

DEERPARK PLANNING BOARD - AUGUST 22, 2012 - PAGE #
PUBLIC HEARING - DRAGON SPRINGS BUDDHIST, INC.

The Deerpark Planning Board met for a public hearing on Wednesday, August 22, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at Deerpark Town Hall, 420 Route 209, Huguenot, N.Y. The following were present:

BOARD MEMBERS

Al Schock, Chairman	Theresa Santiago	Derek Wilson
Willard Schadt	Mike Hunter	

OTHERS

Mr. Alfred A. Fusco, Jr., Town Engineer	Mr. David W. Bavoso, Town Attorney
Mr. David Dean, Town Board Liaison	Mr. Chun Feng, Architect, Dragon Springs Buddhist, Inc.
Mr. John White, Adjoiner	Ms. Linda Faix, Adjoiner
Mr. Paul Faix, Adjoiner	Mr. Ron Bertucci, Citizen
Mrs. Elizabeth Boucher, Adjoiner	Mr. Gary Flieger, Citizen
Ms. Donna Dunnett, Citizen	

The secretary read the public hearing notice: “Notice is hereby given of a Public Hearing to be held by the Planning Board of the Town of Deerpark, Orange County, New York, pursuant to Article 7 of the Town of Deerpark Zoning Law on the application of Dragon Springs Buddhist, Inc. for an amendment to their existing site plan. The application effects the following premises: Record Owner: Dragon Springs Buddhist, Inc.; Tax Map Designation: Section 31, Block 1, Lot 21.22; Zone Designation: RR. Located on Galley Hill Rd, Cuddebackville, Town of Deerpark, Orange County, New York. Information on this application is on file with the Town Clerk, Town Hall, Route 209, Huguenot, New York. The Hearing shall take place at 7:00 o’clock P.M. on the 22nd day of August, 2012 at Deerpark Town Hall, located on Route 209, Town of Deerpark, Orange County, New York, or as soon thereafter as practicable. All parties wishing to be heard shall be heard at that time.”

The applicant presented his certified mailing receipts to the secretary.

Al Schock: All right, Mr. Chen.

Chun Feng: The last time we were before the Planning Board, we proposed this change. This is a pre-existing condition, where we have a garage, a large garage here, at this location. And we want to turn the garage into an incense shop. An incense shop is for internal use, and we have a temple, and we have 3 temples, we burn a lot of incense, and it’s shipped from overseas, and we want to make it ourselves. So, the incense shop is pretty small. Then here is a gazebo location, we would like to make into a meditation hall. And then finally we have a storage shed. It’s a pre-fab storage shed and is going to be located here. So, these are the only changes we are proposing.

Al Schock: The proposed storage shed moved?

Chun Feng: Yes, otherwise we feel that the parking lot is close to the entrance, so unloading and loading the materials is easier.

Al Fusco: One of the things we did, we did a review at the last meeting, and we did a review up to this point. This is for informational purposes. I was not at the last meeting, but I did read the minutes, my son was here and spoke to me about it. We have submitted under 239, the General

DEERPARK PLANNING BOARD - AUGUST 22, 2012 - PAGE #
PUBLIC HEARING - DRAGON SPRINGS BUDDHIST, INC.

Municipal Law to the County, Mount Hope, but we haven't received anything back from them. The location of the storage shed has been moved, as per the latest plan. We do believe that it is a better location. It had been recommended earlier, I believe at the Planning Board. They took that under advisement, we had discussed it with them, and the new location does appear to be appropriate. The other two buildings, the incense building and the meditation area were previously on the approved site plan as smaller structures, with different uses, one was a garage and the other was a passive recreational gazebo. And they really didn't change that much, other than the footprint is a little bit larger. The footprint as proposed, do not impact the stormwater or sanitary or potable water capacity of the site. One thing I did want to remind everyone, and I did have a discussion with Dragon Springs that we will be coming back with a special use permit with a renewable application for this project in September or October, we have to check the exact date for that. Based on that, I think it's appropriate for Board comments, and then we'll move it along to lead agency, SEQRA, and then whatever pleasure the Board is.

Al Schock: Okay, and then we have to open it up to public comments.

Willard Schadt: I just have one question Al. The difference on the two buildings, as far as the actual construction, are you satisfied that they are similar enough, there are numerous specs on here, but is there is no substantial change on the actual construction specifications of the buildings?

Al Fusco: Well, they're bigger, but the physical construction will be similar. They did share their plans with the Building Department, and anything that's done, obviously, is subject to approval by the Building Department. And permits must be issued and everything must comply with the New York State Building Code.

Derek Wilson: I have one question on the 239 Law. Do we have to wait 30 days?

David Bavoso: We have to wait 30 days from the time that it is actually referred to the County. To hear back from, that's correct

Derek Wilson: You cannot make a conditional decision prior to getting there?
We have to wait the entire 30 days.

David Bavoso: I think that you can make a conditional approval, based upon the approval from the County, with the receipt that they don't have any input.

Derek Wilson: They have to wait 30 days, so that's an option... the option will be open to the Board?

David Bavoso: Right, if there's input from the County, that should be addressed.

Derek Wilson: The amendments that you are proposing don't affect the occupancy or the use of the site?

DEERPARK PLANNING BOARD - AUGUST 22, 2012 - PAGE #
PUBLIC HEARING - DRAGON SPRINGS BUDDHIST, INC.

Chun Feng: No.

Derek Wilson: I just want to make that clear, is that correct?

Chun Feng: Yes.

Al Schock: Okay, we'll take public comments. Please state your name and come to the podium.

John White: Good evening, my name is John White, and I've been raised on Galley Hill Road and have lived here for 25 years. I moved to Galley Hill Road, because it's a beautiful country road. It's a rural residential setting. Let me tell you what my life is like now. Seven or eight tour buses going up the road. Tractor trailers, cement trucks, 40, 50 to 100 cars a day going up and down our road. I live right on the end of that curve at 189 Galley Hill Road, and I hear attack dogs barking all night. I hear bulldozers running at 11:00 at night. This is what my life is. I have a gentleman now, who walks past every day at 5:00 in the morning, who is singing in Chinese and wakes up the neighbors. These are our neighbors. Now we're in the middle of them. We've had it. We pay taxes, they don't. I know neighbors who are neighbors to this thing, who didn't get letters from this town, because it says 140 Galley Hill Road. It's not 140 Galley Hill Road, and they're trying to change. We are a residential neighborhood. We raised our kids here, and we moved here, because we wanted to live here. That's what life is like on Galley Hill Road. Last year when the floods came, they dammed their driveway, but it flooded our road out, and we couldn't travel on our road, because they dammed their driveway. They didn't care what it did to our road. The Town of Deerpark had to pay to have that road fixed. I couldn't travel my road, because they had dammed their entrance to Dragon Springs. I came down here that day and brought the Supervisor and the Building Inspector and the police here that day. I couldn't travel the road that I pay taxes on. Now they want to put a factory up there. They want more construction. They want more traffic. They just told you that they're bringing trucks in, they're bringing supplies in. How many people live on Galley Hill Road here? Okay, what is Galley Hill Road like? Okay. Let me tell you that a day doesn't go by, when a resident of Galley Hill Road is not met head on by someone coming in or out of Dragon Springs. This is what our lives are. Five o'clock in the morning, on that curve 15 cars come down and blow their horns. It's a bad curve, I can understand why they're blowing their horns. But 5:00 in the morning, and when I call the Deerpark police, they don't come. Like I said, the other day, a couple of weeks ago, there were attack dogs in my front yard. I'm supposed to live with that. If this is a peaceful community, why do they have attack shepherds at the entrance. Why do they have it gated with fences and cameras all around. You folks better realize what is going on here. They're not our neighbors, they don't want to be our neighbors. They don't care what they do in our neighborhood. I stay here because my son is in high school. I'm a divorced parent and I pay almost \$10,000 a year to live on Galley Hill Road. And what am I getting from this town? Please tell me. These people come in with a lot of money, and want to come in and change our community. And they've changed it and it's not been for the best. So, like I said, I wish you would come and sit with me on my porch on a Saturday or a Sunday. See the volume of traffic and see the people standing in my driveway, to get on shuttle buses every single day and they go up to Dragon Springs. This is what life is like. I'm nervous and I'm pissed. And like I said. I'm a law enforcement officer, and I can't get nothing done in my community, when I call up and complain to the law enforcement officers about what is going on here. It's a shame. But let's

DEERPARK PLANNING BOARD - AUGUST 22, 2012 - PAGE #
PUBLIC HEARING - DRAGON SPRINGS BUDDHIST, INC.

grant them some more. That Langer house is an old house, it's a rural residential area. This is a rural residential neighborhood. And to the best of my knowledge, Warren Cuddebacks' house and Deerpark Farms hasn't been changed yet. But if they change the zoning, they're going to be jumping all around here, and you know what they want to do here. You guys have seen the plans. This is getting bigger. What about the people who are stuck in the middle? They say that they are separate entities, they are one. The man who owns the old Cuddeback farm and the resort, is a member of their falun gong, Dragon Springs. So, now you're looking at, what are you doing to us. All of you sit there. Mike, I've known you for a very long time. You know the type of person I am, I'm a community man. I help my neighbors all of the time. They don't help nobody, they do nothing but hurt this community, and they want to do more. Perfect example, I'll give you another example. Fireworks go off all of the time up there. If I set off fireworks at my house, you think the cops would be coming to my house. And these aren't the fireworks that you buy over in Pennsylvania. So, all of this is going on, and we live with it. And how much more do we get. They come here on a pretext of what they want to do, they don't want to do this. They don't. And I hope you people look at what is going on with us. Because there's people in this room that live here with us. Galley Hill Road is a very small road. When the school bus goes by, you have to go off the road to let the school bus go by. Think what it's like when tour buses go by. Sixty five to seventy people in a tour bus a day. They come in, in the middle of the night. I live right there, and when they come down that hill, their headlights shine right in my window. Al, you built my foundation, you know where I live. Everytime those tour buses come down, it's like they're in my bedroom window at midnight and 1:00, How would you like to live like that? And that's what we live with, these are our neighbors.

Derek Wilson: Can I ask you a question? You were talking about tour buses and the number of people that are in the tour buses. How many tour buses go by a day, with how many people in them?

John White: I see as many as seven or eight tour buses come in packed with people.

Derek Wilson: And can you estimate how many people are in each bus?

John White: The side of the bus says that it holds 65 people. I followed them from Galley Hill Road all the way up I-84 to Newburgh, packed. Now I'm told they're only allowed 200 people a day, or something like that, up there. So, what are all these people doing up there? Ask the people who are on this road, they'll tell you. Go see them. I'm Catholic. I don't see no buses saying Catholic Church on them, or the arch-diesis. But it says Dragon Springs on them. Right on their buses. They're tax exempt, aren't they. But they have buses, bus loads of people up there. You've got to look at what is going on here. And I know that our hands are tied sometimes. But do you know what, that's a residence they bought, it's not a business. We went through this with Rizkallah and all of the other places up there when it was a resort. And we shut this down. It's time we've got to wake up here. This is not fair to us. It's not fair to us. I appreciate your time. I know I'm saying a lot, but I'm going to tell you what. It's not nice living on Galley Hill Road. It's not, and I loved living on Galley Hill Road. I did. That's where I raised my kids. I built two houses on Galley Hill Road. That's how I feel, and you're my neighbors.

DEERPARK PLANNING BOARD - AUGUST 22, 2012 - PAGE #
PUBLIC HEARING - DRAGON SPRINGS BUDDHIST, INC.

But they're not my neighbors. They didn't come here to be neighbors, none of them did. Thank you.

Al Schock: Thank you. Any other comments? Please take the podium.

Linda Faix: My name is Linda Faix, and I've lived on Galley Hill Road since 1972. I don't think anyone else here has been around since 1972, My question to you guys is, how can you say that there's no impact on the footprint, on the community. Every time it rains, we have so much more rainwater coming down on our properties. I'm on the lower end of Galley Hill Road. It's incredible what I see what's happening to our neighborhood. I've seen it for so long, and nobody here cares about what is happening up there on the hill. These people come from where? Where are they from? We've been here for all of these years. We pay taxes on Galley Hill Road. Why are they here. You people need to protect us. We put you into office. What are you doing to take care of us? The flooding that we have, somehow the stream that has been up on that road has been re-directed. Everything has been moved in. Did the Corp. of Engineers do that, or did they do that? Does anybody ever go up there when it rains, and see the rainwater coming down on us? Does anybody know what is happening? We know, because we live there. Fifteen cement trucks went up that hill today, fifteen. I sit on my front porch and I can count them. I'm right before the bend. Fifteen a day. What are you doing up there? Are you going in the ground somewhere? Are you building something underground? Because I'll be damned, everytime a cement truck comes, I'm getting more rainwater in my yard. Is it fair? Everybody has a right to live and so do we, who live on Galley Hill Road all of these years. My life has been on that road. That's all. We want help. We deserve help.

Al Schock: Thank you. Yes Gary.

Gary Flieger: My name is Gary Flieger, I've lived here all of my life. Basically what I would like to put forward to do is, Dragon Springs, when they first came into our community had to get permits and go before this Board to start up there. Those permits have changed, it's changed, and it's been added to constantly. It's never really went back. I've seen where we asked developers, and they've had to do an impact study on what it does to the land. You're asking how many buses are going up there, you're trying to get a count on the people. You don't base it on what the activity is. You base it on what the potential is. They have a courtyard up there that can hold thousands. Their buildings hold thousands. That's what you have to base it on, because in 5 to 10 years, when they are done building, that's when the people come. At that point, they're done getting their permits, and then how does the town correct and upgrade the roads, other than using the taxpayers dollars? These people, you need to go and visit their site, visit their site. Don't look at the paper. Visit the site and see what the potential of this development is, and then make a judgment of whether or not, what you put in place, serves the community. That's the only way to really get into this. And you've got to look into it even further with, there's lands that are under different names. The Cuddeback farm, I don't think that that has Dragon Springs title on it. But yet the same people that are on the board of Dragon Springs is on that board. The same attorneys, the same real estate people. Now, if that's an impact, and you have two entities, let them be two entities, John and Joe, but if the two entities accent each other, and they are 2 miles away from each other, can you imagine what the traffic is between them? That's what I'm asking this Board. That's a hard thing for you to do. But if you were to go and look at it. What is the

DEERPARK PLANNING BOARD - AUGUST 22, 2012 - PAGE #
PUBLIC HEARING - DRAGON SPRINGS BUDDHIST, INC.

potential down the road? Don't count the cement trucks. I lost a mirror today, by the way, I passed a cement truck on that. It's a tough road for any commercial vehicles and for passing a car, they really don't pull over and let you pass when they see you coming. So, go and visit the

site and look at the potential. Don't try and count the cars. It's what is the potential of the site, is what you've got to judge it on. They're not done. You don't know what they're going to do. But by going and visiting, you're seeing what the potential is. How many thousands could be put there, and is the town roads able to support it? Because at that point, there's no more permits. It's the taxpayers dollars that will upgrade this community to support the impact that they put on us. Thank you.

Al Schock: Thank you. Any other comments? Please take the podium and state your name. Well, if there are no other comments, I will make a motion to close the public hearing.

Unknown: Are they really tax exempt?

Derek Wilson: That's not an issue that this Board can get into. You are free to go over to the town tax assessors' office and find out what their status is.

John White: I have one more question. Do I have to come up there?

Al Schock: Yes, you probably should, so it's on the record.

Derek Wilson: Just for the record, what was your name?

Donna Faix: F-A-I-X

Derek Wilson: Did you get it right? Okay.

John White: I'd like to ask the Planning Board, have they come for a change of use form yet? Have they submitted a change of use for this facility? Can you answer me that?

David Bavoso: Not that I am aware of, at the moment.

John White: How can they build a 1,500 seat amphitheater up there, 66,000 square feet visiting center and restaurant, when they're only allowed 200 people a day? Who's going to enforce this? I spoke to Mr. Emerson and he told me he can't do nothing. Who's going to sit there and count all of these people coming off of this bus? Who's going to enforce that? To the best of my knowledge, when I'm home, the Building Inspector has to make an appointment to go up there. When I built my house, on Galley Hill Road, the Building Inspector walked on my property to inspect things. When I put my shed up, he came and told me that I had to get a permit for my shed. Is he doing that up there? You know why, because he's afraid to, up there. Because everytime he's done that, there's been a law suit against this town. You all know, because you're part of it. So, everytime this has happened, and these are our neighbors, and they sit there like their friends. They're not friends. Like this lady said, this is an impact issue. The only way I'm going to sell my house, is if I sell it to them. What do you think the value of my home is going to

DEERPARK PLANNING BOARD - AUGUST 22, 2012 - PAGE #
PUBLIC HEARING - DRAGON SPRINGS BUDDHIST, INC.

be, if they do like Gary said? Either I'm going to have to join them, or I'm going to live there in misery. This is a big issue here. And you folks really have to do something. You should go up

there. You see all of these wonderful blueprints and designs. Go up and see what they're doing. That stream she's talking about. I can tell you, when they're up there building, that stream is red. It's red, with the amount of dirt and clay. That means that they are affecting that stream. That's a DEC violation. If you do something, you're supposed to build a bridge or something to circumvent that stream, they do it all of the time, but it's okay. It's okay. Like I said, I know what I did when I built my house. And I know everybody else here, they pay their taxes, when they build their houses. I know what the Code Enforcement Officer did to me. Does our Code Enforcement Officer even go in there?

Al Schock: No, Bob gave it over to the Town Engineer, so he doesn't go there.

John White: And that's a shame, because he's our Code Enforcement Office, that's his title now.

Derek Wilson: The Town Engineer has the authority. He has the authority of the Code Enforcement Officer.

John White: Okay, that's exactly what I'm saying. I spoke to the Code Enforcement and I've been here at other meetings talking on behalf of this town. A lot of people in this town are afraid to say things about them, because they bring in their lawyers, and would sue us again. And it gets tied up in litigation. There were other places they could've found. They could've found someplace else.

Derek Wilson: I just want to say, has Dragon Springs ever filed any lawsuits against the town, say within the last year?

David Bavoso: No, not within the last year.

John White: I can tell you about one they filed, because I was involved in it. When the Building Inspector gave them an estimate, and made them a \$17,000 bill on the building permit, based on the square footage. Dragon Springs came and argued it, because it was volunteer labor. I built my house. I didn't get that. I'm just telling you, I was involved in that. I had to come to speak to that, because I was the last one to build a house on Galley Hill Road, so I know exactly what went on that day. And they got that too. They got their building permit reduced, I didn't. And you know folks, like I said, these aren't our neighbors. And I'm going to be honest with you, I've lived next door to them for a long time, and they're not nice. And it's affected our lives. I hope you'll think about it. Thanks.

Al Schock: Thank you. Any other comments? Yes, ma'am.

Elizabeth Boucher: I'm Elizabeth Boucher, and I live off of Galley Hill Road on Benton Drive, and I used to be very congenial with this Dragon Springs. I used to support them. But now I'm beginning to wonder, why is there so much traffic on the road, with these big cement trucks that go around the curve and almost hit you. There are people who walk there, they used to walk

DEERPARK PLANNING BOARD - AUGUST 22, 2012 - PAGE #
PUBLIC HEARING - DRAGON SPRINGS BUDDHIST, INC.

there. And I'm wondering, why is there so much cement going up there? People have all kinds of fears. Everybody's getting suspicious, and I'm getting kind of suspicious. Because you can't cement everything. You just can't. Are they putting bunkers in? Believe it or not, some people

think that they are. If they're putting bunkers in, and that's what all of the cement is, and that's how far it's gone. Now, when I got this letter for the new proposal, and I said to myself, an incense place? I lived out on Long Island under LILCO, three blocks away from the power plant, and I saw the soot and the coal. And my Christmas was covered with snow that was black. When we took our laundry in from hanging on the line, we had to shake the coal and the soot off of it. Things are beginning to say. What is going on? Now they want to manufacturer some incense, and is that going to go up and pollute our air? I mean you don't know what goes on, because we haven't been up there to see what's going on. When they first came, they were very friends. They helped my husband and I out, when we were flooded in 2005. Yes, they were very kind. They brought a wheelbarrow and brought us something to pump out our water. And I want to believe the best. I want to believe that they are a spiritual group. But when with all of this stuff going on, and people being woken up by buses going up there. And I was really for that theater, I thought that that was going to be beautiful. And Liam said that when they got that in, we would get up there and see it. I've seen Chinese presentations on the news, and they have some beautiful things. I would love to see that. And I argued that, you know, drapes, oh no, they're not going to put something up there that's going to catch fire. They're going to respect us. But now I'm beginning to hear, everybody beginning to wonder. And I'm beginning to wonder myself. And it's true. I am beginning to get suspicious of you. And I'm an American. And I don't care where you came from or what you came from. You happen to be American enough to know that we do care about our environment, we do care about our neighbors. And we thought that you cared about us. You brought us up there and we saw beautiful architect. I thought my kids would go up, and I could show them, what the hands of people could do. But now I see the mechanical trucks, and all of the cement trucks and all of the noise and I don't get all of that. And I live off of Benton Drive. But my neighbors they have this all of the time. And you do not respect the roads. The roads are very narrow, and you take those cement trucks, someone is going to get killed or hurt. And I was a former nurse at Helen Hayes Hospital, and if one of those big trucks hits anybody, there's not going to be much left of them. You should be policing that. You should be caring. You should be enough of a neighbor to say, hey come on, we have to protect these people. We went up there, and you gave us food, you showed us how we thought you were being persecuted. And the first time we went up there, and the helicopter came down, and Liam said, everybody mingle because they're going to go back and take pictures and hurt our people in China. I believed that. And now I'm beginning to wonder. Have I let this town down, by thinking positive? I hope not. I hope you can tell us, what's going on, why you're doing this? And why aren't you supervising what is going up and down. The roads are falling apart. If you noticed, the roads are separating, there's so much weight. And if you kill somebody, or somebody is maimed, you will be sued for all you're worth. You will. Because this has been going on for so long. You should've figured a way to make the rest of the town safe. We're not against strangers, we're not against people. My mother came from Scotland, my father's family came from whoever knows, but do protect the earth. This is our earth. It's your earth. You need to think about what you're doing. I don't know what this incense is. Are you selling it? Are you making it? Are you going to release a big smoke cloud? Well, you should've had some input from these people, and not wait, until there's a meeting and nobody knows....

DEERPARK PLANNING BOARD - AUGUST 22, 2012 - PAGE #
PUBLIC HEARING - DRAGON SPRINGS BUDDHIST, INC.

Derek Wilson: If you would direct that question to the Board, we can get you an answer right now.

Elizabeth Boucher: All right, well, I'm done. I want to be a good neighbor to all of my neighbors on Galley Hill Road, I love where I am.

Derek Wilson: Okay, there were two things that were brought up. I would just like to clear up. Are there any bunkers being built? Is the cement being used for the facilities there on the site plan? Al, you've been up there.

Al Fusco: We have been up there as building inspection of all of the facilities and there are no bunkers. There's a lot of concrete and steel buildings. Now there's wooden buildings, which are part of their religious ceremonies. There are facilities there, as per the site plan, in relationship to the theaters and the multi-use buildings and things of that nature. And basically what you see on the plans is what's been built, it's been inspected and given building permits and the certificate of occupancy has been built, and then given on some of the buildings. And we have no fear factor, or anything like that.

Derek Wilson: Okay, so there's no bunkers up there. Everythings' being built up there is reflected on the plan.

Al Fusco: Everything is on the plan.

Derek Wilson: There's a tremendous amount of cement, because now they're getting away from the wood construction, into all cement style.

Al Fusco: That's correct, re-inforced concrete. One of the things I would say, is that, in relationship to the reason that they came here, is because they were sent by the Building Department, because there were changes to the plan. They changed it from a garage, into a incense manufacturing, they changed it from a gazebo to a meditation area, and the sizes were larger. And that's why they were directed to go before the Planning Board, so that you are aware of what you had approved, and what you expect to be up there, based on the approved plan.

Derek Wilson: I just want to straighten up Mrs. Bouchers' questions, could you just explain to the Board again. At the last meeting you briefly explained what's going on in the incense building, because we had some questions.

Chun Feng: Yes, let me explain. We have the temple, and in the temple we have this metal made ornaments, and inside those ornaments are burned incense. And let me explain what these ornaments are, they are very slow burning. When we buy these incense, there is a smell, it's not so pure. And the only reason we want to build this, is to remain ourselves to be pure. And that's the only purpose. And it's for internal use. The building is very, very small, there are only 3 or 4 people making it. It's hand made. They make it, and then we put it in the temple to

DEERPARK PLANNING BOARD - AUGUST 22, 2012 - PAGE #
PUBLIC HEARING - DRAGON SPRINGS BUDDHIST, INC.

slow burn it, and you won't see it. You won't see black smoke or nothing. It just has a religious meaning, everyday we burn that.

Al Schock: There are no emissions from the plant?

Chun Feng: No, we have been burning since day one, but just those we purchased. Now, we just want to make our own.

Al Schock: No, I'm saying in the manufacturing of the incense, there's no...

Chun Feng: No, no, no. This is just a wooden stick, and then you wrap it with incense material. It's like, I really don't know what kind of material, it's like old wrapping, and you just make it and slow burn it, the incense burns.

Derek Wilson: I just have one question on the incense building. I understand what you're saying for use, on site, the building, but the incense building you're putting up is 15,000 square feet?

Chun Feng: No, no, no. The incense building is only 2,400 square feet. The 15,000 square feet was the garage. We're going from 15,000 to 2,400, so it's a huge reduced.

Al Schock: Al, one of the other concerns, the brook that John brought up. The DEC advised them, and they needed a permit, and if the brook is soiled, I know it is at my gravel bank, if the brook is soiled do you call the DEC? Because I can't do anything about that, and obviously the Town of Deerpark can't do anything about that.

John White: The DEC don't come. Like I said they stand at the gate and they can't get in. And they said about their religious beliefs. They're not a religion, it's a way of life. They got religious exemption, because they lied on their application. They can't sit here and tell you that it's a religion.

Al Schock: John, if you're going to speak, please come up to the podium, and we're beyond that.

John White: No, you're not beyond that, because look at their website, they're not a religion, it's a way of life, that's exactly what it says on their website.

Al Schock: All right, any other comments?

Gary Flieger: One thing, I've followed their construction for a couple of years, and when I was up there, and they've never gotten a violation. When the regulations called for an 8 inch wall, they've put in a 12 inch wall. Have you had anything in violations or whatnot, since you've been down there for the last couple of years?

Al Fusco: There has been violations, but have been corrected.

Gary Flieger: But they're overbuilt.

DEERPARK PLANNING BOARD - AUGUST 22, 2012 - PAGE #
PUBLIC HEARING - DRAGON SPRINGS BUDDHIST, INC.

Al Fusco: There's no question about that.

Gary Flieger: So, you see why the cement trucks. It's because they really use the amount of cement and materials that they do use, it's unbelievable. I've never seen anything like it.

Chun Feng: What is an issue, our workers are from China, and they are not familiar with the steel buildings. In the United States there are not a lot of workers and they're from China and in China, everything is made of concrete.

John White: I question, if they have this compound that they're building up there and this huge structure, why do they have to put this place in a residential zone?

Derek Wilson: I'm sorry, I missed that?

John White: Why do they have this huge complex that they're building up on Galley Hill Road? Where is the incense factory going? It's going into the residence right.

Derek Wilson: It's on the site plan of the main area.

John White: I believe it's the old Langer house. That's what I've been told.

Chun Feng: This is here, and the garage is here... it's in the woods.

John White: I know where it is. My question is, if they have all of this land and all of these structures here, why are they putting it in the middle of Galley Hill Road? What's the significance of this? Does that change the zoning? My question to you is, they have this major complex on top of the mountain, and this is not going in that complex. This is going in the middle of Galley Hill Road.

Derek Wilson: What is going in the middle of Galley Hill Road?

John White: This thing they want to change, the incense thing, all right.

Chun Feng: It's not in the middle of Galley Hill Road. Here is Galley Hill Road. Galley Hill Road is here, and we are here.

John White: Oh, I'm sorry. We were informed it was in the residence here.

Derek Wilson: Well, that's what the public hearing is for, that everybody can communicate.

Donna Dunnett: I have a question.

Al Schock: Please take the podium and state your name.

DEERPARK PLANNING BOARD - AUGUST 22, 2012 - PAGE #
PUBLIC HEARING - DRAGON SPRINGS BUDDHIST, INC.

Donna Dunnett: My name is Donna Dunnett, and I live at 20 Grove Street. And I was wondering, their facility, they're claiming they're not a religion, just a group of people that might be communal.

Derek Wilson: Please direct your questions to the Board.

Donna Dunnett: Is the public welcome? When I go to a Presbyterian Church, I can go in.

Derek Wilson: The question is, is the public welcome to visit the facility?

Donna Dunnett: Yes, can I go to the Dragon Springs gate and say, "My name is, I'm your neighbor, and can I please see your pagodas, can I please see what your build?" Or is it like a private thing?

Chun Feng: It's like this, we will be open to the public, when the construction is done, very soon, I think. We will open to the public, that's for sure. And now, because it's under construction, the liability is huge. We are a very religious place our concept is different. We are not like a church, we are not like a Buddhist temple. and we believe in God. And we worship, we burn incense, and we do meditation, and we very much believe in God. So, we have our kind of religion, only it's not Catholic, Christian, that's the only difference.

Donna Dunnett: I understand that the Lenape, the native people of this land here, that we occupy, they've had their own religious beliefs also. They would burn sage and would smoke, and they went into a sweat lodge, which was unconventional from the Christians, and look what happened to them. So, I think that the more open and the more truthful and to not make other people feel that you're hiding something. If you're having busloads of people, then you're liable for them. So, why can't we, the people that support this community, why are we not welcome on to go in? That's my question.

Ron Bertucci: I'm Ron Bertucci, I live at 3 Avenue E in Myers Grove. When the falun gong people first came in here, they invited everyone in the community to come up and see what they were doing. They were under construction at that time. Now they're still under construction, and we're forbidden to go up there. This is my backyard, I face their mountain. I'd like to know what's going on up there. They want to make an incense house. They're making things for what? The community does not benefit from anything that these people are doing. They're destroying our roads, they're impacting our people here. If they have 500 people up there, that means they use 500 pounds of water, taken out of the mountain. Okay, if they have 1,000 people up there, that means they're using a lot of water, and all of that septic is going into where? They're using our resources. We're not allowed up there to see what they are doing, because they're under construction. In the beginning they brought us all up there, gave us all kinds of food, and drove us all around in their lincolns and their mercedes benz' to show us all of the stuff that they were doing up there, and now we can't go up there. There's something not right in heaven.

Al Schock: Thank you. Any other comments? Would you come up to the podium please?

DEERPARK PLANNING BOARD - AUGUST 22, 2012 - PAGE #
PUBLIC HEARING - DRAGON SPRINGS BUDDHIST, INC.

Linda Faix: Linda Faix, Galley Hill Road. All the years that I've been here, there's always been a 5 ton limit on that bridge. What has happened to that? Why is there not still a 5 ton limit? When those cement trucks are loaded, they weigh well over 5 tons. Why are they allowed to go across that bridge? That's my question.

Al Schock: I don't know if there's anybody here qualified to answer that.

Linda Faix: Well, what happened to the sign that was there forever? It's altogether gone.

Al Fusco: It's a county bridge, it's a county owned bridge. We can find that out.

Paul Faix: My name's Paul Faix, I'm retired from the Marine Corp for 30 years, and I moved up here a while back. There's a 5 ton weight limit on that bridge, and the sign's also gone now. That's a new bridge. I worked on cement trucks, and a cement truck weighs 80,000 pounds, and the concrete weighs 2,000 pounds. That's a ton. Now, if you add that up, 80,000 pounds, it's too much for that bridge, number 1, and number 2, and there's already holes in that bridge, and the town's already patched it up twice, and there's now a patch of black top over it. Are you people going to do anything about anything? And you're just listening to this. Thank you.

Al Schock: Any other comments please?

There was a brief discussion by a citizen here, but since she was not at the podium, the audio tape did not record her sentences.

Al Schock: Are there any other comments?

Willard Schadt: If there's no other comments, I'll make a motion to close the public hearing.

Theresa Santiago: Second.

Al Schock: All in favor?

Theresa Santiago: Aye.

Mike Hunter: Aye.

Derek Wilson: Aye.

Willard Schadt: Aye.

Al Shock: Aye.

Motion carried.

Public hearing adjourned at 8:52 p.m..