

Town of Romulus Planning Board
Romulus Fire Department
Public Hearing for Seneca Dairy Systems
Sept. 16, 2019

Call to Order

Roll Call

Sue Ellen Balluff, Chair

Bill Karlsen

Tom Bouchard

Cindy Meckley - absent

Mary Joslyn -excused

Al Nivison - excused

Attorney Pat Morrell

Guests: see attached list

Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence

Open Public Hearing – Request of Audience to provide their Name and Address made by Sue Ellen Balluff, Chair of Town of Romulus Planning Board. **Motion** to open the public hearing made by Tom Bouchard, seconded by Bill Karlsen. Motion unanimously carried.

Sue Ellen explained that all documents are online on the Town web site and available to read at the Town Hall. She introduced Earl Martin, SDS; Kim Nason, attorney, Phillips Lytle; Tom Luccy, Fisher Associates; Bob Aronson, SIDA; Supervisor Dave Kaiser.

Summary: Kim Nason gave a quick overview of actions since the July public meeting, including the Rezoning request, site review and special use permit request to Town of Romulus Planning Board. The Second Supplement EAF includes an updated Stormwater Plan. A negative Declaration was determined by the lead agency, SIDA on Sept 5, 2019. At the Sept. 9, 2019 Romulus Planning Bd. meeting, a recommendation to the Town Board that they approve the zoning change requested by SDS LLC was passed. The Seneca County Planning Board on Sept. 12, 2019 approved Phase 1, Site Plan Review and Special Use Permit, pending submission of a parking/circulation plan to the Town of Romulus Planning Board. All these documents are on the Town website.

Questions:

Cameron Hosmer – Hosmer Estate Winery. Fisher Associates examined this project. Who paid them? Sue Ellen responded that Earl Martin, the applicant pays for it. It is his responsibility under the Town code provisions. What is the cost? Bob Aronson, IDA. Responded that they have not received a total bill, but approximately \$20,000 pending at this point.

Truman Bells - County resident. We are supportive of this project as it brings jobs to the area.

Steve Clemenson – County resident. We need jobs in this area.

Ralph Lott – farmer, Seneca Falls. I have known Earl his whole life and everything he does is 100% I am all for this. Earl has done a great deal for Seneca Co.

Darrick Riegel - Varick Town Councilman. I second Mr. Lott and am in favor of this project.

MaryAnne Kowalski - Romulus resident. In 2015 & 2018 zoning code was redone, - read section 4 Prohibited Uses of the zoning code. (see attached statement) Zinc, Ammonium chloride, etc. – zinc will be heated to high heat; the process will create air emissions and waste that may be hazardous. While the proposal appears to mitigate the risk, there is a section of the Romulus zoning code that prohibits “noxious or injurious” uses. How is the Planning Board going to interpret this provision for this project going forward? Would like a disinterested third-party review of this galvanizing process as we have not seen one.

Jan Quarles – Ovid resident. I second MaryAnne about air pollution. I am concerned for our children. We are all for jobs but want to be cautionary. I looked at the link to get information on the process and it said it was proprietary. Air must circulate for the workers; industrial traffic near school; want safe jobs for workers; airtight building, how does that work?

Dave Kaiser - Supervisor In response to your concerns, an industrial chemist on the Town ZBA, has asked technical questions that have been answered. These are online. His opinion is that it is a well-designed system and safe. You can contact Ken Battle, who resides at Poplar Beach. His questions and the answers from Fisher Assoc. and SDS are in the first supplement & secondary supplement.

Cameron Hosmer – Hosmer Estate Winery Jobs will be created for construction. Look at Elderlee at Oaks Corners actively advertising for applicants. How are we going to find the applicants to work here? Many businesses here are looking for people to work. We cannot get them for the winery. How are the employees going to be gotten?

Earl Martin – SDS If you set pay levels and health care, there are employees. Our plan is for 10 years, and we will be hiring over 125 employees.

Timothy Dunlap – retired union worker – brick layer I understand the market, the workers; I agree with Ms. Quarles that galvanization is very dangerous using poisonous chemicals. I live on Seneca Lake where we already have problems with PFOS used on the Seneca Army Depot. In this contained facility what are workers going to wear?

Randy Battaglia – Engineer, Fayette resident. Applicants want better opportunities; people travel long distances from here for better paying jobs.

Dave Hayes – Town of Romulus Trustee In reference to the zoning code that MaryAnne mentioned, Section 4, Prohibited Uses, noxious gases etc. these are areas where they are not permitted. In the WITE area, it is allowed. What Earl wants to do is permitted in response to MaryAnne's comment.

Cameron Hosmer - Mr. Martin paid for them. Should there be an independent review of the same project? It would make common sense.

Sue Ellen referred to Fisher Associates.

Tom Luccy - Fisher Associates Professional standards do not allow us to side with one side or the other. We had several issues coming in initially and we received responses from Mr. Martin. Standard is down the middle and the standards are not bent.

Mr. Cameron – Mr. Luccy, your presentation last time was stellar.

Roxanne Gupta – Ovid resident & landlord in town of Romulus Everyone here is playing their role. I question the standards in our country as they are low in terms of pollution. We have not been protected by them. Children in our schools, their health is already compromised. Do we need to have this in the Finger Lakes? Our air quality and water quality are critical to us. This government is not protecting us at any level. We do not need to act quickly. SAD is a toxic dump. Let's wait until we get information from independent reviewers. Do not give any special permits ahead of time.

Mr. Battaglia – Engineer, Fayette resident Romulus school enrollment is down. No one will be here in Romulus if there are no jobs.

Daryl Martin – Romulus resident We need job opportunities here as well. It is amazing what Earl has done at the Depot.

Jan Quarles – Ovid resident Emergency services – who pays for it? A Detailed Health & Safety plan is in the IDA Resolution, Exhibit B per Kim Nason, attorney, Phillips Lytle. Emergency services are paid for by county taxes. Earl Martin's Company pays for spills, any catastrophic event. SDS provides training for emergency staff.

Dave Kaiser-supervisor If you read the literature, the answers are there. There will not be thousands of pounds of chemicals.

Kim Nason – attorney, Phillips Lytle Separate air report was provided by Fisher. At the beginning of each section, there are summaries. The SCIDA SEQR report provides information and links for additional information.

Bob Aronson – SCIDA investigation is in the Fisher memo; Health and Human effects. The Seneca Co. Hazmat team would respond. Yates, Cayuga and Wayne counties contract with Seneca County for these services.

Dave Kaiser – Supervisor Could we ask Fisher if they could come up with a white paper that would consolidate information? How much would containment cover? What is the air quality? In the cover letter of the negative declaration, the resolution covers the information.

Tom Luccy - Fisher Associates – There are summaries on all the issues. Remember that SDS must go through the state for permits and must meet performance standards.

Maryanne Brodnicki – Romulus resident Say this thing springs a leak; how much will fall out?

Earl Martin – SDS Ken Battles could answer this as he did earlier. 3 – 4 times the total chemicals on site. Two additional layers around tank, secondary containment is 110% of all the materials. How many gallons? First supplement shows all tanks; 12 process tanks each containing 8,884 gallons are rinse tanks; some water tanks. Overflow tank? Where does liquid go? Held within the building. Ladders or doors? The line is semi-autonomous.

Cameron Hosmer – Hosmer Estate Winery This facility is state of the art. Is there a similar plant? In the US?

Earl Martin – SDS A lot of this information is proprietary.

Kim Nason – Phillips Lytle Details on process are provided.

Roxanne Gupta – Ovid resident & landlord Town of Romulus Can you tell us where a plant is operating?

Earl Martin – SDS You can google any known plant and look at any spills. Our plant is unique in air processing and handling of chemicals. You can get company names of plants in Europe. Air registration will be required.

Dave Kaiser – Supervisor Safety vs. galvanizing is confusing the issue. Our concerns are spill, air pollution, etc.

Tom Bouchard – Town of Romulus Planning Board I am skeptical when we are changing land use. Environmental impacts are a concern. Bill & Tom went to the IDA meeting and 2 hours later came away with some unanswered questions. We were convinced that safety issues were addressed; the number of agencies involved; the 3 phases, 10-year plan. What do you foresee the economy looking like 10 years from now?

Earl Martin – SDS In the ag sector it is cyclical; most people are worried about food shortages. The Ag sector has been stable; in dairy industry; ag industry. I expect it to grow; cows, farming. Modern dairy facilities are taking an enhanced position on animal welfare. That is the future.

Roxanne Gupta – Ovid resident & landowner Town of Romulus Dairy is on the decline. Young people now are not drinking dairy products; drinks are not made from dairy products.

Cameron Hosmer – Hosmer Estate Winery Galvanizing is manufacturing; market happens to be dairy; could galvanize signposts.

Tom Bouchard – Romulus Town Planning Board Is the traffic study complete?

Kim Nason – Phillips Lytle Yes, it is complete. Fisher found the traffic was not significant. Employees would be using back roads to get to work.

Kate Sinicropi – Romulus Town Planning Board We lose power here and I did not see in the plan, the use of generators. Will you be using Generators?

Earl Martin – SDS Yes

Tom Bouchard – Romulus Town Planning Board You mentioned housing for workers. What are you planning?

Earl Martin - SDS We have no specific plans for housing.

Motion to close hearing made by Tom Bouchard and seconded by Bill Karlsen. Unanimously approved. Time?

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Sinicropi, Acting Secretary