

STATE OF NEW YORK: COUNTY OF ORANGE
TOWN OF DEERPARK PLANNING BOARD

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In the Matter of

DRAGON SPRINGS BUDDHIST, INC
140 Galley Hill Road
Section 31, Block 1, Lots 72
Offsite wetland mitigation S/B/L:
28-1-47.225, 28-1-47.222, 28-1-47.215
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PUBLIC HEARING

Date: September 30, 2026
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Port Jervis High School
10 US-209
Port Jervis, NY 12771

BOARD MEMBERS: ROBERT VICARETTI, CHAIRMAN
PATRICK KEAN
ROBERT LUKE SCHOCK
CRAIG WAGNER

ALSO PRESENT: GLEN A. PLOTSKY, ESQ.
JAMES FARR
AMANDA SCHULTZ

APPLICANT'S REPRESENTATIVES:
Daniel Richmond, Esq., Zarin & Steinmetz,
LLP
Michael A. Morgante, P.E., Arden Consulting
Engineers, PLLC
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VICTORIA CHUMAS ARIAS
Court Reporter, CopyCAT Court Reporting

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MR. VICARETTI: Good evening,
ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the
Town of Deerpark Planning Board.
This is a special session tonight,
and it is in regards to the FEIS and
the site plan tonight for Dragon
Springs in Cuddebackville. Can we
stand for the Pledge, please?

(The Pledge of Allegiance was
recited.)

MR. VICARETTI: Thank you very
much. I will do a little
introduction tonight. The Planning
Board members we have here tonight,
this is Craig Wagner, Luke Schock,
Pat Kean, myself - the chairman, Bob
Vicaretti. We have Amanda Gorr, our
Planning Board secretary -- Schultz.
I'm sorry. It was Gorr. Mr. Jimmy
Farr, engineer for the project, and
our town attorney, Mr. Glen Plotsky.

Can we do roll call?

MR. WAGNER: Craig Wagner.

MR. KEAN: Pat Kean.

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MR. SCHOCK: Luke Schock.

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MR. VICARETTI: And Bob

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Vicaretti. Thank you very much. We just need to make a motion to open the Public Hearing, so I need to make a motion.

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MR. WAGNER: I will make that motion.

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MR. VICARETTI: Do I hear a

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second?

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MR. KEAN: Second.

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MR. VICARETTI: All in favor?

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(All Respond Yes.)

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MR. VICARETTI: The Public

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Hearing is open. Our Planning Board secretary, can you read the Notice, the Public Notice?

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MS. SCHULTZ: Town of Deerpark

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Planning Board. Legal Notice of

21

Completion of Final Environmental

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Impact Statement (FEIS) and Public

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Hearing on FEIS and site plan

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amendments for Dragon Springs

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Buddhist, Inc.

Dragon Springs Buddhist, Inc

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Notice is hereby given that the Planning Board of the Town of Deerpark, the Lead Agency for the review, pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), of site plan amendments proposed by and for Dragon Springs Buddhist, Inc, 140 Galley Hill Road, Town of Deerpark, has determined that the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) in connection with this action is complete and adequate for public review.

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Notice is further given that the Planning Board of the Town of Deerpark will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, September 30, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium of Port Jervis High School, 10 Route 209, Port Jervis, New York 12771, on the FEIS.

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Notice is further given that the Planning Board of the Town of Deerpark's Public Hearing on the FEIS

COPYCAT COURT REPORTING

Dragon Springs Buddhist, Inc

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will be combined with and held

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jointly with a Public Hearing on the

4

Site Plan Amendments proposed by

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Dragon Springs Buddhist, Inc.

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Notice is further given that

7

the Public Hearing -- at the Public

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Hearing, all interested persons will

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have an opportunity to be heard.

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Notice is further given that a

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copy of the FEIS, the proposed site

12

plan amendments, and all supporting

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materials are available for viewing

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during regular business at the

15

Planning Department at Town Hall.

16

Written comments will be accepted for

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10 days following the closure of the

18

Public Hearing.

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Lead Agency, Town of Deerpark

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Planning Board. Contact Person for

21

additional information: Amanda

22

Schultz, Planning Board secretary.

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Town of Deerpark Town Hall, 420 Route

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209, Huguenot, New York 12746.

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Telephone (845) 856-2210,

COPYCAT COURT REPORTING

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agorr@townofdeerparkny.gov

Proposed Action: Dragon
Springs Buddhist, Inc, the project
sponsor, currently owns and operates
a place of worship with temple
buildings, two religious schools, and
various accessory buildings on a
423-acre property located on Galley
Hill Road in the Town of Deerpark,
Orange County, New York, within the
Rural Residential (RR) Zoning
District. The project sponsor
proposes to amend its site plan to
include a new temple, a new music
hall building, a concrete plaza in
front of the rehearsal hall with a
sculpture and fountain, a new glass
atrium, gazebos, pavilions, covered
walkways, information stations, and
souvenir and snack stalls, a new
construction work shed, stone
workshop, and carport garage, a new
elevated emergency access plaza,
relocation of a storage shed,

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2 expanded parking facilities with two
3 new parking structures, an expanded
4 wastewater system with 100,000
5 gallons-per-day treatment and
6 subsurface absorption capacity,
7 reconfiguration of previously
8 approved Lake Drive and dam
9 improvements, installation of a new
10 286-KW rooftop solar PV system on
11 existing building roofs and
12 associated water system improvement,
13 stormwater management, access roads,
14 wetland mitigation, lighting, and
15 landscaping.

16 Project location: 140 Galley
17 Hill Road in the Town of Deerpark,
18 Section, Block, Lot (S/B/L)
19 31-1-72. Offsite wetland mitigation
20 sites are S/B/L 28-1-47.225,
21 28-1-47.222, and 28-1-47.215. SEQRA
22 Classification, type I action. Dated
23 September 15, 2026.

24 MR. VICARETTI: Thank you,
25 Amanda. The next thing is -- do we

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have the certified mailing receipts?

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Are they all in order?

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MS. SCHULTZ: Yes.

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MR. VICARETTI: Glen, I'll turn

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the meeting over to you now.

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MR. PLOTSKY: Sure.

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MR. VICARETTI: I am going to

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have our Town attorney kind of go

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over some parameters for tonight's

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meeting and a few other things. So,

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Glen Plotsky, please.

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MR. PLOTSKY: Thank you. I

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just want to confirm, Ms. Schultz,

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you have verified that the certified

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mailings went out as directed to the

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applicant or by them?

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MS. SCHULTZ: (Inaudible.)

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MR. PLOTSKY: (Indicating.)

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MS. SCHULTZ: Yes.

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MR. PLOTSKY: Thank you.

22

So, first of all, good evening.

23

I have my microphone on not because I

24

think I necessarily need it for

25

everybody to hear me, but it's also

1
2 important that the stenographer or
3 court reporter/transcriptionist here.
4 You may notice that when I asked Ms.
5 Schultz the question about certified
6 mailings and she shook her head, I
7 pointed at my ear and made her say
8 "yes." The reason for that is
9 because the transcriptionist cannot
10 take down a head shake, an arm wave,
11 a nod, whatever the case might be.
12 She may make a notation that you were
13 jumping up and down, but you need to
14 speak. I am going to thank you right
15 now because you are all silent while
16 I'm speaking. I am going to ask you
17 to do exactly the same thing for
18 every speaker who speaks this
19 evening. It's very, very important
20 that everyone be courteous to
21 everyone else. I can guarantee you
22 that there are people in this room
23 who will disagree with statements
24 made by other people made in this
25 room. Guarantee it. No question in

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my mind. If you extend the courtesy

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to the people who disagree with you,

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they will extend the courtesy to

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those who disagree with them. Very,

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very important.

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All speakers have to sign in on

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a sign-in sheet. It's up here in the

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front. Basically, the way that

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tonight's hearing is going to work is

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that the applicant will make a brief

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presentation so that you all know

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what is being asked for. Beyond

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that, I am not going to step on their

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toes. They are going to make

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whatever presentation they make.

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After the application makes their --

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after the applicant makes their

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presentation, I am going to identify

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for the record at least six documents

21

that were received before the hearing

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started from various advocates for

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one side or the other. Basically,

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when I say "one side or the other,"

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proponents of the project or

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2 objections to the project. After
3 those exhibits are received, we will
4 then call up the speakers one at a
5 time. Each speaker will be given
6 three minutes. Hard stop. If we let
7 any speaker speak for significantly
8 longer than that, or frankly longer
9 than that, this meeting would go into
10 next week. At some point this
11 evening, the Board may determine that
12 they're done; they can't hear any
13 more; they are not going to
14 understand it; it's going to --
15 they're going to start losing their
16 effectiveness. When that happens,
17 the hearing will conclude for oral
18 public comment.

19 After the hearing this evening
20 concludes, there will be a written
21 comment period. The written comment
22 period will close as of October 13th,
23 close of business. That's a Tuesday
24 night, approximately 13 days out.

25 The next night, the Planning

1
2 Board will have Dragon Springs
3 Buddhist on its agenda. I don't
4 expect them to be at the meeting. I
5 don't expect any of you to be at the
6 meeting. The sole purpose of that
7 agenda item will be to close written
8 comment. So, the oral comment will
9 close tonight. There is then a
10 14-day period of written comment.
11 That will close on the 13th of
12 October. And then, on the 14th of
13 October, the Board will officially,
14 at its next regularly scheduled
15 meeting, close this matter for Public
16 Hearing purposes completely.

17 All comments or questions must
18 be directed to the Board. They
19 cannot be directed to the applicant.
20 The applicant will not answer any of
21 your questions tonight. The Board
22 will not answer any of your questions
23 tonight. One of the reasons we have
24 a transcriptionist, besides the fact
25 that it's kind of required, is so

1
2 that we can identify any and all
3 comments and any and all questions
4 from the public. The applicant and
5 the Board will address them, as
6 appropriate, after the Public Hearing
7 is closed. We will be taking -- I am
8 anticipating that we will be taking
9 one or more 10 to 15-minute breaks.
10 That is in part to give the
11 transcriptionist's fingers a break.
12 It's also for my kidneys and anybody
13 else that might have similar issues.

14 So again, written -- oral
15 comments limited to three minutes.
16 You will be called up one at a time.
17 We will be asking you to say and
18 spell your name. That's so that we
19 have it correct in the record.
20 Please speak slowly and clearly. I
21 think you can see that I'm trying to
22 do that to give the reporter a break.
23 And after this oral hearing concludes
24 this evening, there will be a written
25 comment period that you can submit

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any additional comments you deem

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appropriate.

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Last thing, I am going to
remind you, please, please, please be

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courteous to one another. Everybody

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has an opportunity to be heard. Let

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that happen. At this point, I

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believe that the applicant will start

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with attorney Daniel Richmond, so I

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will ask him to start.

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MR. RICHMOND: Good evening.

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Again, as was said, my name is Daniel

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Richmond, from the law firm Zarin &

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Steinmetz, on behalf of the

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applicant, Dragon Springs Buddhist,

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Inc. We are pleased to be before you

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tonight, and we are thankful that you

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have all come out to express your

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interest. We are looking forward to

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hearing it. With me this evening is

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Levi Browde from Dragon Springs, who

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is going to give a brief presentation

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about the current use of this

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religious and educational facility.

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Then, Levi will hand it off to

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Michael Morgante, who will give you a

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brief overview of the proposed site

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plan amendments.

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MR. BROWDE: Good evening,

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everyone. Thank you for taking the

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time out. So, just -- you are going

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to hear a lot about Dragon Springs.

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We just want to take really a minute

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and explain what exactly is up --

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what is Dragon Springs. So, it is

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designated as a house of worship for

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Falun Gong practitioners. Falun Gong

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is a Buddhist-based spiritual

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practice. And it has four distinct

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entities, one of which is a Buddhist

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temple grounds. These are buildings

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built in the authentic Tang Dynasty

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style, a style you don't really see

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around the word anymore. That's the

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first entity.

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The second entity is Fei Tian

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Academy of the Arts. This is a

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school chartered by New York. It

1
2 teaches standard New York curriculum
3 as well as a core competency in the
4 arts.

5 Then, there is Fei Tian
6 College, which is accredited by
7 NECHE, the same organization that
8 credits lesser known colleges, like
9 Harvard, Yale, and schools like that.

10 And then, the last entity, the
11 fourth entity is the house of Shen
12 Yun Performing Arts, performing
13 classical Chinese dance and music
14 company, whose performances share
15 authentic Chinese culture, expose the
16 tyranny of the CCP, and share
17 elements of the Falun Gong faith.
18 Those are the entities that are up on
19 Dragon Springs, and what we will be
20 talking about tonight.

21 MR. MORGANTE: So, on that
22 note, my name, again, is Michael
23 Morgante. I'm a professional
24 engineer in the State of New York.
25 And tonight, what I will do is give

1
2 you an overview of the project
3 essentially.

4 So, existing site conditions,
5 as you can see here, include an
6 existing religious and educational
7 building, dance training building,
8 existing parking garage, some
9 existing temple buildings, a lake,
10 storage sheds up in the back over
11 here. And in this northwest corner,
12 over here, we just have some other
13 storage sheds and workshops, statue
14 work sheds, and a residence hall at
15 number three in this location.

16 So, 70 acres of the 423-acre
17 property is currently developed. And
18 I showed you in the previous slide
19 what those buildings were that were
20 included in that. As a part of this
21 proposed site plan, we're adding a
22 new temple, which is going in this
23 location, generally speaking, right
24 here; a music Hall over here in the
25 southeast corner; parking structures,

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there is one there, and there is one there, as well as over here; and we're building a second lake in this location right here; and a bunch of other access structures as noted, including over here, which are some snack stalls and souvenir shops. They're also adding a 280-KW solar panel system to the buildings. Seventy percent of the property will remain undeveloped. As you can see here, this heavy dash, double-dashed line around the perimeter is the extent of the property, and most of the development is focused right here in the southeastern corner, so a majority of the property will continue to remain undeveloped. And as you can see from the previous slides, the development that Dragon Springs does propose fits in nicely with the existing topography and landscaping.

Another part of this project

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here is some wetland mitigation.

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That mitigation is going to take

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place just on the -- along the

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northern portion of the Dragon

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Springs property line here. It is

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offsite. It is in this location

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here, and this is kind of what it

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will look like. This is to mitigate

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any disturbances to wetlands they're

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proposing. So the public knows, with

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the DEC wetlands, or most wetlands,

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there is a compensatory requirement

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for two times an area that you

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disturb. So, if you disturb an acre

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of wetlands, you've generally got to

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propose two acres of wetlands. And

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so, this is going to highlight the

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revisions since the original DEIS.

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The wastewater discharge,

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originally, this project was proposed

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with surface discharge, and now, due

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to comments we've had during the DEIS

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period and consultation with

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engineers and outside agencies, we

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2 are now proposing subsurface
3 discharge. So, just so the public
4 understands, the plant will go
5 through at least a secondary, if not
6 tertiary treatment process. The
7 water that comes out of the plant
8 will be crystal clear. I wouldn't do
9 it, but technically, it's drinkable.
10 That water will then -- fully treated
11 water be dissipated or absorbed into
12 the ground. So, we are not sending
13 untreated wastewater into the ground.
14 We are sending highly treated
15 wastewater into the ground. I want
16 to make sure that's noted.

17 The water to main associated
18 with the project, a small restaurant
19 cafe in the proposal, these were all,
20 I believe, added during the DEIS
21 comment period. It raises the
22 average daily water demand from 88 to
23 98,000 gallons. It's also worth
24 noting Dragon Springs is not going to
25 have 98,000 gallons right off the

1
2 bat. It's going to take a while to
3 build these facilities. It's going
4 to take a while to create that water
5 demand. Ultimately, their vision is
6 to get a water demand permit for the
7 ultimate amount of water they want to
8 withdraw, so we don't do this over
9 and over again.

10 In terms of water supply,
11 existing irrigation well number three
12 was added to this water system to
13 offset the pumping capacity of well
14 number seven. Slightly more detail
15 on that, well number seven is a
16 high-yielding well. However, there's
17 small piping that's associated, which
18 actually therefore limits the pumping
19 capacity of well number seven. So,
20 rather than do a lot of disturbance,
21 rip up lines, and replace the lines,
22 they want to put irrigation well
23 number three online, which has, we
24 believe, adequate capacity to make up
25 any differences that are needed.

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And then parking. Parking garage C replaces the garage B expansion in front of the existing college building. This was to reduce construction disruption due to school operations and increase onsite parking capacity. And I will show you again quickly on the maps where those items are. So, again, here is -- I am zooming in -- parking garage A, parking garage C, the proposed glass atrium, this previously approved lake that is going to be constructed, the music hall. And then, these other ancillary smaller items that are on the other side of the site, anything in yellow that you see on this plan.

Again, so temple four, I showed where that was before. It's a new temple, an associated gazebo, and covered walkways. Visitor services, we have souvenir and snack stalls I showed you on the southwestern

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portion of the site. And information stations have been proposed. We have got a new 286-kilowatt rooftop solar photovoltaic system on the existing roof.

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We have -- going through all of the requirements and regulations for stormwater management for this project, we're meeting New York State DEC SWPPP requirements. We've upgraded fire protection for this site. We've got offsite wetland mitigation, additional emergency access roads, some of which came from DEIS Public Hearings, and landscaping. And there's other minor rearrangements that are shown, as I noted before, so work sheds, storage sheds, and security personnel house are either being relocated or slightly modified.

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So, these next two slides will go over the impacts associated with this project and the mitigation,

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that's proposed mitigation, and how

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it will be correcting any impacts

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that might happen as a result of that

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particular proposal.

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So soil, we've got about 15

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acres of new impervious surface.

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About 50 acres will be disturbed. We

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are -- as you can see in the design I

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showed in the map before, we are

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clustering everything. We're

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focusing all of the development in

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one area of the site. We are not

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sprawling at this time all over the

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site. We are proposing garages that

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are over existing parking lots. We

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are not creating impervious surfaces

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that way. Trying to balance, cut the

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filling or grading on the site, so we

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have limited the amount of materials

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or soil that needs to be exported off

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the site. And again, enhanced

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erosion controls associated with our

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plan, as a result of the bodies of

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water that we need to protect.

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In terms of surface water wetlands, we've got about 0.6 acres of direct impact, 4.6 acres indirect disturbance from inundation by the new lake. So, what we've done is, again, we have created the additional wetlands offsite, which is more than the area that has been affected, as I noted earlier.

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And the groundwater and water supply system, we're looking at 98,000 gallons a day at full build-out. This will provide water for hydrants and irrigation. Obviously, we will be implementing water-saving fixtures to try to reduce usage. And where possible, for stormwater management and items of that nature, we have some infiltration basins that are proposed. We're trying to recharge the ground -- recharge the groundwater system with any kind of runoff that we had.

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The wastewater system is similar to the primary water supply, the water supply system. We're going to be looking at a plant that's about 98,000 gallons per day. We expanded the plant under the current amended state permit. Again, we are discharging to subsurface soils, not the surface. Groundwater monitoring are proposed within the FEIS for these wells. These wells will also be backed up with emergency power, and they will have certified water operators that will actually handle both the water and the wastewater components of the site.

In terms of stormwater management, we are going to have runoff from the new development, more impervious surface. So, the new lake that's being proposed will also slow down runoff. So, the runoff will make its way to the lake and actually ultimately attenuate the flow. In

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accordance with New York City DEC

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regulations, we've got great

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infrastructure proposed; we've got

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enhanced erosion control; and we're

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trying to infiltrate as much of the

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stormwater as we can to try to

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replicate predevelopment hydrology.

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Let me give that in laymen's terms.

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We're trying to take water that runs

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off from the pavement and put it back

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into the ground, so it gets back into

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the groundwater supply and keeps that

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replenished.

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In terms of wildlife, there

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were concerns there were some hits

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for eagles, bats, muscles, and

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pogonia. So what we've proposed,

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which is typical for anything dealing

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with bats, you only have winter tree

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clearance. Essentially, from

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November 1st to March 31st, we're

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allowed to clear. There is no

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blasting within a certain radius of

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any potential eagle's nest. We've

1
2 got cutoff lighting, in other words
3 dark-sky compliant, cutoff lighting.
4 We are creating an offsite wetland
5 habitat. We're enhancing the site
6 with additional landscaping and tree
7 plantings.

8 And so, in terms of traffic and
9 parking, we've added commuter and
10 event trips, and we have a current
11 existing parking shortfall. The
12 level of service is C or better, as
13 maintained on local roads, so you
14 shouldn't see any significant impacts
15 to your local roads. It should not
16 change the level of service,
17 according to our traffic impact
18 studies. We've tried to reserve
19 visitor time slots to stage traffic
20 during events. Garages A and C will
21 provide metered parking for current
22 and future operations. Parking
23 garage C will actually address
24 current deficiencies in parking on
25 the site.

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And then, in terms of land use and the view shed, we're going to require some height variances for temple four, garage C, and the atrium. These buildings are actually below the existing tree line. And if you look at the existing topography of the site, it makes it very difficult, if not impossible, to see these new buildings. Dragon Springs has obtained similar height variances for other structures on the site. I believe that those are not visible as well.

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We're preserving the dense natural vegetation on more than 70 percent of the site, and we're maintaining setbacks greater than the minimum zoning requirements that are required by the Town.

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In terms of community services, there is no substantial increase in demand. They do have staff security gates. They have onsite first

1
2 responder training. They have their
3 own fire hydrants, fire suppression
4 systems, sprinklers, generators, and
5 they have actually fire department
6 trainings for their onsite fire
7 department team.

8 So, in general, that concludes
9 my presentation from more of an
10 engineering standpoint and an overall
11 project standpoint. At this point, I
12 will turn the microphone back to over
13 to Mr. Plotsky and Mr. Vicaretti, and
14 you guys can do what you need to do
15 to start the actual Public Hearing
16 process.

17 MR. VICARETTI: Thank you, Mr.
18 Morgante. All right. So Jim, you
19 got any questions for the
20 presentation?

21 MR. FARR: No, I do not.

22 MR. VICARETTI: Mr. Plotsky?

23 MR. PLOTSKY: No, sir.

24 MR. VICARETTI: Any comments
25 from the Planning Board?

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(No Response.)

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MR. VICARETTI: I guess there
were some written comments submitted.

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MR. PLOTSKY: If I may?

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MR. VICARETTI: Yes.

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MR. PLOTSKY: So, the first
item that the Board will be provided
with and will be made part of the
record is a letter from E.
Christopher Murray, an attorney from
Rivkin Radler, dated September 30th,
2026.

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(Whereupon, Letter from E.
Christopher Murray, Esq., of Rivkin
Radler was deemed marked as Exhibit 1
for identification as of this date by
Counsel.)

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MR. PLOTSKY: Exhibit Number 2
that will be received by the Board is
a document. I guess it's an analysis
of the final Environmental Impact
Statement, provided by CEA Engineers,
P.C., specifically Kevin Draganchuk,
Professional Engineer.

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(Whereupon, Document from Kevin Draganchuk of CEA Engineers, P.C., was deemed marked as Exhibit 2 for identification as of this date by Counsel.)

MR. PLOTSKY: Exhibit Number 3 is from SiMCO Engineering. It is a traffic impact analysis review submitted to the Board for their consideration.

(Whereupon, SiMCO Engineering Traffic Impact Analysis Review was deemed marked as Exhibit 3 for identification as of this date by Counsel.)

MR. PLOTSKY: Exhibit number 4 is a document from HydroQuest. It has to do with technical considerations regarding the aquifer, the water body, water quality, and water supply availability.

(Whereupon, HydroQuest Document was deemed marked as Exhibit 4 for identification as of this date by

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2 Counsel.)

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MR. PLOTSKY: Exhibit Number 5 is a statement from a woman named Jill on behalf of Sally Porter reportedly containing Sally's words.

(Whereupon, Statement from Jill on Behalf of Sally Porter was deemed marked as Exhibit 5 for identification as of this date by Counsel.)

MR. PLOTSKY: And Exhibit Number 6 is a letter from the Cuddebackville Fire District regarding this project.

(Whereupon, Letter from Cuddebackville Fire District was deemed marked as Exhibit 6 for identification as of this date by Counsel.)

MR. PLOTSKY: I will remind the public speakers before I start calling them up that you should attempt as best you can to speak slowly and clearly, more like I am

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than like Mr. Morgante was. I am

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pretty sure you can tell the

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difference; I know I can.

5

So, the first speaker is Chris

6

Murray.

7

MR. VICARETTI: When you come

8

up to the podium, just state your

9

name for the record, please.

10

MR. PLOTSKY: Please state and

11

spell your name.

12

MR. MURRAY: Sure. Chris

13

Murray, C-H-R-I-S and M-U-R-R-A-Y.

14

Thank you. First of all, I would

15

like to thank the Board for having

16

this Public Hearing. I was at the

17

last Public Hearing in 2019 with

18

regard to the DEIS. And what jumps

19

out at me is, why the delay? It was

20

from 2019. There were a lot of very

21

cogent concerns expressed. Nothing

22

happened for six years. Then, all of

23

a sudden, two months ago they file

24

the FEIS and want to get approvals.

25

And at that point, they were arguing

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there should be no Public Hearing.

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To say nothing has changed in the last seven years that would warrant to look at this project anew is ridiculous. There was COVID, there has been developments, there have been a number of changes in both the community and in the specific project. The delay itself, even though like a six-month delay or a year delay is not considered to be necessarily material requiring supplemental DEIS, but this is seven years. To say that the world stood still during this time period is just not real, realistic.

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On top of the delay, the unexplained delay in proceeding with this, they have now changed the project substantially. They say that this was to address environmental concerns or other concerns expressed at the last public meeting, but they're not. A number of them,

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including a temple, a tea pavilion,

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an access road, storage facilities,

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additional parking, and additional

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water use are significant and

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material changes in the project.

7

There is no basis to just say, oh,

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these are just fine; they are helping

9

mitigate the damages. They're not.

10

They are increasing the size and the

11

scope of project, which also requires

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additional supplemental DEIS.

13

In addition to the FEIS,

14

there's a number of areas where they

15

have not even addressed the concerns

16

expressed at the meeting seven years

17

ago. One example they talked about,

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whether there would be

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growth-inducing aspects of the

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project, and I think the whole thing

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was designed to bring more people to

22

the site. They are expanding

23

parking. They're expanding their

24

facilities. To say that there is no

25

increase in people coming to the site

1
2 is not realistic, and their whole --
3 whole analysis is to say, well, we
4 don't think there is going to be any
5 off-site additions or increased
6 demand. You're telling me that they
7 are going to build this large
8 development, and it's not going to
9 affect whether there is enough
10 restaurants, or hotels, or housing in
11 the area?

12 MR. PLOTSKY: Sorry. Time.

13 MR. MURRAY: Thank you very
14 much.

15 MR. PLOTSKY: Angela Lee.
16 Spell your name, ma'am.

17 MR. LEE: Good evening. My
18 name is Angela Lee. Angela,
19 A-N-G-E-L-A, last name L-E-E. My
20 name is Angela Lee, and I live at 48
21 Manner Drive (Phonetic), and
22 sometimes I have the chance to know
23 former Town Supervisor Gary Spears.
24 And I often met him in my backyard.
25 I am very glad to be here tonight to

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express my full support for Dragon Springs application.

In January 2011, I was honored by Rite Aid President and CEO John Standley as one of only eight pharmacists nationwide registered -- recognized for outstanding customer services and selected from more than 12,000 pharmacists through all over 31,000 customers nominations. When COVID suddenly struck in 2020, everyone was scared and wanted to stay home. But as president of the Port Jervis Rotary Club, my heart immediately went to our first responders. I was lucky enough to obtain 2,000 masks from Taiwan and spread out to 25 organizations in the community, and then our Deerpark Police Department, Fire Department, and Port Jervis Police Department, Fire Department, and the hospital. Of those communities, 25 of them, and I delivered the masks myself together

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2 with my rotary club members. I love
3 people, and I love Deerpark. I
4 always want the very best for our
5 community. I believe Dragon Springs
6 has brought cultural richness,
7 economic vitality, and positive
8 contributions to Deerpark. That is
9 why I wholeheartedly support Dragon
10 Springs' application. Thank you very
11 much.

12 MR. PLOTSKY: The third speaker
13 crossed their name out, so Robert Maj
14 -- sorry if I can't read it well.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Majcher.

16 MR. PLOTSKY: Majcher, thank
17 you. Again, sir, please state and
18 spell your name.

19 MR. MAJCHER: Majcher,
20 M-A-J-C-H-E-R. Thank you for the
21 Planning Board to have this
22 discussion. I am very concerned that
23 Dragon Springs' plan to expand the
24 wastewater testing and runoff from
25 Dragon Springs has already shown high

1
2 levels of E. Coli for the past not
3 six months, not one year, but for the
4 past eight years. Dragon Springs
5 current environmental impact
6 statement states it's expanding its
7 current water treatment system from
8 18,000 gallons a day to 100,000
9 gallons a day. Dragon Springs claims
10 that this 100,000 gallons a day is
11 enough, but what happens on a peak
12 event when thousands of visitors are
13 using the facility at once? How will
14 the Town prevent the single sewage
15 surge from blowing past the plant's
16 capacity?

17 There is also a question of
18 what happens in high rain. Our town
19 has experienced major flooding since
20 1999. Even though the plan was used
21 -- the plan is used for underground
22 fields, the 1,000 gallons of
23 wastewater into the ground every day
24 will soak the soil. And during heavy
25 rains and flooding, the bacteria can

1
2 easily wash into the Bashakill and
3 the Neversink. I urge the Planning
4 Board and the Town to hold Dragon
5 Springs responsible for this safe
6 water discharge and require the
7 following conditions before granting
8 any approval: Unannounced outside
9 testing, requires random water
10 testing by an independent lab paid
11 for by Dragon Springs through an
12 escrow account; realtime data
13 sharing, require Dragon Springs to
14 send all of the treatment plan
15 groundwater data directly to the Town
16 as is it happens; don't allow Dragon
17 Springs to jump straight into a
18 thousand gallons per day until years
19 of testing -- complete testing; proof
20 the water downstream stays clean;
21 power to shut it down, give the Town
22 authorities to halt the operation
23 immediately if the E. Coli numbers
24 spike from above the DEC's standard
25 limits. The Town has the power to

1
2 protect our community and requires
3 Dragon Springs to prove their system
4 is safe before it's allowing it to
5 expand. And last, if there's --

6 MR. PLOTSKY: Time, sir.

7 MR. MAJCHER: -- anybody from
8 DEC --

9 MR. PLOTSKY: Sir --

10 MR. MAJCHER: -- I advise you
11 to wake up.

12 MR. PLOTSKY: Your time is up,
13 sorry.

14 Anton Khmelev. Don't blame me
15 for the pronunciation; it's your
16 handwriting. Please state and spell
17 your name.

18 MR. KHMELEV: My name is Anton
19 Khmelev. It's A-N-T-O-N, last name
20 is K-H-M-E-L-E-V. Hi everyone. My
21 name is Anton, and we only have three
22 minutes, so I will basically cut to
23 the chase. I work at Dragon Springs,
24 specialize mostly in pod fitting,
25 welding, and I had a chance to

1
2 actually work at the waste treatment
3 plant. So, I would like to talk
4 about my involvement and what I did.
5 So basically, Dragon Springs has a
6 top quality MBBR treatment sewer
7 plant. For those who don't know what
8 it is, it's a highly compact and
9 efficient sewer treatment system.
10 I'm a certified welder, so I
11 specialize in doing welding, so
12 basically like stainless steel, you
13 know, filtration types, and so on.
14 So, work very hard to deliver
15 basically the best quality product.
16 And I'm sure the Town engineers who
17 went to visit it can agree to that.
18 I'm also aware that some people
19 in the audience are concerned about
20 contaminated groundwater or the
21 river, things like that. Well, you
22 know, unlike most residential houses,
23 unlike around here, the raw sewage
24 went straight from septic tank
25 directly in the ground into the leach

1
2 field. The wastewater treatment at
3 Dragon Springs is actually treated
4 with the highest degree, and it goes
5 through rigorous inspections every
6 day by the plant operator before any
7 discharge to leach fields. So, it's
8 basically purified water without any
9 bacteria or any E. coli.

10 So next, I will just talk
11 briefly about the -- another topic,
12 about water pollution. I am also a
13 certified inspector for the erosion
14 sediment control at Dragon Springs.
15 So, I basically do like weekly and
16 monthly outline reports, you know,
17 whenever we have active construction
18 or disturbed soil. I have been doing
19 this for the past five or six years,
20 and we haven't had any major issues
21 or violations, only complaints from a
22 few people. Which when DEC had to
23 come over and investigate for
24 themselves, it provided to be
25 baseless without any proof.

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So, Dragon Springs has a great team of people that implement the most effective erosion and sediment control practices, including putting up soil fences, covering the soil -- exposed soil, and maintaining the construction entrance roads, seeding and mulching the different distributed areas of soil. So, every year we buy about roughly 500 bales of hay just for that, to protect the soil from erosion. So we all know that Dragon Springs also has been supporting the local community, Deerpark, for many years. For example, last year alone we spent close to \$80,000 just buying crushed rock for improving the roads. And we get our hay from the Hoffman Farm --

MR. PLOTSKY: Time. Sir, sorry. Just keep in mind, folks, the longer you clap, the less time people will have to speak tonight. Just trying to keep that on --

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AUDIENCE MEMBER: I --

3

(Unintelligible Due to Multiple

4

Speakers.)

5

MR. PLOTSKY: Can you please

6

state your name and spell it?

7

MS. VADNDERMARK: Yes. I am

8

Lieutenant Samantha Vandermark,

9

V-A-D-N-D-E-R-M-A-R-K. Good evening,

10

everyone. To Whom it May Concern,

11

this is a letter from the

12

Cuddebackville Fire District and

13

chief. Cuddebackville Fire District

14

provides a substantial portion of the

15

fire protection, emergency response,

16

and public safety services for the

17

property located at 140 Galley Hill

18

Road in the Town of Deerpark, New

19

York. For an extended period of

20

time, Dragon Springs Buddhist, Inc

21

has not provided the Cuddebackville

22

Fire District with adequate, current,

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or coordinated site safety plans,

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fire protection plans, emergency

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response procedures, or other

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operational information necessary for the Cuddebackville Fire District to efficiently prepare and respond for emergencies at existing facilities. Based upon observations from outside the property, the site appears to utilize extensive, technical, and complex security and access control systems. While such measures may serve legitimate operational and security purposes, they also create significant concerns regarding emergency access, firefighter operations, evacuations, incident command, and the ability of responding agencies to safely and effectively perform their duties during an emergency.

Cuddebackville Fire District formally requests that immediate and meaningful attention be given to those fire safety and emergency response concerns. In the district's position, these matters should be

1
2 fully evaluated and adequately
3 addressed before additional
4 development, expansion, site plan
5 approvals, construction activity, or
6 other material changes to the
7 property are authorized or permitted
8 to proceed by any federal, state, or
9 local government authority having
10 jurisdiction. Cuddebackville Fire
11 District further requires the
12 immediate establishment of an open,
13 direct, and cooperative line of
14 communication with Dragon Springs
15 Buddhist, I-N-C. Such communication
16 should include, at a minimum,
17 appropriate coordination regarding
18 site access, emergency operations,
19 fire protection systems, hazardous
20 conditions, evacuation procedures,
21 responder safety, and other
22 information responsible -- necessary
23 for emergency planning and response.
24 Until these concerns have been
25 adequately addressed in coordination

1
2 with the fire district and other
3 agencies or interested parties having
4 jurisdiction or responsibility,
5 Cuddebackville Fire District
6 recommends that the appropriate
7 federal, state, and local authorities
8 carefully consider withholding
9 further approvals for development,
10 growth, and expansion of the site.
11 To date, the fire district has not
12 received the level of current
13 information, communication, and
14 cooperative coordination that it
15 believes is necessary to ensure an
16 appropriate level of emergency
17 preparedness. The continued absence
18 of such coordination presents serious
19 concerns regarding the safety of
20 Dragon Springs Buddhist, I-N-C
21 employees and occupants, fire
22 district residents, visitors to the
23 property, and emergency response
24 personnel. The members of the
25 Cuddebackville Fire District are

1
2 dedicated volunteers who commit their
3 time, training, experience, and
4 resources --

5 MR. PLOTSKY: Sorry. Your time
6 is up. Your letter is in as Exhibit
7 Number 6.

8 MS. VADNDERMARK: Thank you.

9 MR. PLOTSKY: Brett Feather-
10 Chuda.

11 MS. FEATHER-CHUDA: Hello. I
12 am Brett Feather-Chuda. It's spelled
13 B-R-E-T-T F-E-A-T-H-E-R - C-H-U-D-A.
14 I recently moved to this area, and I
15 am here to speak on behalf of my
16 children, who are two and five years
17 old. I come from a very small town a
18 village, really, in California, in
19 the mountains. My husband comes from
20 a small mountain town in Slovakia.
21 We were in New York for a long time.
22 I have lived in almost a dozen
23 countries and states, and we could
24 have lived anywhere in the world.
25 And we thought really hard for many

1
2 years where we wanted to live. We
3 decided to move here, and a big
4 reason for that is to give our
5 children the opportunity that Dragon
6 Springs actually provides. Not only
7 Dragon Springs itself, but the whole
8 community where Dragon Springs is
9 really the beating heart of it. I
10 support the plan to develop Dragon
11 Springs, and I hope you do, too.
12 Thank you for your time.

13 MR. PLOTSKY: John Pruitt.

14 MR. PRUITT: Good evening,
15 Planning Board. How are you doing?
16 My name is John Pruitt. It's J-O-H-N
17 P-R-U-I-T-T. I'm a Cuddebackville
18 resident, a former member of the Shen
19 Yun orchestra, and a United States
20 Marine Corps veteran. Dragon Springs
21 has deeply benefitted its surrounding
22 communities and many others, such as:
23 Nevada Lieutenant Governor Stavros
24 and State Representative Lyndon
25 Yearick of Delaware presented

1
2 certificates of recognition to Shen
3 Yun for global artistic
4 accomplishments and preserving 5,000
5 years of traditional culture;
6 Pennsylvania issued a certificate of
7 recognition for consecutive sold out
8 seasons in Philadelphia; while the
9 City of Long Beach, California
10 awarded a certificate of recognition
11 to honor the company's promotion of
12 traditional values, like truth,
13 compassion, and forbearance through
14 art; Atlanta, Georgia awarded Shen
15 Yun an official city council
16 proclamation, the highest notice of
17 order; while the City of Austin,
18 Texas officially proclaimed December
19 26th Shen Yun Day; Virginia Beach,
20 Virginia officially proclaimed April
21 22nd Shen Yun Day; San Diego,
22 California supervisors and city
23 council members declared official
24 Shen Yun days; as well as
25 proclamations and recognition

1
2 certificates for San Luis Obispo in
3 Irving, California; the Montblanc de
4 la Culture Arts Patronage Award was
5 presented to Shen Yun in the
6 Netherlands in recognition of its
7 work respecting and highlighting rich
8 Chinese cultural heritage; the City
9 of Rome, Italy awarded Shen Yun the
10 Rome Commemorative Metal on behalf of
11 the Rome City Council; Taiwan's
12 former president, Tsai Ing-wen,
13 formally praised production for its
14 high artistic quality and its
15 preservation of traditional heritage
16 suppressed in mainland China; while
17 the former Minister of Culture of the
18 Czech Republic, Daniel Herman,
19 praised the production's profound
20 impact, saying it possesses, "a
21 massive power that can embrace the
22 world;" Omega Medina, former senior
23 manager for the Grammy Awards,
24 commented -- noted she left "feeling
25 like a better human being for having

1
2 experienced this magnificent event;"
3 Robert Stromberg, production designer
4 for Avatar, highly praised the visual
5 structure, which has served as an
6 artistic reference point for
7 Hollywood producers; and several
8 other award-winning actors, dancers,
9 and producers have formerly praised
10 the troop for its seamless blend of
11 elite choreography, grace, and
12 entertainment, as well as its
13 orchestral integration and
14 overwhelming scale; nearly 70 elected
15 New York officials, including U.S.
16 congressional members and state-level
17 legislators issued official
18 commendations and proclamations,
19 which were too many to list here, but
20 notably, Senate Majority Leader
21 Andrea Stewart-Cousins has repeatedly
22 issued proclamations declaring
23 official Shen Yun celebration days in
24 the state. I support the proposed
25 application. Thank you.

1

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MR. PLOTSKY: Chen Liang.

3

MR. LIANG: Hello, everyone.

4

My name is Chen Liang, C-H-E-N

5

L-I-A-N-G. Good evening, everyone. I

6

am a security guard at Shen Yun. I

7

still remember my very first day on

8

patrol. We received a report that a

9

black bear was near the school

10

building. I panicked. In my

11

previous job, I was a graphic

12

designer in New York City, facing a

13

computer screen every day. I had no

14

idea how to deal with bears. So, I

15

just stepped out of the car, picked

16

up a stick, and went looking for it.

17

It sounds very funny now, but it was

18

real, and we face bears very often.

19

There is no question that Deerpark is

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a beautiful place to be, and I think

21

that is exactly why Dragon Springs

22

started here.

23

But let me ask you: How many

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of you have ever experienced a

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break-in? Probably none, right?

1
2 Over the past five years, more than
3 60 incidents of trespassing have
4 occurred at Dragon Springs, including
5 break-ins and burglaries. Some were
6 unintentional, but others were
7 intentional. What worries me most is
8 the number of school shootings we see
9 across the country nowadays. I pray
10 it never happens here, especially
11 because we have hundreds of young
12 students and artists right on this
13 campus.

14 Just three weeks ago, in the
15 early morning, three hunters were
16 kayaking and firing shotguns right in
17 the middle of the Neversink River. I
18 understand it is hunting season, but
19 it is also so close to our neighbors
20 and right on the edge of the school,
21 which made us very nervous. And
22 eight months ago, one day at
23 midnight, a criminal trespasser sneak
24 [Sic] onto our campus and broke into
25 our school buildings. The individual

1
2 was previously arrested for
3 trespassing on our property while
4 carrying two knives. It was
5 unbelievable.

6 Without proper fencing and
7 security, our students' lives are at
8 risk. We want to be a good neighbor
9 and protect our children. That is
10 why we work closely with local police
11 and state troopers to identify
12 criminals who pass by. Together, we
13 can make this town a better place to
14 live and work. I support -- so, I
15 strongly support the application.
16 Thank you.

17 MR. PLOTSKY: Ken Truong.

18 MR. TRUONG: Good evening,
19 members of the Board and residents of
20 the Town of Deerpark. My name is Ken
21 Truong, K-E-N T-R-U-O-N-G. I've
22 worked in online marketing for years,
23 and I recently began working for Shen
24 Yun. I'm speaking tonight as a
25 resident of this region and as

1
2 someone whose family history has
3 shaped how I see this campus. My
4 parents escaped Vietnam in the late
5 1970s after a communist government
6 took everything they possessed. That
7 is why I sympathize with the people
8 in the Dragon Springs community.

9 I have also spent years
10 watching that community described in
11 terms that did not match the people I
12 have come to know. They are law-
13 abiding. They work. They purchase
14 homes in town. Most of them do not
15 live on the Dragon Springs property.
16 Those homes pay town, county, and
17 school taxes. Additional households
18 of that kind mean additional
19 taxpayers. I do not believe there is
20 anything improper about growth when
21 it proceeds through this Board.
22 Other communities have done the same,
23 and the towns that received them were
24 stronger for it, like immigrant
25 families from earlier to recent

1
2 generations, other religious
3 communities, and arts institutions
4 along the Hudson that brought
5 visitors while leaving the hills
6 intact. What specifically do they
7 bring? Customers for grocery stores,
8 gas stations, hardware stores,
9 restaurants, and festival vendors.
10 Over 10,000 people on Neversink Drive
11 for the holiday festivals occupy main
12 homes, which support neighborhood
13 property values, employment on a
14 campus that has left hundreds of
15 acres in woodland, payment to the
16 Town for the paving of Galley Hill
17 Road and Guymard Turnpike, students
18 in private schools who do not add a
19 corresponding line to the public
20 school budget. I will also note a
21 quieter effect, smoke shops and
22 taverns are unlikely to grow rich
23 from this particular crowd. Many of
24 these residents neither drink nor
25 smoke on roads such as ours. That

1
2 means the Town is not looking at a
3 surge of late night impaired driving
4 calls on a winding rural road. That
5 is a form of peace of mind.

6 In short, hundreds of acres
7 remain green, the work did not
8 require scraping the hill, the tax
9 base is broadened by households
10 living in town, and local businesses
11 see additional revenue. This is a
12 school and a performing arts company.
13 It is not nefarious. It is not
14 hazardous. I support the proposal.
15 Thank you.

16 MR. PLOTSKY: Matthew Ytsma.

17 MR. YTSMA: Matthew,
18 M-A-T-T-H-E-W, Ytsma, Y-T-S-M-A.
19 Thank you for giving me this
20 opportunity to speak. My name is
21 Matthew Ytsma. I live in Middletown
22 and have worked as an employee of
23 Shen Yun for eight years. And no,
24 that's not a Brooklyn accent that you
25 hear. I am an American citizen and

1
2 emigrated from New Zealand. I am
3 deeply grateful for the opportunities
4 that have been given to me by this
5 great country.

6 One of these opportunities is
7 to work for Shen Yun, where I started
8 in the summer of 2018. I never
9 thought I would have the chance to
10 work for such a successful
11 organization as Shen Yun Performing
12 Arts, the world's premier classical
13 Chinese dance company, which in this
14 last year alone traveled to 199
15 cities, across 26 countries, with
16 over one million people coming to
17 watch the show. I'm honored and
18 proud to work there.

19 I also count myself very lucky
20 to have found this job because two
21 years after working there, COVID hit.
22 According to the Bureau of Labor, the
23 U.S. lost 20.5 to 22.9 million
24 non-farm payroll jobs in March and
25 April 2020 alone. According to

1

2

NY.gov, unemployment in New York

3

State peaked at 16.5 percent,

4

representing 1.5 million residents

5

out of work. And according to USA

6

Today, unemployment in Orange County

7

peaked at 15.7 percent, representing

8

tens of thousands out of work.

9

My family was affected

10

personally as well. At the time, we

11

were renting on Galley Hill Road, and

12

during the lockdown stage of COVID,

13

my wife's business was affected. She

14

had a contract with a restaurant

15

client worth several thousand

16

dollars, but he could only pay in

17

food. Other difficulties she faced

18

were not being able to contact her

19

clients, difficulty travelling to the

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city, and additionally, clients had

21

no dollars to advertise with. She

22

was naturally worried, but the stable

23

employment from Shen Yun got us

24

through that difficult time, and

25

fortunately, later my wife's business

1
2
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24
25

recovered.

That was one aspect of the effects of COVID, but the effects on our well-being were another. One report I read over from Trust for America's Health talked about how we experienced the highest ever combined rates of deaths from alcohol, drugs, and suicide, and talked about strategies of how to prevent deaths of despair. I will never forget walking in Manhattan during that time and looking into a restaurant and seeing the owner standing there with no business and at a complete loss as for what to do. Because of my stable employment with Shen Yun, I didn't have to suffer such a heart-wrenching situation. If it were not for my stable employment with Shen Yun, it would have been difficult to get through the initial stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. It would have been difficult to consider having a

1

2

child at that time without stable

3

income, and it would have been

4

difficult to get a mortgage to

5

purchase our house without a stable

6

income.

7

But we were able to do all that

8

in part thanks to the stable

9

employment from Shen Yun. It all

10

comes down to Shen Yun being, in my

11

experience, an outstanding employer

12

that is loyal to its employees and

13

doesn't abandon them when the going

14

gets tough. Because I imagine that

15

period of time wasn't easy for

16

anyone, and I imagine they could have

17

easily let me go to cut costs, but

18

they didn't. And I am grateful

19

because Shen Yun has been providing

20

me with stable income, through good

21

times and bad, enabled me to help

22

support my family, my beautiful wife,

23

and my four-year-old girl with a

24

house, two cars, and a great

25

lifestyle in upstate New York. And

1
2 in my view, given me the means to
3 pursue happiness, the American dream.
4 Thank you, and I support this
5 application.

6 MR. PLOTSKY: I accidentally
7 gave you an extra 12 seconds.

8 Ben Smith.

9 MR. SMITH: Good evening to the
10 Board. My name is Ben Smith, B-E-N
11 S-M-I-T-H. My own daughter is a high
12 school student at Fei Tian Academy of
13 the Arts, which is at Dragon Springs.
14 And I want to talk very briefly from
15 the perspective as a parent.

16 I have seen my daughter grow
17 into a respectable and caring young
18 woman. She understands right from
19 wrong, and she is respectful of all
20 of the people she comes across in her
21 day-to-day activities. And I just
22 think this is a good thing for our
23 communities to have these kinds of
24 people in our community. This is
25 common for those that attend schools

1
2 at Dragon Springs. They teach
3 morals, and right from wrong, and how
4 to be a good person.

5 With that as the baseline,
6 Dragon Springs, as an arts school,
7 further nurtures world-class talent
8 in classical Chinese dance and music,
9 and they are creating world-class
10 performers right here in Deerpark.
11 Right here in Deerpark, they have
12 world-class facilities, world-class
13 teachers, and they are creating
14 world-class performers, and I just
15 think it's something we should be
16 proud of to have here. These are
17 good, law-abiding, peace-loving
18 people going about their business on
19 their own property. It really
20 doesn't affect anyone. They have a
21 large property with a relatively
22 small percentage developed, and I
23 support any improvements in their
24 facilities so that they can continue
25 to help mold good young people in our

1

2

communities. In closing, I support

3

the approval of the Dragon Springs

4

site plan. Thank you.

5

MR. PLOTSKY: Chen Wang.

6

MR. WANG: Good evening. My

7

name spelled is C-H-E-N W-A-N-G.

8

Good evening, my neighbors. Thank

9

you for giving me the opportunity to

10

speak here today. My name is Chen.

11

I moved to Mount Hope when I was 18

12

years old. I came here as an FY

13

student, and I -- over the years, I

14

became a U.S. citizen. Mount Hope

15

has become my hometown. I love this

16

country. This country has protected

17

me and my freedom to practice my

18

religion, and this town has given my

19

family a place to live and build our

20

lives.

21

Today, I work as a security

22

guard at Shen Yun. While I joined

23

the company, I was told that we are

24

not just security guards. We are

25

also trained to operate the fire

1

2 trucks, which allow us to respond to
3 emergencies and provide assistance
4 before the firefighters arrive.

5 Dragon Springs has two fire trucks.

6 Fire trucks require trained people to
7 operate and maintain them. We also
8 have an emergency response pickup

9 truck equipped with fire

10 extinguishers, and our security team

11 is trained to use this equipment. We

12 -- (Unintelligible) -- and we conduct

13 a fire drill every year.

14 Before COVID, we also worked

15 with Cuddebackville, Port Jervis, and

16 Otisville Fire Departments.

17 Firefighters came to the campus and

18 participate in joint fire drill with

19 us. If there is an emergency, our

20 goal is to help control the situation

21 before the firefighters arrive and

22 assist them when they get here. We

23 want to help reduce the burden on our

24 local emergency services. From my

25 personal experience, I believe these

1
2 efforts show that Dragon Springs
3 takes safety and its responsibility
4 seriously. They are willing to
5 invest in equipment and a training to
6 prepare for emergencies. I support
7 the Dragon Springs site plan
8 approval. Thank you for your time
9 and for listening.

10 MR. PLOTSKY: Alex Scilla.

11 MR. SCILLA: Alex Scilla,
12 A-L-E-X S-C-I-L-L-A. I'm the
13 founder/director of environmental
14 land use profit NYenvironcom. So
15 look, we're here to talk about a site
16 plan, right? That's why we're here,
17 to talk about the site plan. This
18 was proposed seven years ago. It
19 wasn't a good idea then; it's not a
20 good idea now. Nothing's been
21 improved in this. We have almost the
22 same plan, no mitigation really, just
23 a lot of additional impacts. Every
24 consultant who's looked at this,
25 ours, other groups outside of the

1
2 applicants, has numerous problems.
3 There's no plans for the wastewater
4 treatment plant. None of the designs
5 are in this. There's a lot of broad,
6 general comments about how something
7 won't be a problem. And you know,
8 the traffic, you've got almost 2,000
9 parking spaces unexplained. When you
10 say, Oh, we will have 200 cars there
11 -- (Unintelligible) -- weekday.
12 There's no mention of that. There's
13 no numbers backing any of that up.
14 None of those have been responded to.
15 Even seven years ago, Al Fusco,
16 Jr. here asked for a supplemental
17 EIS, which was a good idea. It was
18 the right thing. That hasn't been
19 done. They went straight to the
20 FEIS. No. Supplemental EIS needs to
21 be done supplement to this, probably.
22 All of these questions need to be
23 answered. The plans on what is being
24 done need to be submitted. We have
25 six/seven years of documented water

1
2 violations. There's four lawsuits
3 against the multiple entities on
4 there for environmental issues, labor
5 issues, defamation issues,
6 retaliation issues. All of those are
7 going to come down, and they are
8 going to be resolved. You are going
9 to have guys building it while they
10 are litigating this. It all needs to
11 be resolved. All of this needs to be
12 looked at. You know? And that's it.
13 Do that first. I urge the Planning
14 Board to put pause on this, go
15 through that, have them submit all of
16 the required documents, respond to
17 that, and then make a decision. This
18 is not the time for the FIES. The
19 time is to get everything in order,
20 address all of the issues that
21 accumulated over the seven years, and
22 think about maybe what's next. Thank
23 you.

24 MR. PLOTSKY: Rick [Sic]
25 Casolia.

1

2

MR. CASOLIA: Hello. Brent

3

Casolia, B-R-E-N-T C-A-S-O-L-I-A.

4

Good evening, everyone. Good

5

evening, Board. Good evening, tech

6

advisers. Good evening, community at

7

large. I am, indeed, the Joker.

8

Okay, actually, River Phoenix --

9

Joaquin Phoenix is the Joker. He

10

couldn't be here today, so I'm taking

11

his place. I'm representing the

12

Deerpark Rural Alliance. Now, why

13

would I do that? Because some local

14

villains are taking the spotlight

15

away from jokers, like me, and that

16

is no joking matter.

17

For the last seven years, some

18

villainous actions have been

19

happening in Gotham -- let me take

20

that back -- happening right here in

21

Deerpark. Bad act number one, the

22

runoff from Dragon Springs sewage is

23

polluting the Neversink River. Bad

24

act number two, guards from Dragon

25

Springs compound have been menacing

1
2 local pedestrians who come near their
3 property, and some bad actors from
4 Dragon Springs have carried weapons
5 to frighten people. Bad act number
6 three, Dragon Springs attempted to
7 construct a weaponized spiked fence
8 surrounding their property. Luckily,
9 local citizens spotted the illegal
10 fence, and the community got a
11 stoppage from the Highway Department.
12 Who are they keeping out? Who are
13 they keeping in? Bad act number
14 four, the Dragon Springs organization
15 has mistreated their own employers,
16 employees, and volunteers. And
17 people speak out against them, the
18 organization has spread
19 misinformation across media outlets,
20 including social medial.

21 Folks, these are no jokes.
22 Believe me, Batman is too busy to
23 take care of this. Listen up,
24 Planning Board. Here is what you can
25 do to help the Town of Deerpark:

1

2

Please don't approve the Dragon

3

Springs site plan as proposed.

4

Please investigate any new and

5

unapproved construction. Please get

6

an ethics board as soon as possible

7

to protect the interest of the

8

community. And most of all, please

9

don't settle any lawsuits in secret,

10

leaving local residents stuck with

11

the consequences.

12

Ha, I finally got it off my

13

chest, and now I can go home and pray

14

that the Board takes my suggestions.

15

Thank you, Board. Thank you,

16

Deerpark. And now, the Joker can

17

finally laugh again. Ha ha ha ha ha

18

ha ha ha ha ha. Thank you, all.

19

MR. PLOTSKY: I am rarely

20

speechless. I actually skipped

21

somebody, Joaquin Joe.

22

MR. CASOLIA: That was me.

23

MR. PLOTSKY: Okay. You signed

24

in multiple times.

25

Frank Ketcham.

1

2

MR. KETCHAM: Good evening.

3

Frank Ketcham, F-R-A-N-K

4

K-E-T-C-H-A-M. I'm here tonight as

5

an adjoining property owner in the

6

Town of Mount Hope and as someone who

7

has closely followed the development

8

of Dragon Springs for many years. I

9

am very concerned with the Neversink

10

Delaware watershed. By the way, I am

11

an adjoining property owner, and I

12

did not receive notice of this

13

meeting.

14

I am asking the Planning Board

15

to conduct an independent and

16

thorough review of the Dragon Springs

17

application and FEIS based on the

18

actual conditions that exist on the

19

ground, not simply what is shown on

20

the plans. There are a number of

21

issues that I believe need to be

22

reconciled before this application is

23

approved, including wastewater

24

treatment and discharge, parking and

25

traffic, emergency and fire access,

1
2 stormwater and wetlands existing in
3 newly constructed structures, the
4 fence and property boundaries, solar
5 installations, construction that does
6 not appear to correspond with
7 previous approved plans, development
8 that might affect both the Town of
9 Deerpark and the Town of Mount Hope.
10 I also ask that the Board carefully
11 examine the engineer's documents,
12 comments, and correspondence in the
13 record and not simply defer to the
14 applicant's engineers. Where there
15 are differing technical positions,
16 the record should identify those
17 differences and explain the basis for
18 the Board's determination. I am not
19 asking the Board to reach a
20 conclusion based on simply my
21 concerns. I am asking that these
22 matters be documented, investigated,
23 and resolved on the record.
24 Finally, I respectfully request
25 that my statement, the supporting

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documents, and the documents I have submitted, which I will now, and the issues raised tonight be made part of the official record for the Planning Board's consideration. Thank you.

MR. PLOTSKY: So, while Mr. Ketcham appears to be providing copies to the various Board members, I will receive as Exhibit Number 7 his submission that will be made part of the record.

(Whereupon, Mr. Ketcham's Submission was deemed marked as Exhibit 7 for identification as of this date by Counsel.)

MR. PLOTSKY: Janet Lybolt.

MS. LYBOLT: Good evening. I am Janet Lybolt, J-A-N-E-T L-Y-B-O-L-T. I have been following this development for seven years. I am former Town of Mamakating Town Supervisor, as well as former Planning Board and Town Board member. I want to remind you that what

1
2 affects Galley Hill Road affects the
3 surrounding towns and hamlets,
4 especially environmental and traffic.
5 This project is way too big for this
6 area. In the past, the lack of
7 accountability and transparency is
8 very evident. Once approved, you
9 cannot undo this. And as time goes
10 on, they will come back to build
11 bigger and better. The continued
12 growth is not sustainable, and I ask
13 you to consider carefully because the
14 Neversink and the Bashakill depend on
15 your decision. Thank you.

16 MR. PLOTSKY: Tysan Lerner.

17 MS. LERNER: Hi. My name is
18 Tysan, T-Y-S-A-N, Lerner,
19 L-E-R-N-E-R. I am here to support
20 Dragon Springs. We moved -- my
21 husband and I moved up here in 2014.
22 We met a few friends who work for Fei
23 Tian Academy and Shen Yun at a
24 wedding, and they told us about some
25 property that was for sale near where

1
2 they had recently purchased and
3 invited us to come and take a look.
4 And I will just say I've had the --
5 I'm very grateful that I have been
6 able to visit Dragon Springs on
7 multiple occasions. And each time
8 I've gone, it's just been a precious
9 memory for me at this point, because
10 I don't work there, so I don't go
11 there regularly, but it's just
12 absolutely stunning. And moving up
13 here was the best decision my husband
14 and I could have made in our
15 marriage, other than our kids, of
16 course. But we just found a
17 wonderful community. We found so
18 many other families for us to be
19 friends with and our children to be
20 friends with, and I'm just very
21 grateful. We live in Huguenot. I
22 love our house. I love the property.
23 I love our neighbors. And so, if it
24 weren't for Dragon Springs, we
25 wouldn't be in this area. We

1
2 wouldn't have had this last decade of
3 a wonderful life that we've had. And
4 yeah, I just -- I support this. I
5 support what Dragon Springs is
6 applying for, and I think they do it
7 very responsibly. And I think that
8 in my experience, there is a lot of
9 logic, and reason, and thoughtfulness
10 of others, and selflessness, so I
11 just wanted to share my support.

12 MR. PLOTSKY: Zenon -- sorry.
13 I'm not even going to try.

14 MR DOLNYCKYJ: Zenon,
15 Z-E-N-O-N, last name Dolnyckyj,
16 D-O-L-N-Y-C-K-Y-J. Members of the
17 Board, my fellow townspeople, my name
18 is Zenon Dolnyckyj, and I have lived
19 in Huguenot since 2014. But I've
20 been a volunteer at Dragon Springs
21 since 2002. Back then, China had
22 only been given its favored trading
23 status with USA for three years. The
24 world was very different back then.

25 Since then, the Chinese

1

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25

Communist Party has waged an all-out war against American society. It has financed this campaign with the money it made from American investment into China. It has infiltrated sports leagues, Ivy League universities, business communities, Pentagon computers, public offices, including the Office of the New York Governor. The CCP set up a Chinese police station in New York City. I have been personally attacked in Flushing.

And let's not forget the SARS pandemic and the COVID pandemic. The SARS pandemic was first reported by the Epoch Media Group, who broke the story, which saved a lot of people's lives. And they also led all Western media in the COVID investigations that exposed the lab leak in China. This is a tiny fraction of our community's contribution to exposing the CCP in America.

What is extremely important to

1
2 note is that the beating heart of
3 this resistance to the CCP in America
4 finds its home in Dragon Springs,
5 where registered schools have been
6 set up and recognized by the State so
7 that we can raise our children to be
8 defenders of freedom, have belief in
9 the divine, and do it safely while
10 they cultivate skills of exquisite
11 artistry. This should be given
12 tremendous support.

13 You have to be purposely
14 looking away to not recognize that
15 our country and way of life is under
16 attack. Just recently, a mayor in a
17 local city in California was arrested
18 for being a Chinese spy. Is not just
19 an international issue. It hits us
20 home, right here. We found our
21 practitioners take the formality of
22 taking a vow very seriously. And
23 when I took my vow in a court of law
24 to defend the Constitution in 2019, I
25 count that as a great honor. And

1

2

furthermore, I am honored that my

3

27-year fight for freedom with Falun

4

Gong has brought me to this special

5

town. The best way I can honor that

6

vow is to give my full-hearted

7

support to these permits, not only

8

for Dragon Springs, but also I

9

believe for the good of the Town of

10

Deerpark and America.

11

Shen Yun music blends eastern

12

melodies and western instruments

13

together at great cost, and New

14

Century has hosted both eastern and

15

western annual events for the public.

16

I believe that there is a way forward

17

together, and I am honored to count

18

myself part of it. Thank you very

19

much.

20

MR. PLOTSKY: Doris Chan.

21

MS. CHAN: Good evening. My

22

name is Doris Chan, D-O-R-I-S

23

C-H-A-N. I have been a volunteer at

24

Dragon Springs since 2002. I like

25

this community. I like our

1

2

neighbors. I'm sure together we can

3

solve any differences and concerns.

4

I remember one morning in 2002 when I

5

was driving to Dragon Springs, when I

6

get to the gate, I saw two Chinese

7

consulate cars parked on Galley Hill

8

Road close to the bridge. Five or

9

six people were standing by the cars

10

and observing our site. We called

11

the police, and they came. After

12

checking their documents, the police

13

told them to leave immediately

14

because they were there illegally.

15

The Chinese Communist Party, CCP, has

16

been brutally persecuting Falun Gong

17

practitioners in China, and later has

18

extended the persecution onto U.S.

19

soil.

20

As a volunteer for about 25

21

years, I noticed there is a few

22

individuals consistently and actively

23

being hostile towards Dragon Springs.

24

They hire lawyer and engineer to

25

oppose any of our site plans. I

1
2 wonder where the money comes from and
3 what they pay for what they do. In
4 addition, hiring engineer and a
5 lawyer are very expensive. I wonder
6 where that money come from. The U.S.
7 Department of Justice has documented
8 many cases that show the CCP leverage
9 a complex web of informal proxies and
10 pay actors to carry out persecutions.
11 I hope those got paid to come here to
12 go against Dragon Springs should
13 question where the money come from.
14 Don't be used by CCP to go against
15 your neighbors and kind people.

16 For those who don't know what
17 Falun Gong and Shen Yun is, I suggest
18 you to go to find out and buy a
19 ticket to watch the Shen Yun show.
20 I'm sure after that you will be proud
21 to be the neighbor of Shen Yun and
22 Falun Gong practitioners. We are
23 always nice and show respect to our
24 neighbors. I support the site plan
25 of Dragon Springs. Thank you very

1

2

much.

3

MR. PLOTSKY: Loren McCune.

4

MR. McCUNE: Loren McCune,

5

L-O-R-E-N M-C capital C-U-N-E. And

6

thanks to the Board for the

7

opportunity to speak tonight, and I

8

support the site application. And I

9

see it not as something particularly

10

extraordinary, but simply a natural

11

development of things that have been

12

happening in this area for a while.

13

And, of course, is directly connected

14

to Shen Yun, and Shen Yun is

15

connected to a lot of things that

16

have been happening in Deerpark.

17

It's attracted a number of people to

18

the area, as we have heard tonight,

19

and I am one of them. I met my

20

lovely wife, who had turned out to be

21

a choreographer at Shen Yun. And

22

since I was retired and she wasn't at

23

that time, I ended up moving here.

24

And I very much enjoy this community

25

and met a wide range of people.

1
2 I've also run my own
3 businesses. One of my businesses in
4 this area was home construction, and
5 my company built a number of new
6 houses in the region. I also
7 personally rehabbed some older homes
8 that had been abandoned. I bought
9 them at a tax sale and rehabbed them.
10 And I say "I," but I actually did
11 that in cooperation with local
12 craftsmen and workers, and it was a
13 very successful collaboration. And I
14 very much enjoyed it, even made a
15 little money off of it. And people
16 are enjoying new homes. And I see it
17 as a collaboration, actually. I
18 don't see Shen Yun as something off
19 in the words that doesn't have
20 anything to do with Deerpark, and nor
21 do I see it as a savior of Deerpark.
22 I see it as something that's come to
23 an already regenerating and
24 developing community, contributed to
25 it, and attracted yet other people to

1
2 do the same. And I see the fact that
3 Shen Yun is growing, and needs a new
4 parking lot, and other things as
5 being a very positive development.
6 And some people that I don't know --
7 I know a lot of people around, but I
8 don't know this group that's
9 complaining about so many things, but
10 one issue they raise is traffic. And
11 nobody likes traffic, but then again,
12 businesspeople do like traffic. And
13 speaking of traffic, we have a great
14 new, improved road, 209, going
15 through Deerpark, so somebody up
16 there thinks that there is going to
17 be more traffic around here. And I
18 think it's a good thing. And a small
19 part of that traffic on the new
20 Route 209 is probably going to go to
21 the school parking lot at Dragon
22 Springs. And I think it's all part
23 of a general positive development in
24 this area. Thank you.

25 MR. PLOTSKY: James White.

1

2

MR. WHITE: James White,

3

J-A-M-E-S W-H-I-T-E. Thank you for

4

giving me time to speak. I am an

5

event organizer and filmmaker in

6

Deerpark. I have heard a lot of

7

opposition tonight, and there's a lot

8

of generalities, and I was wondering

9

if people have actually read the

10

final Environmental Impact Statement.

11

If not, I want to highlight a few of

12

the pages.

13

On page 39 of 40, in 2013, the

14

New York Department of Environmental

15

Conservation issued a Notice of

16

Violation related to the existing

17

leach field after seepage was

18

observed at the bottom of the

19

subsurface absorption field for

20

outfall (Phonetic) number three.

21

This condition was corrected by

22

leveling the distribution box outlets

23

and repairing the field. So, in

24

laymen's terms, 13 years ago, there

25

was a problem; thirteen years ago,

1

2

the problem was fixed.

3

4

5

6

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25

The report continues. The DEC issued another violation -- Notice of Violation in 2017. That matter was ultimately closed with a finding of no illicit discharge. The Orange County Health Department concluded that there was no sewage system failure and closed its files on the matter. Since that time, the DEC has conducted multiple inspections of the wastewater system and found that the leach fields were operating properly.

Additionally, turn to pages 12, 22, and 43, and you'll learn that the new lake will reduce runoff and adds to groundwater recharge. On page 11, you will see the new lake can be used for fire safety and suppression, instead of well water. On page four, you will learn that multi-level garages mean less land is disturbed.

While I am not disturbed by anything Dragon Springs is doing, and

1
2 I fully support that this site plan
3 is approved, I am, however, disturbed
4 that there are allegations about
5 these opposing environmental groups,
6 that they are affiliated with the
7 Chinese Communist Party. Even if you
8 don't believe that they are
9 affiliated with the Chinese Communist
10 Party, you can take a look at their
11 environmental reporting. It's
12 propaganda. It's disinformation.
13 Listen to the people speaking today.
14 They talk in generalities. What they
15 do is reports of emotionally-charged
16 accusations with no scientific
17 grounding. They make something up,
18 then blast it everywhere, making
19 everybody mad thinking the
20 accusations are actually true. I
21 will give you a perfect example.

22 They just reported about trout
23 on social media saying this work is
24 going to destroy a trout stream. On
25 page 35 of the report, it notes that

1
2 there is a stream that's classified
3 as a type that could support trout,
4 but it doesn't say that there is
5 actually trout in the stream. On
6 page 69, it's noted that the U.S Fish
7 and Wildlife Service and the DEC have
8 done an assessment and determined
9 that this is not a concern, so why on
10 earth would an environmental group --

11 MR. PLOTSKY: Time.

12 MR. WHITE: -- be obsessed with
13 Dragon Springs?

14 MR. PLOTSKY: Sorry, sir.

15 Phillip Marsh.

16 MR. MARSH: Hi. My name is
17 Phillip Marsh, P-H-I-L-L-I-P
18 M-A-R-S-H. I live right on the
19 Neversink River. I bought the house
20 in 2008, and I have seen a decline in
21 the trout in that river because I
22 fish it. I'm a former United States
23 Navy SEAL. I think that the project
24 that they are going to do is way too
25 large. In the event that there is

1
2 98,000 gallons per day with raw
3 sewage and a capacity tank of 100,000
4 gallons, what happens if something
5 breaks? If something fails, what
6 happens? There is not enough leeway
7 to have all of that sewage going for
8 days. Where is that going to go?
9 What kind of contingency do they
10 have, or does anybody care? I got
11 60 feet of riverfront property, and I
12 am afraid to let my grandchildren, my
13 children play in the river because of
14 their runoff. And I don't believe
15 that they're drinking water out --
16 from the sewage plant is drinkable.
17 If it is, okay. Why aren't they
18 recycling it to themselves? I think
19 that that says an awful lot. Instead
20 of, you know, throwing it into the
21 river, why aren't they drinking it?
22 They're saying it's so good, you can
23 drink it, why don't they drink it?
24 Why are they contaminating the
25 Neversink River and the fish that

1

2 swim in there?

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And the fact that there is just not enough done to stop this from happening because it is just going to get worse. They do this project, you know, why do they need more parking garages, okay? How many more people are going to be there? How much more sewage is going to be running off into that river? How much more water are they going to contaminate? And what is that doing to the ecosystem that we have? I have been all over the world serving my country, serving it well, and I just think that we should give --

18

MR. PLOTSKY: Time, sorry.

19

20

MR. MARSH: We should give more time.

21

MR. PLOTSKY: Sophia Bronwen.

22

23

24

25

MS. BRONWEN: I am Sophia Bronwen, S-O-P-H-I-A. My last name is Bronwen, B-R-O-N-W-E-N. I have been a resident, I work and I live in

1
2 Deerpark for the last 20 years. And
3 I have seen a lot of things that have
4 gone on, and I feel like, like any
5 project, everything -- they have
6 their difficulties. And I feel like
7 Dragon Springs has worked with the
8 local government, and all of the
9 problems have been resolved. What I
10 am most concerned about is the
11 so-called environmentalist
12 organizations. And the man who leads
13 it having lived in China for 15 years
14 and all of a sudden turns up in the
15 United States to start an
16 environmental group and continually
17 harassed Dragon Springs. They have
18 won very -- I don't think they have
19 won one of their legal lawsuits. I
20 don't think one has been won. So, I
21 am really concerned about that. I am
22 really concerned about transnational
23 persecution that is happening, and I
24 believe this is one example where
25 they come to the United States and

1
2 use our laws and our ways of life to
3 continue the persecution here. And
4 that is what I am most concerned of.
5 And I really think someone needs to
6 do an investigation into this
7 so-called "environmental agency" and
8 see where it has come from. Thank
9 you.

10 MR. PLOTSKY: At this point, I
11 am going to thank everybody. You
12 have been very, very tolerant and
13 very courteous to one another. I am
14 going to suggest that we take a 10 to
15 15-minute break, and then we will
16 resume with the next person on our
17 list.

18 (Whereupon, a short recess was
19 taken.)

20 MR. PLOTSKY: Ladies and
21 gentlemen, if you can all take your
22 seats again, I am going to resume.

23 So, again, I want to compliment
24 everybody on your being courteous to
25 one another. That is very, very much

1
2 appreciated. I also want to remind
3 everybody that for those that I ended
4 up calling time on, you do have a
5 right to submit written comments
6 after the close of the oral Public
7 Hearing this evening.

8 So, we will resume with Mela
9 Wu.

10 MS. WU: Good evening. My name
11 is Mela Wu. It's spelled as
12 M-E-L-A W-U. I am the president of
13 Mount Hope Chinese Association. I am
14 also a registered nurse. I'm a proud
15 American citizen and a local Orange
16 County resident for around 16 years.

17 First, I sincerely thank the
18 Board and our local officials for
19 giving us this opportunity to
20 participate in this process. I also
21 want to express my appreciation to
22 the residents of this area. Through
23 activities provided by Mount Hope
24 Chinese Association, we have had the
25 -- I have had the privilege of

1
2 bringing people from different
3 backgrounds together. What has moved
4 me the most is seeing local families
5 genuinely engaging with people they
6 may not have known before. That has
7 given me faith in something very
8 simple. We can raise each other up
9 instead of holding each other down.
10 That is the spirit I hope we can
11 bring to this decision regarding the
12 proposal.

13 Since we are fortunate enough
14 to have the first -- the world-class
15 Shen Yun in our neighborhood with the
16 exceptional talent, discipline, and
17 commitment in this region, I believe
18 we should be proud of it and support
19 an environment where it can continue
20 to flourish. That is why I strongly
21 support this application. The
22 benefit of this proposal can reach
23 beyond Dragon Springs. Activities in
24 this area can support local
25 businesses. I also hope we can look

1
2 at this application simply and
3 directly as if it is just an
4 application or proposal for another
5 American school. Let's not allow
6 assumptions or worries beyond the
7 facts before us to define this
8 decision. That's exactly what I
9 heard from the people who are making
10 oppositions tonight. It's based on
11 fear. It's based on, let's say,
12 leftovers from seven years ago. It's
13 based on a lot from the fear or maybe
14 even originated from the CCP. Let's
15 not do that. I have confidence in
16 Dragon Springs and its people. I
17 also have confidence in our local
18 residents as a whole. And also, I
19 have confidence in the Board too. We
20 don't have to agree on everything to
21 recognize one another's
22 contributions. We can be different
23 and still choose to make our
24 communities stronger together. So
25 tonight, representing Mount Hope

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Chinese Association, I respectfully ask the Board to support this proposal. Let's choose collaboration over division. Let's choose to raise each other up, not let each other down. Let's come together and say --

MR. PLOTSKY: Time. Sorry, ma'am.

MS. WU: -- yes to this proposal. Thank you.

MR. PLOTSKY: Rocking Joe, Joe Rocking (Phonetic).

MR. KARIOLIC: It's Rick. It was mixed up before. I think the other guy was Joe --

MR. PLOTSKY: You're Rick?

MR. KARIOLIC: Yeah.

MR. PLOTSKY: Okay.

MR. KARIOLIC: All right, so Rick Kariolic, K-A-R-I-O-L-I-C. So, I've lived in Deerpark since 2019, and I never had the opportunity to visit Dragon Springs campus. When I asked about visiting, what I heard

1
2 were stories about security outside
3 of the gates and warnings about what
4 could happen if I tried. So, as I
5 stand here today, I honestly can't
6 speak firsthand about the positive
7 impact Dragon Springs may have on our
8 community.

9 What I can speak about
10 firsthand is attending the federal
11 appellate court hearing in lower
12 Manhattan and listening to the
13 arguments involving Dragon Springs.
14 What concerned me was the focus of
15 their legal arguments seemed to be on
16 whether the environmental plaintiffs
17 had properly followed the procedural
18 requirements for brining their case
19 rather than addressing the underlying
20 environmental concerns. The
21 appellate court ultimately ruled in
22 favor of the environmental plaintiffs
23 on that issue and allowed their Clean
24 Water Act case to move forward. If
25 Dragon Springs is willing to spend

1
2 significant money and everyone's time
3 fighting these issues in court, I
4 would rather see that effort put
5 toward addressing the environmental
6 concerns surrounding the property and
7 the building -- and building trust
8 with the community before further
9 expansion is approved. I believe
10 Dragon Springs should demonstrate to
11 local residents and our government
12 that it is being a responsible
13 neighbor, protecting our environment,
14 and operating with transparency.
15 Thank you.

16 MR. PLOTSKY: Virginia Blanco.

17 MS. BLANCO: Good evening.
18 Virginia, V-I-R-G-I-N-I-A, Blanco,
19 B-L-A-N-C-O. Good evening, members
20 of the Planning Board and fellow
21 attendees. My name is Virginia
22 Blanco. I'm a resident of Otisville,
23 New York. I'm here tonight to speak
24 on behalf of Dragon Springs and its
25 importance to the towns that surround

1
2 it. I'm an elementary school teacher
3 at one of the schools in Orange
4 County inspired by Dragon Springs. I
5 chose to work there because I believe
6 in its mission instilling strong
7 moral virtues in children from a
8 young age while preparing them for
9 academic excellence. We also make it
10 a priority to forge strong bonds with
11 families in the surrounding community
12 and to help our students make a
13 meaningful impact on the world. Day
14 by day, we have been living that
15 mission.

16 We opened our doors in 2022 in
17 an old, dilapidated building with a
18 handful of teachers and about 30
19 students. Today, our students rank
20 among the highest academic achievers
21 in math and English nationwide. Our
22 culture of hard work and high moral
23 standards come from the teaching of
24 Falun Gong. Those teachings help us
25 improve every day in every area of

1

2 our life, not only for the benefit --
3 to seek benefits for ourselves, but
4 most importantly for others.

5 Countless people, for instance, in
6 China have also been cured of
7 terminal illness, which has made this
8 practice extremely popular.

9 Actually, not only in China, but
10 abroad as well, as you see here in
11 New York State as well.

12 So, the goal of this practice
13 is so that we can all return to the
14 divine, okay? If you are interested
15 in more information, all of the
16 materials are free online. You can
17 definitely see for yourself what the
18 practice is about and not believe
19 what you might hear and what you
20 might read on public social media.

21 Our founding fathers believed
22 in a republic that can only survive
23 if its citizens and leaders chose the
24 common good over personal greed and
25 ambition. In his farewell address,

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2

George Washington likewise said that religion and morality are indispensable supports of national prosperity.

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For many of our students, acceptance to Fei Tian College on the Dragon Springs campus is one of their highest aspirations after graduation. For many families, Dragon Springs represents a major step forward in the children's path toward the highest level of training in music, classical Chinese dance, and the fine arts, which inevitably lead to the divine. It has been my honor to apply -- to play, sorry -- to play a role in that journey. And I have seen their efforts and their growth. Day after day, I witness the sacrifices families and children make in the hope of one day being accepted at Fei Tian College so that they can be experts in dance and music.

MR. PLOTSKY: Time, sorry.

1

2

MS. BLANCO: Thank you.

3

MR. PLOTSKY: Jin Pang.

4

MS. PANG: Good evening,

5

everyone. My name is Jin Pang.

6

J-I-N P-A-N-G. I'm a Deerpark

7

resident, a mother of two children,

8

and a homeowner here in the Town of

9

Deerpark. My family moved to

10

Deerpark in 2015. Since then, we

11

have not only made a home here, we

12

have become part of this community.

13

We brought with us our experience,

14

our hardworking spirit, and most

15

importantly, our love and commitment.

16

I am raising my children in Deerpark.

17

They were born in Orange County, and

18

they have grown up here with their

19

friends and neighbors. This is there

20

home, and it is our home. Through my

21

work organizing community events,

22

I've also seen something and

23

something right here in Deerpark

24

bringing thousands of families,

25

neighbors, and people from different

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backgrounds together. These events provide entertainment and cultural experience, but they also create connections, attract visitors, and contribute to local businesses.

As a local resident, I have also seen ways Dragon Springs has contributed to the community. I've seen members of Dragon Springs participate in local activities and support local businesses. They're buying homes and paying taxes. Dragon Springs has also supporting community events, such as National Night Out. The Town of Deerpark also accepted paving contributions for Guymard Turnpike and Galley Hill Road. For me, Deerpark is a place to live, work, play, and stay. It is a place where we raise our children, build friendships, support neighbors, and make our home.

One day, my daughter came home from school and proudly told me about

1
2 the core five: Be kind, be honest,
3 be responsible, be respectful, and be
4 involved. Those words really
5 resonated with me because they are
6 also the values that we have been
7 trying to teach our children and live
8 by every day. We chose Deerpark
9 because of Dragon Springs. We feel
10 very fortunate to live in Deerpark
11 and in Orange County. I hope we can
12 continue to build a community where
13 our children can grow up safely,
14 where different cultures can come
15 together, where people support one
16 another, and where there are
17 opportunities for the next
18 generation. For all of these
19 reasons, I respectfully ask the Board
20 to approve the Dragon Springs
21 application. Thank you for giving me
22 an opportunity to speak tonight.

23 MR. PLOTSKY: Albert Roman.

24 MR. ROMAN: Hello. My name is
25 Albert Roman, A-L-B-E-R-T

1

2

R-O-M-A-N. Hello, Planning

3

Committee. I live in Sparrow Bush,

4

just up Peenpack Trail, and my

5

feeling is that if Dragon Springs

6

complies with all building codes,

7

then it has the right to build.

8

A common criticism against

9

Dragon Springs is that it

10

contaminates the Neversink River. In

11

2017, the New York State Department

12

of Environmental Conservation issued

13

a Notice of Violation, but that

14

matter was ultimately closed with a

15

filing of no illicit discharge. The

16

report that I read then stated that

17

the DEC has conducted multiple

18

inspections of the wastewater system

19

and found that the leach fields were

20

operating properly. So, water

21

quality has not been an issue, it

22

seems, for 13 years.

23

Dragon Springs' revised plan is

24

to include an advanced water

25

treatment system with subsurface

1
2 absorption fields so that all treated
3 wastewater will be discharged below
4 the ground with no stream. We've
5 heard that before tonight. For those
6 of us who are concerned about water
7 quality of the Neversink, we should
8 want Dragon Springs to create a
9 robust water treatment facility, and
10 that's what Dragon Springs plans to
11 do. It looks to me like Dragon
12 Springs' construction management team
13 has its act together.

14 I read the Deerpark Rural
15 Alliance's invitation to this Public
16 comment Hearing, and the invitation
17 claims that Dragon Springs is taking
18 advantage of the protection the U.S.
19 provides for people. I disagree.
20 Some immigrants come to the United
21 States and receive some sort of cash
22 or noncash assistance. Some
23 noncitizens are even considered a
24 public charge. That's certainly not
25 the case for Falun Gong

1

2

practitioners. They come to the U.S.

3

with their skills and their savings,

4

and they produce valuable things.

5

The people at Dragon Springs are the

6

same. Some of them are from the U.S.,

7

but many are immigrants. They're

8

volunteers who have created something

9

valuable. They created a space for a

10

world-class, critically acclaimed

11

performing arts company that does not

12

rely on public or private donations.

13

Shen Yun portrays China

14

beautifully, and it also exposes the

15

atrocities of the Chinese Communist

16

Party. It helps the world to see the

17

CCP for what it is. It's chipping

18

away at the CCP, and I personally

19

believe that it will be one of the

20

factors that cause the collapse of

21

this Chinese Communist Party, which

22

will be a blessing for humanity.

23

Just because Dragon Springs and the

24

people who work there have a noble

25

aspiration to end human rights abuses

1

2

in China, it does not excuse Dragon

3

Springs from being a responsible part

4

of the community. I would argue that

5

Dragon Springs has, indeed, been a

6

responsible part of the community.

7

Dragon Springs contributed

8

financially to paving the streets on

9

Galley Hill Road and Guymard

10

Turnpike. Over 70 percent of the

11

Dragon Springs land is untouched,

12

which means hundreds of acres are

13

being conserved --

14

MR. PLOTSKY: Time. Sorry,

15

sir.

16

MR. ROMAN: Thank you.

17

MR. PLOTSKY: Matt Tullar.

18

MR. TULLAR: Good evening. My

19

name is Matt Tullar, M-A-T-T, last

20

name T-U-L-L-A-R. I am born and

21

raised in America. I grew up in

22

upstate New York, just outside of

23

Albany, and I graduated from SUNY

24

Albany. And I love America. I love

25

people who come to America and show

1

2 that they love America, too.

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 Recently, we've been inundated with a lot of people who don't love America, but I have -- I've been blessed to live in Otisville and the area around here for over 10 years. And in that time, I have considered myself an independent contractor, handyman. And I've done a lot of work for a lot of people. And those people, a lot of those people were Falun Gong practitioners. And I found those people to be consistently honest and fair to work for. Yeah, sure, some of them are a pain in the neck, but, you know, everybody is, you know?

 And I also hope that nobody reveals that -- a lot of kids know me as Santa Claus, so I don't want it to be known who I really am. But anyway, just kidding. So, yeah, I live in Otisville, and it's in the Town of Mount Hope. And I think that

1

2 the -- I support Dragon Springs. I
3 support everything they want to do.

4

5 People should realize that
6 Dragon Springs is a magnet for
7 righteous people. And I've been here
8 since about 2015, and I've seen
9 economic impact, the houses, the
10 concrete, you know, just goes on and
11 on, the restaurant meals, that, you
12 know, so many -- so many -- such a
13 great economic impact from folks.
14 And I think that people are foolish
15 -- and another thing I wanted to
16 mention was I don't believe in too
17 much government.

18

19 I don't think we need all of
20 these regulatory groups. And what
21 happens is you get people, these
22 bureaucrats who have a vested
23 interest in constantly finding
24 something wrong, you know? This is
25 not the way America was made great
the first time. America was made
great because men wanted to do stuff,

1

2 and they were allowed to do it, and
3 the government didn't turn them
4 upside down, and rip them off, and
5 take all of their money.

6

7 So, you should support these
8 people because they are honest
9 people, okay? And they don't want to
10 dump their sewer into everything. By
11 the way, I've swam in the Neversink
12 River both below that -- where the
13 affluent comes in and above. And you
14 know what? It's kind of a slimy
15 river, okay? And it's not the fault
16 of Dragon Springs. You know, how
17 many sewer systems are leaking into
18 the Neversink all of the way up the
19 river?

19

20 Anyway, meanwhile, I've also
21 seen bald eagles flying around. And
22 I spent a lot of time in the
23 Bashakill. And it's a fabulous
24 place. I love this place.

24

MR. PLOTSKY: Time, sir.

25

MR. TULLAR: Thank you very

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much.

MR. PLOTSKY: Dan Noll.

MR. NOLL: I'm Dan Noll, D-A-N
N-O-L-L. The greatest joy of my
38 years of life has been watching
young people who were once my
students grow into responsible
adults. I moved to Deerpark 12 years
ago to teach English as a second
language at Fei Tian Academy of the
Arts. Of the students I taught that
first year, about 70 to 80 percent
continued their studies, graduated
from college, found work locally, and
started families to participate in
the American dream. I can't describe
the joy I feel when I see former
students drive their family members
to work. My students buy homes in
the area, pay taxes, and support
local businesses. God willing, they
will one day raise their own children
here.

I am speaking today in support

1
2 of the proposed improvements to my
3 school's facilities because of the
4 joy I feel watching the community
5 thrive. Now that my first batch of
6 students are working adults, they
7 need a proper place to park. The
8 proposed parking lot will not be
9 visible from the road and would not
10 require additional cleared land, as
11 it is right next to a preexisting
12 building. Having multiple stories
13 would minimize the physical footprint
14 while maximizing availability for
15 local commuters.

16 Regarding digging a well, water
17 is an essential element for human
18 life to thrive. As my school student
19 population has grown, some have
20 certain physical needs. If any other
21 community building needed to dig a
22 well to fulfill real needs, I would
23 support that as well.

24 In terms of security, this is a
25 core responsibility for every school,

1

2

including the one we are in. My job

3

is to keep my students safe. Over

4

the past two years, there were over

5

150 bomb threats against Shen Yun.

6

These are real. One of which was

7

made against the school itself, here

8

in Deerpark. A security guard at the

9

school said that the campus

10

break-ins, including some with armed

11

offenders, average at least one a

12

month over the last year and a half.

13

Considering the horrors of

14

political violence and school

15

shootings witnessed in recent years,

16

I strongly support the school's right

17

to construct security measures as

18

deemed necessary. This should be the

19

right of every school community. At

20

the core of many issues in the world

21

today, it's a wrong belief that

22

people need to be divided into

23

opposing parties. I love kayaking

24

and swimming in the river. I go

25

hiking in the woods regularly. Not

1
2 one person in this room here opposes
3 clean water and lush living spaces.
4 We all want these things. Likewise,
5 everyone in this room wants the right
6 to raise a family here and make an
7 honest living.

8 Every morning, I walk down the
9 road to my neighbor and talk to my
10 neighbors whenever I can. I love
11 them. If anybody sees someone in
12 this room they feel is different or a
13 threat in some way, I encourage you
14 to get to know them and find at least
15 one thing you have in common. We
16 have a lot more in common than
17 differences and ultimately want the
18 same things. Thank you very much.

19 MR. PLOTSKY: Grace Woodard.

20 MS. WOODARD: I just wanted to
21 -- thanks. Most people know me --

22 MR. PLOTSKY: Grace, would you
23 just spell your name, please?

24 MS. WOODARD: Oh, Sorry.
25 Grace, G-R-A-C-E, Woodard,

1

2

W-O-O-D-A-R-D.

3

MR. PLOTSKY: Thank you.

4

MS. WOODARD: You're welcome.

5

Most people know me. I'm with DRA.

6

And if you want to find a communist

7

or accuse somebody of a communist,

8

being a communist, he's right there

9

(Pointing). You can speak to him --

10

(Unknown Audience Member

11

Speaking.)

12

(Unintelligible Due to Multiple

13

Speakers.)

14

MS. WOODARD: -- they can

15

address it. The issue is the plans.

16

The plans from 2018 to today's plans,

17

it's expanded. It's expanded quite a

18

bit. When I went over the FEIS and I

19

looked at the comments from the old

20

2019 hearing, they were all

21

dismissed, serious comments.

22

Comments of Kevin Draganchuk, top

23

graduate, engineer, Rensselaer, a guy

24

with a really good reputation, very

25

smart. Who made all of those

1

2

comments? Was it an engineer who

3

made those comments? Was it an

4

attorney? They were all practically

5

dismissed.

6

Deerpark has yet to take SEQRA

7

seriously in terms of this project.

8

They've taken it seriously in other

9

projects. And that is what is at

10

stake. And all of -- I suggest all

11

-- everyone in the town, every town

12

official read the engineer's reports.

13

Traffic, who here drives down

14

Guymard Turnpike regularly? Anybody?

15

Raise your hands. Do you think it

16

can handle 450 people coming into a

17

concert?

18

(Audience Responds.)

19

MS. WOODARD: You -- yeah?

20

(Audience Responds.)

21

MS. WOODARD: Why is it that

22

you travel in Tera Vans when you come

23

into Dragon Springs? Is that a good

24

practice without turning, without

25

coming to a stop, without turning on

1
2 your lights? This is a serious
3 issue. Where is everybody going to
4 go if 400 people are coming in to
5 this concert? Where are they going
6 to go if there's a big tie-up and
7 they all come at once?

8 This is not for the public. It
9 is for people who have bought tickets
10 ahead of time who have been vetted,
11 who are coming in, who are invited.
12 Joe Schmoie cannot come into --

13 MR. PLOTSKY: Your time is up,
14 sorry.

15 THE WOODARD: But that's it.

16 MR. PLOTSKY: Your time is up.

17 THE WOODARD: Yes, thank you.

18 MR. PLOTSKY: Michael
19 Fitzgerald.

20 MR. FITZGERALD: Thank you so
21 much, Board members, for giving us
22 this opportunity to speak our
23 thoughts. I actually really enjoyed
24 --

25 MR. PLOTSKY: I'm sorry. Could

1

2 you spell your name?

3 MR. FITZGERALD: Oh, sorry.

4 Michael, M-I-C-H-A-E-L, Fitzgerald,

5 F-I-T-Z-G-E-R-A-L-D. Really excited

6 by listening to all that everybody

7 has to say tonight, because it just

8 shows me how much our community

9 actually cares, both on the side who

10 is in opposition and affirming the

11 development plans at Dragon Springs.

12 But we are left with two

13 obvious things. Obviously, we need

14 safeguards in place for any massive

15 expansion or small expansion to make

16 sure that our rivers, and our lakes,

17 and our forests are clean and safe

18 for everybody to use. I use these

19 things all of the time. I have my

20 kids in there. And obviously, this

21 needs to happen. And so, anybody who

22 is in opposition, that is what they

23 are going to bring up. Yes, that's

24 true. We need to have this, and it's

25 your guys' job to make sure that any

1

2

development is going to be

3

safeguarded.

4

5

Obviously, we have a second
truth, which is the development at
Dragon Springs has brought in lots of
commerce and prosperity to this area.

6

7

8

9

10

A lot of the fabulous people who've
come to this area have done nothing
but enrich the community.

11

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25

So, we're left with these two
obvious truths: How do we help
Dragon Springs develop safely so that
the environment is impacted as little
as possible, at the same, helping it
develop? So, that way, we can keep
bringing prosperity to the area.
These two obvious truths -- it's your
job to help us balance these things.
And a lot of people are passionate
here, a lot of families, hard-working
people. And it's your job to make
sure that this -- these plans get
pushed through so the development can
be there, but at the same time, keep

1

2 my rivers clean, because I do a lot
3 of playing there with my kids as
4 well. And I trust that you will do
5 that. So, thank you for your time.

6

7

MR. PLOTSKY: Khrystyna
Pentchoukova. And I apologize.

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MS. Pentchoukova: Let me spell
that for you. Are you ready?
Khrystyna, K-H-R-Y-S-T-Y-N-A, last
name Pentchoukova,
P-E-N-T-C-H-O-U-K-O-V-A. Members of
the Board, thank you for the
opportunity to speak. My name is
Khrystyna Pentchoukova. I'm an
English teacher. And my husband,
first child, and I moved to the area
in 2018, after I got hired at Fei
Tian Academy of the Arts. While
teaching and raising my family, which
now includes four children, I also
eventually became fully certified
through Queens College in New York.
And I'm very thankful that Fei Tian
Academy of the Arts helped me to

1
2 achieve my teacher certification.
3 It's a reflection of how they nurture
4 their students as well.

5 Many professionals, like my
6 husband and I, had moved to the area
7 because of Dragon Springs to work,
8 raise families, and invest in our
9 community together. And also, we pay
10 taxes and support the local economy.
11 My remarks are short because I want
12 to get home to my children, but it
13 was important for me to share this
14 with you, and also the fact that I
15 support the application. And I
16 believe it is going to be good for
17 the area. Thank you for your time.

18 MR. PLOTSKY: Robert Howe.

19 MR. HOWE: Hello, R-O-B-E-R-T
20 H-O-W-E. I am an environmentalist
21 who's been wandering the Bashakill
22 wetlands down to Neversink for about
23 two years now. And I don't think
24 that I would sleep tonight if I
25 didn't speak. I didn't come here

1
2 prepared to speak. But after seeing
3 the engineering reports for expansive
4 -- or expansive -- the abundant plans
5 that -- that you guys plan for the --
6 for the lake and seeing that you guys
7 are going to decimate that much
8 acreage of wildlife, woodland, tree
9 habitats for all of these different
10 species that ecosystem is thriving on
11 this side of the Gunks, my mind was
12 blown.

13 I didn't know when I was
14 monitoring two years ago that --
15 anything about Dragon Springs. I
16 live on the other side of the Gunks.
17 And if you believe that there is no
18 trout, the DEP and the DEC stock the
19 Neversink. That's -- I just wanted
20 to throw that out there as well, that
21 -- I've seen it from our stations
22 that the Bashakill is dried up and
23 droughts and completely dried up.

24 Now, what happens when the
25 wastewater treatment plant fails

1

2

because of a surge in some type of
climate storm, like if we get a
massive -- a flash flood? In those
types of events, what are you guys
going to do? Thank you.

7

MR. PLOTSKY: Jill Nugent

8

(Phonetic).

9

MS. NUGENT: You already have

10

said all of these things.

11

MR. PLOTSKY: Very good. Thank

12

you. Just for the record purposes,

13

Ms. Nugent did submit a written

14

document. I believe it's Exhibit

15

Number 5. And that is received in

16

the record. Thank you very much,

17

ma'am.

18

Jim Fogarty.

19

MR. FOGARTY: The name is Jim

20

Fogarty, J-I-M F-O-G-A-R-T-Y. I am

21

speaking on behalf of supporting the

22

expansion project at Dragon Springs.

23

I want to thank you for giving us the

24

opportunity, Board.

25

I have very little notes, but I

1

2

can tell a short story. My heritage

3

is, on my father's side,

4

multi-generational Irish immigrants.

5

On my mother's, Polish immigrants. I

6

was raised in the deep south. I was

7

raised around expanded family and in

8

generations. And more importantly, I

9

was taught to do business on a

10

handshake. You look a man in the

11

eye, you shake his hand, and your

12

word is your bond. That is my

13

history and my tradition.

14

I moved to Colorado for

15

25 years before I came here. I'm now

16

a homeowner in Cuddebackville. And I

17

like the people. I like the place.

18

But when I was in Colorado, I had an

19

interest in martial arts, teaching

20

philosophy. And to make a long story

21

short, it led me to Falun Gong and

22

the practice, which I treasure. I

23

think it's very beneficial. And

24

every practitioner I've met has been

25

good people.

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I worked for the school district in Colorado, the High Rockies, and I got exposed to Shen Yun 20 years ago. I joined a hosting organization in the city of Denver, and we bring the show there each year. And as I watched the show and I looked around personally at the country and how we seem to be losing touch with traditions and the intangible things that truly matter that we carry in our hearts, I became very concerned for the generations to come. I'm not some old man going to preach to younger generations. They have their life. But as we get older, we do see what we're losing, and we care about that.

I had the opportunity to come to Huguenot in 2019 to visit some friends. I've never been here before. I know about Dragon Springs. I know about Shen Yun, and I've personally spoken to many, many

1

2

people that were deeply touched by

3

the performance. And it had that

4

ability to reconnect them to precious

5

things that they valued.

6

Eventually, I was offered a

7

job. I work at Northern Academy in

8

Middletown, which is -- occupies the

9

old state hospital grounds. The

10

school has received more and more

11

each year of positive support from

12

that community. We've renovated many

13

old buildings on the state hospital

14

grounds. I understand the disconnect

15

between east and west.

16

When my family found out what I

17

was doing, they couldn't even

18

pronounce it, and they had no

19

understanding of why I had chosen

20

this path. But what they could see

21

is that I was doing it, there were

22

tremendous changes in me, and it

23

increased my relationship, close

24

relationship with family and friends.

25

They can see the difference, and

1
2 through that, hopefully, get an
3 insight into what I had committed my
4 life to.

5 When I came to Northern
6 Academy, a further reflection of time
7 to understand the distance between
8 the two cultures, I'd say I work in
9 Northern Academy, and they would say,
10 Oh, the Chinese school?

11 MR. PLOTSKY: Sorry, sir, time.

12 MR. FOGARTY: I said yes.

13 Thank you for your time.

14 MR. PLOTSKY: Bruce Quinn.

15 MR. QUINN: Hi. My name is
16 Bruce Quinn, B-R-U-C-E Q-U-I-N-N.
17 I'd like to give up my time for
18 somebody else, because most of the
19 questions I had have already been
20 answered. Thank you.

21 MR. PLOTSKY: Sinon Vereshaka.

22 MR. VERESHAKA: Good evening.
23 Sinon Vereshaka, S-I-N-O-N, last name
24 Vereshaka, V-E-R-E-S-H-A-K-A. Good
25 evening, everyone. My name is Sinon

1
2 Vereshaka. I'm an America citizen.
3 I have two sons in their fourth year
4 at Fei Tian College at Dragon
5 Springs. My wife and I are very
6 thankful they are getting such a
7 great education in music. We know
8 that the school's main focus is to
9 revive traditional Chinese culture,
10 high moral values, and educating
11 students to become world-class
12 musicians and dancers. So, we have
13 faith that our sons are getting a
14 very good education, and being very
15 well taken care of, and are safe.
16 And they are a great community of
17 friends and teachers.

18 For myself, I have been a
19 tradesman for my whole life working
20 experience. I have been voluntarily
21 working at Dragon Springs for many
22 years. And I am impressed with the
23 architects and engineers. They give
24 me all of the specifications and
25 great guidance for the job, making

1

2

the job to be at an excellent

3

standard in building code. So, my

4

experience with Dragon Springs is

5

very positive.

6

Thank you very much, and have a

7

great evening. I support the Dragon

8

Springs proposal.

9

MR. PLOTSKY: Paul Forrest.

10

MR. FORREST: Hi. My name is

11

Paul Forrest, P-A-U-L

12

F-O-R-R-E-S-T. I don't have a

13

prepared statement, but I am very

14

honored to be able to speak here

15

tonight, because I do support the

16

proposed application for Dragon

17

Springs. It's been mentioned a

18

number of times the impact that

19

Dragon Springs has on Deerpark and a

20

much larger community behind that. I

21

am just curious if anyone has ever

22

done an impact study on the amount of

23

revenue that has been generated

24

through Dragon Springs. Millions?

25

Tens of millions? But in my opinion,

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that isn't even the most important impact in this society. Not the -- not the financial impact, but the more interchangeable spiritual and cultural impact.

It's an incredible honor, in my opinion, to have a place, Dragon Springs, in this community. It's taken me many years, 20 years to understand the impact of what Dragon Springs could do. And I am sure in the next 20 years, it will grow even more. Nothing is proposed by Dragon Springs that isn't under serious consideration for their growth and what they need. So, in that sense, I fully support, especially with -- it's been mentioned many, many times about Shen Yun. Its nationally, internationally impact on the world, and it comes right here in Dragon Springs. So, anything I think that this community can do to support Dragon Springs will benefit this

1

2 community and the world.

3 Thank you very much.

4 MR. PLOTSKY: Biao Liang.

5 MR. LIANG: My name is Biao

6 Liang, B-I-A-O, last name L-I-A-N-G.

7 I'm very, very glad the Board gave me

8 the opportunity to express my -- I

9 thank you for the chance to speak.

10 The first, my son is very smart. He

11 can play the game in one think

12 (Phonetic), in one second. I don't

13 see he is playing the game when he

14 was eight years old. So, I feel

15 hectic (Phonetic) what to do. My son

16 is very hands-on. He made our family

17 very happy since he was young. But

18 how I overcome the difficulty in this

19 -- in this -- in our time, a lot kids

20 play there. So, I thinking [Sic]

21 that the only way I can do is change

22 school.

23 So, I spend a lot of time,

24 spend a lot of money on my son's

25 education. Finally, my son can come

1
2 to study at Fei Tian Academy for the
3 Arts. Within few months, he changed.
4 He don't touch anything. And he
5 become very pride [Sic]. You know
6 what? I -- my first -- I complete --
7 I complete don't pay attention to his
8 education. So, he spent a lot of
9 time -- (Indiscernible) -- so, I feel
10 very painful. My son -- my first son
11 still breaking (Phonetic), even as he
12 grow up. And he is a lawyer. Even
13 30 years old, sometimes still
14 breaking (Phonetic). And later, I
15 communicate with him slowly. But my
16 second son, I spent a lot of time on
17 his education.

18 So, I express my thanks to the
19 Fei Tian Academy for the Arts, so I
20 can educate my son. He was graduated
21 at May of this year with high honors.
22 He speak now very respectfully. We
23 communicate. He speak very polite to
24 me. So, we have a good very
25 communication. When I let him go

1

2

out, he married. Okay, you need to
speak like this to respect people.

3

4

So, I -- in turn, I was educated

5

through my son. So, I learn a lot.

6

You know this, every penny to have my

7

son in Dragon Springs how to teach

8

our son how to be polite --

9

MR. PLOTSKY: Time.

10

MR. LIANG: Okay, so I support

11

the application. Thank you.

12

MR. PLOTSKY: Meghan McGregor.

13

MS. MCGREGOR: Good evening.

14

My name is M-E-G-H-A-N

15

M-c-G-R-E-G-O-R. I'm a Town of

16

Deerpark resident. I also did not

17

receive the Notice for a Public

18

Hearing. My primary concern is the

19

emergency services preparedness at

20

full build-out and the age of the

21

data being used in the evaluation.

22

Tonight, I have been told there

23

is no substantial increase in demand

24

on the community services. Yet,

25

portions of the analysis rely on

1
2 Cuddebackville Fire Department data
3 from 2016, 2017, and police data
4 ending in 2018. But we currently sit
5 in 2026. At full build-out, the
6 project contemplates approximately
7 500 boarding students, 200 staff
8 members, and as many as 200 daily
9 visitors. I respectfully request a
10 current emergency services analysis
11 using today's staffing, apparatus
12 availability, response times, EMS
13 resources, police resources, and
14 operational capacities, specifically
15 after the COVID-19 pandemic, which
16 means there's a significant reduction
17 in emergency service personnel.

18 Our local fire departments are
19 all volunteers. A major incident
20 requiring mutual aid does not affect
21 only the first department; it
22 potentially draws personnel and
23 apparatus from surrounding
24 communities. Therefore, the analysis
25 should identify which mutual aid

1
2 companies are expected to respond,
3 what resources are realistically
4 available, their anticipated response
5 times, and what coverage remains in
6 the communities while those resources
7 are committed here.

8 EMS requires a Zoom (Phonetic)
9 analysis. Currently, Port Jervis EMS
10 provides ambulance coverage for the
11 Town of Deerpark, while also serving
12 a much larger regional area.
13 Currently, the response times for the
14 area of Cuddebackville is about 25 to
15 30 minutes for a 9-1-1 response. The
16 record should evaluate actual
17 ambulance and paramedic-level ALS
18 services and availability, which
19 currently, we don't have any unless
20 you call mutual aid. Simultaneous
21 calls, transportation times, mutual
22 aid EMS resources, and the
23 requirements of a mass casualty
24 incident, not merely historical call
25 volume.

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The same applies to law enforcement. Police data ending in 2018 should not substitute for any assessment of 2026 staffing response capabilities and mutual aid requirements. Tonight we've heard that Dragon Springs possesses their own fire trucks and emergency response vehicles. That raises an important issue that should be clarified in the record. What is the legal and operational status of that on-site response organization, its recognized fire department, or fire company, or mitigation response? It's personnel and equipment are being relied on as mitigation. The record should identify their certificates, training, staffing --

MR. PLOTSKY: Time.

MS. MCGREGOR: -- 24-hour coverage. Thank you.

MR. PLOTSKY: Sherri Hummel. Sherri Hummel. We lost one.

1

2

MS. HUMMEL: I'm right here.

3

Good evening.

4

MR. PLOTSKY: Here she comes.

5

MS. HUMMEL: My name is

6

S-H-E-R-R-I H-U-M-M-E-L. I am here,

7

like a lot of citizens, I'm hearing a

8

lot tonight about love, and joy, and

9

excellent schooling, and such. And

10

that is not something that's unique

11

to that particular community. Many

12

schools in New York provide wonderful

13

educations. Many different religious

14

sects provide good moral teachings.

15

However, it's not -- to me,

16

there is a lot -- there is a lack of

17

transparency. A lot of it seems to

18

me like they are self-inspected.

19

That's what I keep hearing. There

20

seems to be a problem with allowing

21

town officials in. I know when I had

22

my house re-sided a couple of years

23

ago, I had to have an inspector come

24

in to inspect my work. I did not get

25

to choose when, who, where was going

1

2 to do it. They just came.

3

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The fact that they would not let certain inspectors on that property and chose their own, I think, is really an affront to the citizens because we have to comply with certain rules. And any organization here, no matter what the background, should have to comply with the same things that everybody else does.

This is not a matter of prejudice. It is a matter of being concerned about the land, the effects, the water, the waste, the potential for hazard, the lack of compliance with providing the fire department with what they need to be of a decent service. They're also not risking their lives if there's an issue that they have to help with. And there's just so many issues that I don't understand why a simple thing, like a permit for a fence, and

1
2 they couldn't even follow what they
3 were permitted to do for that. It's
4 just not acceptable. I couldn't do
5 it. And I don't think they should be
6 able to do it either.

7 So, I really hope that you will
8 consider that it's very nice, a
9 wonderful presentation, and talk
10 about what they plan to do, but what
11 they plan to do and what they do are
12 usually two different things.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. PLOTSKY: Martin Kritzler.

15 MR. KRITZLER: Good evening.

16 My name is Martin Kritzler,
17 M-A-R-T-I-N K-R-I-T-Z-L-E-R. I'm a
18 German engineer and came here about
19 10 years ago. And now, I am a
20 American citizen, and I'm happy to be
21 an American citizen, to be in this
22 community.

23 I worked -- as an engineer, I
24 worked as an international business
25 manager. I worked in France and --

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(Unintelligible) -- U.K. I lived in China for two years, and then I moved to U.S. And I speak also fluent Chinese and three other languages. And through this exposure, I could learn a bit about China, the Chinese Communist Party, and how this is happening. I came here for good reason, for Shen Yun, for the Dragon Springs here. And I am proud to be able to help them. And I worked for a couple of years on my own home here, so I invested a couple of hundreds of thousands of dollars in this house, pay my taxes here.

And I feel the work, which has been done on Dragon Springs, is certainly not -- especially in the beginning, was not one hundred percent all according to the code. But people have learned, and I think they seek the dialogue with you, with the Town, the townspeople, and they want to make good. Because by heart,

1
2 these people are trying to be good
3 people, are trying to live according
4 to their main principles, truths,
5 confession, and tolerance, which I
6 think we should -- should every good
7 person do. And I can't just imagine
8 that they don't want to do a good
9 job.

10 And I've personally worked with
11 Michael Morgante, the engineer of
12 them, on my own property. I think he
13 did a very good job there. And I
14 believe he also did everything to be
15 according to the rules that the --
16 that the papers you have in front of
17 you should actually present the
18 project in the right manner and do
19 everything necessary according to the
20 building code. I personally have
21 seen the sewer plant, well the --
22 actually, not the sewer plant -- the
23 factory. It may be about a sixth of
24 this room in volume, and how the --
25 where the water --

1

2

MR. PLOTSKY: Time, sir.

3

Sorry.

4

MR. KRITZLER: Thank you.

5

Thank you for your time.

6

MR. PLOTSKY: Jacob Zocco.

7

MR. ZOCCO: My name is Jacob

8

Zocco, J-A-C-O-B Z-O-C-C-O. Thank

9

you for this opportunity to speak

10

freely here. My wife, two kids, and

11

I live in Mount Hope. I'm originally

12

from Connecticut. We have lived here

13

since 2010. My wife works at Dragon

14

Springs, and one of our children goes

15

to school there. And the other goes

16

to a religious school in Middletown

17

that was inspired by the Dragon

18

Springs school. We are very happy

19

our children are able to go to this

20

school. They place an emphasis on

21

virtue, hard work, personal

22

responsibilities, and so many other

23

things that we weren't always able to

24

find in public schools. And that's a

25

sacrifice -- it's a sacrifice to go

1

2

to private schools after paying so

3

much in school tax, but it's a

4

sacrifice that we will continue to

5

make.

6

I share this because, at the

7

end of the day, after the dust of

8

construction dies down, Dragon

9

Springs is home to schools, a

10

performing arts company, and temple

11

buildings. Schools, a performing

12

arts company, and temple buildings.

13

I believe that natural resources

14

should be integrated with schools,

15

the arts, and places of faith. None

16

of these things are bad for the

17

environment. None of them negatively

18

impact the area. They are a great

19

contribution to the local community

20

and to the whole word. And Dragon

21

Springs fits perfectly into this

22

environment.

23

I am very thankful to have

24

Dragon Springs here, and I fully

25

support the proposal. Thank you.

1

2

MR. PLOTSKY: John Friedle.

3

MR. FRIEDLE: J-O-H-N

4

F-R-I-E-D-L-E. I represent Birch

5

Club. We have the property directly

6

across from the entrance that's --

7

should be contested. It was a bridge

8

that was never -- was built too far.

9

They built it too big. It wasn't

10

appropriate for the way the road was,

11

so they paid for the road so they can

12

try to make it appropriate. It's a

13

quiet street. It really shouldn't

14

have a lot of traffic. They use it

15

all of the time.

16

So, I look in this thing here,

17

and it says approval. So, if it's

18

not approved, how are they using it,

19

you know? Same thing with the creek,

20

going through it. They've narrowed

21

it down. They planted trees. That's

22

going to be good until the next

23

genuine gully washer comes blasting

24

through there.

25

I was on the Town of Gardner

1
2 Planning Board for nine years. I'm
3 not sure how we carried this on all
4 of the way from 2019. I am shocked.
5 I didn't even know this was from
6 2019. What's gotten resolved between
7 now and then, you know? The whole
8 eight-foot fence thing that was put
9 up there way before they ever asked
10 for a permit, because I saw the
11 fences, you know? And if you even
12 got remotely close, because there are
13 cameras, they harass you if you get
14 by their property. You know, they
15 are talking about people wherever.
16 You got armed guards. You got two
17 guard dogs at the gate right there.

18 The water, I don't know. I
19 don't know what the soil is up there.
20 I don't know, you know, that's all
21 part of whatever. That seems a lot,
22 you know? And you have the Bashakill
23 running through the Neversink, which
24 runs through the Delaware, which is
25 everybody's drinking water down

1

2 below. So, I don't know where that
3 is going to go.

4 But I said it before and I will
5 say it again, you know, they tend to
6 ask forgiveness before permission.
7 And you know, this is what they seem
8 to be doing now.

9 I'd like to say thank you.

10 MR. PLOTSKY: Emily Lu.

11 MS. LU: Good evening,
12 everybody. I am happy I get a chance
13 to say here my name is Emily Lu,
14 E-M-I-L-Y L-U. I work for Shen Yun
15 Performing Arts, and my husband works
16 as Fei Tian College. So, my husband
17 and I both drive to Dragon Springs
18 every day to work. We normally drive
19 one car over there, even though our
20 schedules are quite different. Why
21 only one car? Because there is not
22 enough parking spaces, where only my
23 husband and I are only given one
24 parking spot.

25 So, during falls and early

1
2 winters, when we have a busy
3 rehearsal running late, my husband
4 would either have to wait for me to
5 come back with me, or he would go
6 back and come back to pick me up.
7 So, this is rather inconvenient, but
8 I wanted to voice here. I mean, I
9 know there are a lot of other
10 technical issues I am not familiar
11 with, but I just wanted to voice here
12 that there was a genuine need for
13 that. And I've heard the parking
14 space for many, many years. I was
15 like, what happened to the parking
16 garage?

17 But anyway, so as I said, this
18 is a common problem for many artists
19 and staff working at Dragon Springs.
20 Because of that, I fully support
21 Dragon Springs' expansion plans,
22 especially with the building of the
23 parking lots. I just wanted to take
24 this opportunity to share with you
25 another side of my story.

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I grew up in China, and I came to United States in 1995, for better education and better life. All of a sudden, even now thinking about it, 31 years has already gone. And now I have a family and with two children, and both of them are married and have their own houses in the community. So, I used to live in North Haven, Connecticut, for about four years, where we had a house. And the community was very friendly and welcoming. And my American neighbors were friendly, smiling at us, having parties with us, and teaching us, at the time first-time homeowners, how to mow our own lawns and how to care for our backyard.

And when I moved here 16 years ago, I had mixed feelings about neighbors. Some are very friendly. But I also experienced some unfriendly or even hostile feelings towards us. Now that I think about

1

2

it, probably not towards us

3

personally, but probably generally

4

towards the Dragon Springs community.

5

I understand some people, you know,

6

who have lived here for long enough

7

and wanted to, you know -- that's

8

2 minutes 45 seconds. I have

9

15 seconds to go. Some people have

10

lived here for long enough, and they

11

are opposing against our expansion

12

and development. But I would say

13

just think about the town 26 years

14

ago, and look at job created, and how

15

much more beautiful the city has

16

become.

17

MR. PLOTSKY: Time.

18

MS. LU: I thought I had about

19

15 more seconds. Okay, thank you

20

very much.

21

MR. PLOTSKY: Long Hu.

22

MR. HU: Good evening, Town

23

Officials, and good evening, my

24

community neighbors. My name is Long

25

Hu, first name, L-O-N-G, last name,

1

2

H-U. I want to share some message

3

with you that I came -- I was to be a

4

candidate in one of the top

5

universities in China. I fled from

6

China to United States in 2007, and I

7

moved in Godeffroy, right by the

8

Neversink River and the Dragon

9

Springs, yeah, because of my faith

10

and also because of the persecution.

11

Yeah, I really appreciate and

12

be grateful for the opportunity of

13

freedom here, and I really took here

14

as my home.

15

I really spent like 10 hours to

16

look through the FEIS document, which

17

is nearly like 200 pages. I'm really

18

amazed how the work is done, and I

19

think the Planning Board is also

20

aware of that. And I heard about

21

like some opposing opinions here. I

22

think maybe some of the neighbors,

23

and yeah, you have not like really

24

read through the document here. I

25

really recommend some of you -- and

1

2 you, will be --

3 MR. PLOTSKY: Sir, you need to
4 speak to the Board.

5 MR. HU: Oh, okay, sir.

6 And also another message is
7 that, when I first moved here, one of
8 the -- (Unintelligible) -- neighbors
9 came to me, and he shared a secret
10 with me, which had been passed down
11 for hundreds of years in the
12 community. He told me that, before
13 the final judgment day, our place is
14 the safest place in the world. Yeah,
15 I was not surprised to hear that
16 because I know that comes from the
17 kindness of the Town to accept these
18 refugees, Dragon Springs, which has
19 been brutally persecuted in the
20 homeland. So, this is one message.

21 And also, another message is,
22 in May, I went to Europe like for two
23 weeks with my wife, and we also spent
24 some time in Florence, in Italy. I
25 got more interest in not only that.

1
2 In 2025, there was like over five
3 billion revenue was related to
4 reminiscence-related tourism. So,
5 from what I see, I can share with you
6 that I joke with my wife that people
7 nowadays still can live upon
8 achievement of our ancestors 700,
9 800 years ago. From what I see, the
10 achievement of Shen Yun is even
11 better and higher. So, please add
12 your support, your righteous and
13 positive support for this movement,
14 and so that our generations, our
15 kids, grandkids, we have safety and
16 prosperity for hundreds of years.
17 Thank you.

18 MR. PLOTSKY: Time.

19 Michelle Midkiff.

20 MS. MIDKIFF: Hi, good evening.

21 M-I-C-H-E-L-L-E M-I-D-K-I-F-F. So,
22 I came to the United States when I
23 was 12 years old to join my mom and
24 my stepdad's family. My stepdad is
25 actually Caucasian American, and I

1

2

really appreciate the -- growing up

3

in that family where he instilled in

4

me a lot of American values,

5

including appreciation of freedoms

6

and also pursuing the American dream.

7

So, my husband and I moved here

8

11 years ago. We live in

9

Cuddebackville. I think a lot of

10

very good points have been made here

11

tonight already, so I wanted to add

12

one very small point related to the

13

parking, because that's the part I

14

have personal experience with.

15

I don't work at Dragon Springs,

16

but I visit there regularly. And

17

usually, by the time I get there, we

18

have to park on the street because

19

there is no parking. And by the time

20

I get there, there is usually only a

21

few spots left at the bottom of a

22

huge hill, and we park, you know, at

23

the street and then walk basically

24

two hills up, because there is no

25

place to park any closer. And

1
2 occasionally, I would drive out to
3 see if there is a spot, in case
4 anybody left, because there -- but
5 usually, I find cars are full. The
6 whole street are fully parked of
7 cars. So, I know for sure there is a
8 shortage of parking there, even for
9 visitors.

10 That's it. Thank you very much
11 for your time.

12 MR. PLOTSKY: Leeshai Lemish.

13 MR. LEMISH: Good evening,
14 L-E-E-S-H-A-I L-E-M-I-S-H, just a
15 weird Hebrew name, not Chinese in any
16 way. I was born in Columbus, Ohio,
17 moved to our area here in 2006,
18 bought my house in Huguenot in 2014.
19 I'm going to speak in support of the
20 DS proposal, but more importantly in
21 support of more unity in our
22 community.

23 On the DS proposal, I want to
24 say just this one thing, which I've
25 been in Dragon Springs for 20 years.

1

2

And I know that every year the county

3

Health Department inspects the

4

kitchens, the state DHS fire

5

department inspects the schools, the

6

DEC inspects the wastewater plant and

7

stormwater prevention on construction

8

sites. Year after year, these

9

inspections are great.

10

Now, as for the community, I

11

have three dreams. You know, I live

12

in Huguenot. A lot of people here

13

know the Huguenots were persecuted in

14

France, massacred. These people

15

around the room here, they look like

16

ordinary American citizens, maybe

17

speak with a bit of an accent, but a

18

lot of these people, I know some

19

really well. They are the ones that

20

are standing up for our freedoms.

21

They stood up to the biggest tyranny

22

in our world, the Chinese Communist

23

Party, and sometimes paid a horrible

24

price. We have people in the room

25

who have lost family members, people

1

2 who survived torture, people who were
3 in labor camps. Right here. Look
4 around and talk to these people.

5 These people are not the enemy. The

6 Chinese Communist Party are the

7 enemy. They are the ones who are

8 killing our military-aged men. How

9 many servicemen do we have here?

10 Thank you for your service. I served

11 in the IDF as well.

12 How many of these people -- the

13 biggest killers of our military have

14 been in touch with fentanyl with

15 precursors made by the CCP. And on,

16 and on, and on, turning our kids'

17 brains to mush with TikTok.

18 So that's three dreams. The

19 first dream is that construction --

20 (Unintelligible) -- over. It's

21 taking way too long. I don't know

22 what they're doing.

23 Second dream, we travel all

24 over the world as Shen Yun. I've

25 done 2,000 shows, performed in front

1
2 of millions of people, performed in
3 front of venues of people. In every
4 single show, we tell the audience all
5 over the world Shen Yun is based in
6 New York. We are proud of being
7 American. We are proud of being from
8 here. My second dream is that when
9 people come to our area, you guys,
10 everybody here, will be our biggest
11 fans. I hope this community can heal
12 and deal with the underlying fear of
13 change, whatever it is. That's, you
14 know, differences. Let's come
15 together. Get to know these people.
16 I hope everybody here will be Shen
17 Yun's biggest fans and biggest
18 proponents.

19 And my third dream, those
20 stalls, those vigorous hems of
21 parking, I hope that people here can
22 go visit Dragon Springs. It's
23 amazing. I hope it will be open. I
24 hope you won't have to fear
25 persecution, and spies, and all of

1

2

the things we have to deal with.

3

I've testified to Congress about this

4

stuff. It's real. I hope that stuff

5

will be over someday soon and all of

6

you can visit Dragon Springs. Thank

7

you very much.

8

MR. PLOTSKY: Laura Hatton.

9

MS. HATTON: Thank you to the

10

Board for giving us a chance. I know

11

it's a late night for everybody. I

12

wholeheartedly support Dragon

13

Springs' proposal. I live in

14

Deerpark. I'm from Valley Road. I

15

believe it's brought beautiful things

16

to the area.

17

MR. PLOTSKY: Could you spell

18

your name?

19

MS. HATTON: Sorry, L-A-U-R-A

20

H-A-T-T-O-N.

21

MR. PLOTSKY: Thank you.

22

MS. HATTON: You're welcome.

23

Yes. A bit moved by what

24

Leeshai said because it is true. I

25

think the community will come back

1
2 together. And I think that the
3 protections they are asking for are
4 reasonable. I am a Falun Gong
5 practitioner. We had policemen from
6 Sullivan County falsely called to our
7 house with a malicious report. I
8 cleared it up, but I was -- actually,
9 my husband was met at 7:00 in the
10 morning with five armed police
11 people. They were incredibly polite
12 and followed protocol, but they had
13 been misled that something was going
14 on. It was not the case. It easily
15 cleared up.

16 And when we clarified things to
17 the police, they said we can report
18 it as harassment. I feel that taking
19 the services of not just the county,
20 not just the local Deerpark, but the
21 state, the federal, taking services
22 to maliciously go after really good
23 people -- as you know, Dragon Springs
24 and Falun Gong is truth, compassion
25 tolerance. Using false reports to

1

2 mislead people, giving out any viral
3 information to look for things that
4 are not there, it's all the same
5 sources. And that's really bad, and
6 we shouldn't have people like that.

7

8 So, thank you. Thank you for
the work that you do. Appreciate it.

9

10 MR. PLOTSKY: And that, ladies
and gentlemen, was the last speaker
11 who signed up. So, Mr. Chairman, I
12 would suggest that you entertain a
13 motion to close the oral portion of
14 this Public Hearing, and hold the
15 Public Hearing open for a written
16 submission only until October 13th at
17 close of business.

18

19 MR. VICARETTI: Thank you, Mr.
Plotsky.

20

Do I hear a motion?

21

MR. SCHOCK: I make a motion.

22

MR. WAGNER: I'll second.

23

MR. VICARETTI: All in favor?

24

(All Respond Yes.)

25

MR. VICARETTI: Motion passed.

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So, I want to thank the public for the participation tonight in the Public Hearing. I mean, it's great to see the people that showed up, the amount of people that showed up, and all of the comments that were made for or against the FEIS and the site plan. And we will -- what is the next thing here? Wait for Dragon Springs back on the schedule for -- what day do we have Dragon Springs come back?

MR. PLOTSKY: So, Mr. Chairman, written comment from anyone, including those who spoke tonight, would be accepted until October 13th at close of business. I would propose and suggest that Dragon Springs be on the Planning Board agenda for October 14th for the limited purpose of just closing out, for all purposes, the Public Hearing. And thereafter, the applicant will respond, the Board will consider, and

1
2 at some point, there will be a
3 discussion about how to resolve the
4 two aspects of the hearing: The
5 environmental concerns, the SEQRA
6 FEIS, and the overall site plan
7 modification.

8 MR. VICARETTI: Thank you.

9 And before we wrap it up, I
10 want to thank Port Jarvis School
11 District for allowing us to have the
12 meeting today, tonight in the
13 auditorium here. I think you guys
14 did a fantastic job with the video,
15 audio, the whole thing. So, hats off
16 to Port Jarvis School District.

17 And with that said, I just need
18 a motion from somebody on our Board
19 to close the meeting.

20 MR. KEAN: I'll make the
21 motion.

22 MR. VICARETTI: Pat makes the
23 motion to close. Second?

24 MR. SCHOCK: Second.

25 MR. VICARETTI: Luke second.

Dragon Springs Buddhist, Inc

1

2

So, all in favor?

3

(All Respond Yes.)

4

MR. VICARETTI: Everybody go

5

home.

6

7

(Time Noted 10:16 p.m.)

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Dragon Springs Buddhist, Inc

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF NEW YORK)
 : SS.:
COUNTY OF ORANGE)

I, VICTORIA CHUMAS ARIAS, a Notary
Public for and within the State of New
York, do hereby certify:

That the witness whose examination is
hereinbefore set forth was duly sworn and
that such examination is a true record of
the testimony given by that witness.

I further certify that I am not
related to any of the parties to this
action by blood or by marriage and that I
am in no way interested in the outcome of
this matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
set my hand this 5th day of October 2026.



VICTORIA CHUMAS ARIAS