the Special Session was closed.

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