

**PRESENT:** Chair David Hutchison  
Commissioner Dale Burrington  
Commissioner George Palladino  
Commissioner Lucille Wiggin  
Council Member Larry Malone

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Tracy Allen  
Commissioner Joan Fox  
Commissioner Richard Denicore

Chair Hutchison called the Regular Meeting to order and called the roll.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Hutchison stated that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 9, 2013 have not yet been transcribed.

### PETITIONERS

There were several people present to discuss the Blodgett Drive project.

Chair Hutchison pointed out that the Environmental Board has no power or authority to act on the Blodgett Drive project but the Board was willing to listen to their concerns. He reported that one of the concerns was regard to water and he learned from the Engineering Department that the water situation will be taken care of. He said that he cannot speak about the traffic concern.

Lee Sperling, 3 Crestmont Terrace, discussed his concerns with regard to the Blodgett Drive project which included water, traffic, the impact on the neighborhood and flooding due to water runoff, storm drainage and the infrastructure.

Kathy Ridgeway, Crestmont Terrace, presented pictures of her property and her neighbors' properties which showed the drainage, piping, and ditches during flooding. She informed the Board that her biggest concern is water. She felt that Newman should have to submit a bond to ensure that the work is completed and that it is completed correctly.

Judy Carrington stated that the road will not stand the traffic. She said she was told that the water pipes in that area are very fragile when the City did the work on the water main break on Blodgett Drive last year.

Victoria Endries, 2 Brigham Road, questioned what issues the Environmental Board dealt with.

Chair Hutchison explained that the Board does not have power to do much of anything. He said that the Board can advise the Council who makes the decisions. He felt that what is being discussed is really engineering issues which no one on the Board is qualified to deal with.

Victoria Endries stated that the residents in the area would also be exposed to a lot of light pollution. She said that Blodgett Drive is a dead end so there will be a lot of traffic and there's no other way out. She said there's only the one road.

Leon Brown, 4 Brigham Road, stated that his street has no storm sewer drains and no curbs so when water runs off from Carson Road, which is the street above them, there is no place for the water to go except down to their properties.

Chair Hutchison informed the petitioners that he learned that the City, by law, has to correct the water situation in the area in question.

Lee Sperling stated that he doesn't see how anything is going to change without better infrastructure.

Other petitioners reiterated concerns that were previously discussed and situations with water runoff, flooding, etc. that happened in the past.

Chair Hutchison stated that the main concern seems to be water. He asked if there were other concerns.

Several petitioners stated that the other concerns involved: traffic, water surface, the infrastructure of the sewer and the water pipes.

Keith Wilber, 13 Gilbert Street, stated because of the size of the structure that is being proposed, a sprinkler system will be required and the water pressure that will be required to make that type of system work at that level would be huge. Although Chair Hutchison stated that the Environmental Board has no authority, Mr. Wilber implored the Board to voice concerns. He said they need all the help they can get.

Chair Hutchison stated that the Environmental Board can forward the concerns expressed to the Planning Commission and the Council.

Chair Hutchison stated that the Engineering Department is addressing all of the water and sewer concerns.

Council Member Malone informed the residents that the City Council authorized that Newman pay for engineering services and studies on behalf of the City to deal with all of the concerns that have been expressed.

Kathy Ridgeway stated that a lot of the studies have been done and have been submitted. She said that all of the information can be obtained through a FOIL request.

A petitioner who resides at 4 Brigham Road, stated that Council Member Malone was against the parking area that was proposed in the area in question because it was a benefit to the City.

Council Member Malone stated that he was not in favor of the change in use.

The petitioner asked Council Member Malone if he personally saw a benefit to the City of the Newman project.

Council Member Malone responded that that is a more difficult question. He explained that he saw the benefit of high density housing. He said the City has a housing proposal going forward that identifies high density housing as a major priority. He said that the City has to make sure that the development improves the situation in the proposed area. Council Member Malone stated that his primary job is to protect his constituents' properties. He explained that he has to look at this situation as a level playing field. He said he would be willing to discuss this project with anyone if they wished to discuss it further with him.

Other issues discussed among the Board and the petitioners were: the number of vacant properties in the City, the project will not increase the tax base, this project is being built on a hill, there are many new student rentals, the increase in college enrollment, the scale of the project and the impact the project would have on the rental and single-family housing market.

Chair Hutchison encouraged everyone to put their concerns in writing and give to City Clerk Koury to forward to the Planning Commission.

Chair Hutchison thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Chair Hutchison stated that the City is proposing to do work in Neahwa Park. He presented the Parks Master Plans. Without going into much detail, Chair Hutchison briefed everyone on the proposals. He stated that the deadline for public input is March 15<sup>th</sup> and there are forms in the

City Hall Lobby to fill out. Chair Hutchison stated that this is a long term plan for Neahwa Park.

Chair Hutchison reported that the Environmental Board is promoting large trees on private property where there is room. He said the trees cost \$500.00 each, however, homeowners get them free. He asked that anyone let him know if they have a space or if they know of a space where a large tree could be planted.

**CORRESPONDENCE** - Chair Hutchison reported that there was no correspondence.

A discussion ensued with regard to the reservoir and what Rod Jones is doing there, however, due to a number of people talking, the discussion was inaudible. The Board asked that Rod Jones be invited to attend the April Environmental Meeting.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES**

Creek Program – Chair Hutchison reported that Commissioner Allen’s students are working on this.

Watershed Protection District – Chair Hutchison stated that nothing has happened with this in the past couple of months.

Commissioner Palladino stated that Laurens and Milford are also involved with the watershed.

Sustainability Working Group - Chair Hutchison stated that he didn’t have anything to report.

**UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS – Energy Audits and Energy Efficient Programs**

Chair Hutchison reported that NYSERDA is holding a workshop for citizens to attend on energy efficient programs.

**REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

Chair Hutchison stated that the Board does not have any special committees. He said this should be removed from the agenda.

**ENDURING ISSUES OF THE RECENT PAST:**

Commissioner Palladino stated that the Board was supposed to look at the items under “Enduring Issues of the Recent Past” to determine which items should remain as agenda items.

There was nothing significant to report on any of the items listed under “Enduring Issues of Recent Past.” These items should be removed from the agenda.

**NEW BUSINESS** - There was no new business to discuss.

Council Member Malone stated that he will report to the Council on the Board’s concerns with regard to the Blodgett Drive project and their recommendation for a water tank. The Board asked that they receive a copy of what Council Member Malone submits to the Council.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Hutchison duly adjourned the Regular Meeting at 9:10 p.m.

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JAMES R. KOURY, City Clerk

JRK/bsm