

Minutes of a Public Hearing held by the Town Board of the Town of Riverhead at Town Hall, Howell Avenue, Riverhead, New York on Wednesday, September 22, 1999, at 6:00 p.m.

**Present:**

Vincent Villella,	Supervisor
James Lull,	Councilman
Philip Cardinale,	Councilman
Mark Kwasna,	Councilman
Christopher Kent,	Councilman

**Also Present:**

Barbara Grattan,	Town Clerk
Adam Grossman, Esq.,	Town Attorney

Supervisor Villella called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

Supervisor Villella: "The meeting now be open but before we get into it, there's a few things I would-- first of all, the signs, no waving of signs, please. Okay. It's going to be a long night plus we've got a fire hazard here because (inaudible) so let's hope the Fire Marshal doesn't come here, that's number one.

George, all right, the comments beyond zoning and environmental issues so that we can keep the process moving so we won't be here until midnight. I would like to end this, you know, after everybody talks, you know, between nine and ten, if possible.

We have consultants here that the town has hired to listen to the findings of the EIS and also for the change of zone. And try and keep the noise down so we can get through the process and I really appreciate that. We here to listen to scientific evidence that comes before us.

So on that note we would start with-- "

Barbara Grattan: "We've got to open this public hearing."

Supervisor Villella: "Would you like to read the public hearing, Barbara."

Councilman Kwasna: "One second, before you start, Vinny. So

everybody can hear me. Please use this mike when you come up. This is the amplifier so everybody that's out in the hallway will be able to hear. This is just the tape recorder so please use this mike so everybody will be able to hear what everyone is saying. All right."

Supervisor Villella: "Okay, thanks. Okay, the public hearing will now be open. It's 6:13. Can you please read the public hearing, Barbara?"

Public Hearing opened: 6:13 p.m.

Barbara Grattan: "I have affidavits of publishing and posting for a public hearing to be held at Riverhead Town Hall, Riverhead, New York, at 6:00 p.m. on September 22, 1999 for the change of zone petition of Traditional Links, LLC to provide for the recreational zoning use district in conjunction with the prevalent Residence A and Agriculture A Zoning Use District to allow the construction of a Golf Course Clubhouse Hotel and Associate amenities upon property located at Sound Avenue, Baiting Hollow. And as each speaker comes up, would you please state your name and the town which you reside in. Thank you."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you, Barbara. We'll start off with that. They're going to have to come up with their project first then. Bill, Bill Talmage."

Bill Talmage: "My name's Bill Talmage. I represent my family's partnership in the Traditional Links project. I live in the brick house right across from Horton Avenue in Riverhead. I have two kids in the middle school and one will be starting school soon.

Obviously there's a big difference of opinion on this project. It kind of depends on how you look at things. In Italy there's a quarry where they hack huge stones out of the earth and left a big hole in the side of the mountain. Some of those blocks of marble went to a guy named Michaelangelo. Some people say this land will be destroyed by this golf course, others think a work of art and a national treasure will be created.

The Talmage family is very concerned that the opponents of this project will cause the largest residential subdivision in the history of Riverhead. Opposition groups appear that by obstructing and delaying this project, they can force a sale of the land to the county for preservation. Here are some facts to put the preservation issue

to bed once and for all.

1. The investors that control these properties will not sell for preservation.

2. The Talmage family does not support the idea of a sale for preservation.

3. This morning when I spoke at length to George (inaudible) the Deputy County Executive, he said that if Traditional Links has not-- does not have an interest in selling, the county will not pursue the purchase. The County Planner, Steve Jones, has confirmed verbally and in a letter that if Traditional Links as the controlling entity says they do not wish to sell, the county will move on. Traditional Links has officially declined to even discuss sale for preservation so, therefore, the matter is dead. By the way, the Deputy County Executive also said neither did he nor the County Executive recognize anything called the gradifolia sandhill.

In 1997 after searching many years, the Talmage family signed a contract committing our land for a venture called Traditional Links. The investors we found are extremely wealthy individuals that want to build one of the world's great golf courses. They were selected over many, many others because their motivation was to build the best project. Not necessarily the most profitable project. The investors signed on because we had a site unique enough to attract Ben Krenshaw and Bill Coor (phonetic) as designers. Coor-Krenshaw courses are among the rarest and best golf courses in the world.

The problem is our investors are only interested in building a Coor-Krenshaw course. If Coor and Krenshaw are not available because they're booked up forever and the window is closing on their availability, then they don't want to do a golf course.

The project then just becomes another investment to the investors and they won't want to maximize the return. Traditional Links has already been told we have no chance of getting the hotel or the second golf course. After losing one of the two golf courses and the hotel, Traditional Links has no more room to compromise.

As I said, the Talmage family is very concerned that this project may end up a huge subdivision with. When we made this deal in 1997, we could not imagine the town ever voting for houses over golf. We had no wetland, pine barrens, etc., and the grandifolia sandhills had

not been invented yet.

It would be impossible to deny Traditional Links the as of right use of the land for housing but there are many ways to deny the golf use. Obviously if the town votes against the zone change it would allow golf but also delay. And a much more likely thing is delay.

A standard opponents use in cases like this is called ambush. You'll see a lot of this tonight. On the last day of the comment period, that will be today, opponents trot out a bunch of experts supposedly with new and exciting information that just happened to arrive now. Usually the science is iffy and you can-- if you listen carefully, you'll hear that many of the science hasn't been published or peer reviewed at all.

Scientifically valid or not, all this works great for the opposition as a PR vehicle. The Town Board will be pressured to delay because of the supposedly new info and, again, delay can cause us to miss the golf options.

Another way is-- to assure houses is through site planning, assuming a change of zone is accepted. Here the golf course is made mediocre by moving a hole here and a hole there or maybe moving the whole thing out of the woods and into the farmfields. Krenshaw and Coor do not do functional golf courses, mediocre golf courses and, therefore, they won't do it and the result will be housing.

The fourth way to ensure houses is completely beyond the town's control. The opponents can file a lawsuit against the town. They're already threatening this. We are confident the town will win such a suit but the delay while the suit is being dismissed could result in houses.

The groups opposing this project love nature. They care about trees and birds but do not care about our property taxes, our schools, erasing the stigma which has been wrongly applied to Riverhead for generations. Many of these groups and their members are not even from Riverhead. A few of the members from Riverhead have kids in our schools. These people are a single view issue oriented and that issue is preservation at any cost. We've seen trespassing, planting false information of the natural heritage program and the creation of the famous grandifolia sandhills, all to promote their cause.

I'm just finishing up here."

Supervisor Villella: "That's fine, Bill."

Bill Talmage: "You, as the Town Board, must care about more than just the trees. You must consider the entire effect of this project on the people. People are important, too. Undisputed numbers in the environmental impact statement show that the pure residential subdivision would cause our school-- would cost our school district to receive up to a five million dollar a year shortfall. In other words, the other residents of the town would get a huge tax increase.

Richard Amper is on record as saying that the houses are just a bluff and the town should call that bluff. Of course, he doesn't live here so why not gamble, it's not his money. Anyone who thinks a residential subdivision is just a bluff should say so publicly so the people of Riverhead will know who to blame when they turn out to be wrong.

We voted you into office to look out for all the concerns of all the people in this town not the concerns of people that happen to love trees.

We understand the immense pressure you as Board members are under from groups that are experts at this game. That's why our family has and will continue to ask the regular taxpaying families of Riverhead to make their wishes known. The Talmage family has spent 15 years and almost a million dollars of our own money trying to do something better than the as of right housing on this land. If it ends up going that way now, I think we can honestly say we did our best.

Thank you."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you, Bill. Bill, do you have any other people from your organization that would like to speak? Or is it just on these cards? You want-- okay. Go ahead, Shep, next."

Shep Scheinberg: "Are you able to see it?"

Supervisor Villella: "That's okay. This way they can see it, too. That's fine."

Shep Scheinberg: "My name is Sheperd Scheinberg. I'm the attorney representing Traditional Links. My office is at One Union Avenue, Aquebogue, Town of Riverhead, Riverhead, New York.

The application is for a change of zone gentlemen. If you look at the placard here you will see there is a blue area and a green area and below that an area that says Farmland Preservation Program. I can't see it from this angle. Thank you, Adam.

The application covers the blue and the green area. As you see, the green area which runs along the north side of Sound Avenue is zoned Agriculture A and the northerly portion is Residence A. Golf is permitted in the Agricultural A zone; golf is not permitted in Residence A zone. Thus we have brought on an application to change the zone to an overlay zone called Recreational District and we are seeking to change the zone of both of those areas to Recreational District in conjunction with all of the underlying use districts.

Next door, the yellow area already is zoned Residential District. This property is owned by the investors in Traditional Links, other than the Talmage people."

Councilman Kent: "I believe you meant Recreation. You said Residential."

Supervisor Villella: "Recreational."

Shep Scheinberg: "I'm sorry, Recreational, thank you. Recreational. It's already Recreational. So the reason for this petition is to change the zone of the Agricultural A and Residential A to Residential district. Our initial application was to change the zone to permit the development of golf courses and development of a golf resort with hotel and amenities.

The overall project had in mind to include the area shown as Farmland Preservation Program as well as the yellow area which is already Recreational and is under control of the same applicant.

In the FEIS there were alternatives presented to you and those had to do with two golf courses, one golf course just north with Residential, all Residential, or no action at all. Our preference, of course, would have been to have the full project done. I believe through certain constraints the Farmland Preservation Program will not be disturbed and that such of the alternatives that are left, it is our preference that we have a golf course with Residential in the areas shown as Agricultural A and Residence A including the Recreational if it could all be made Recreational A. That is our application."

Supervisor Villella: "Thanks, Shep."

Shep Scheinberg: "We have Dr. Abrams (inaudible)."

Dr. Ron Abrams: "Good evening, Board, I'm Dr. Ron Abrams, of (inaudible) Associates; we prepared the EIS. I would just make three comments about the state we're in now and the review process and assure you that we will submit or mail written responses to anything that comes up tonight that we feel you need clarification on to which we have a relevant response.

For some time now, the EIS has been reviewed and debated. It represents the culmination of years of study and months of public comment. Yesterday a new letter arrived from the Natural Heritage Program. We reviewed this immediately. Let me assure you, there is nothing new, scientific or otherwise, in that letter or in any other submissions we have seen up to today, being presumably the close of the comment period.

The letter from NHP does not respond or even discuss in substance ecological facts or analysis presented in the EIS, beyond making generalizations that to do speak to cite specific science. Our conclusions come from the accumulation of hard data subjected to rigorous analysis review by all of the interested parties and our analysis have not been met with any similar (inaudible) specific scientific analysis.

NHP's recommendations which probably represents a broad community's concerns in the environmental sphere, and in concert with their own stated objections are to allow the woods to grow old and the farm fields to lay fallow towards the end that some day we will have an all growth forest in place of what is there now.

What about the practical reality of the time and likelihood that such broad scale preservation is in the best interests of every landowner? NHP's objective is to establish the importance of a newly coined forest type, the coastal oak beech forest. On page 12 of the NHP letter, they broadly define the coastal oak beech forest as having between 25 and 100% beech trees. Doesn't that mean that any of you who own woods with a number of beech trees-- a substantial number of beech trees, may find yourselves owning something that should be preserved?

You don't need an elaborate scientific analysis to consider the

question that NHP has raised in that their position will result in the preservation of 2,500 to 4,000 acres or all of the woods along the north shore of Riverhead which all in one form or another meet this broad definition of coastal oak beech forest.

In addressing this type of woodlands, NHP has raised a critical question, they consider this forest to be the critical buffer between the inland woods and the dwarf maritime beech forest which is on the steep slope facing the Sound. The letter is generalized. It dismisses months of research and exchange between our group and NHP and relies-- this letter, relies on the landscape ranking factor. Now I'm going into a little more detail than I will otherwise but, sure, we can all appreciate the assumption that when you have a large patch of habitat neighboring another large patch of habitat, they could lend value to each other.

The FEIS on pages 257-- 261, looked at this issue in specific detail. Yet to this date, we have not seen a response to these detailed analysis. We see generalizations.

I raise this point because I want you to see the bigger picture. The comments you're receiving from the various parties have not been scientific analysis to the detail at which the EIS has addressed these issues. Rest assured that the EIS has not missed a single detail raised by comment or input from the public or other agencies.

Finally, there is one thing that I feel I must raise. The NHP letter makes a statement that leaves me puzzled. On page seven I quote "NHP data from the project site are more limited than usual because access to the site was restricted by the landowner." Since '91-- 1991 the landowner has received no requests from NHP to enter the land. When comments began to come in at the beginning of this year reflecting an intense interest by people at NHP about the woodland, it was the project, the applicant, that contacted NHP and encouraged them to come to the site and they did come to the site and they did issue a detailed report which is fully covered in the EIS.

I just don't understand where their claims and many of the statements in this latest letter come from and I ask you, please, hear what everybody has to say, read our responses. I know the volume of paper generated on this case has been intense but I don't think you're going to find any facts or issues missing and then you're faced with a choice. What's most important to Riverhead? Thank you."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you. Is Barbara Blass in the room? Barbara, Planning Board. Okay. Barbara, would you like to speak?"

Barbara Blass: "Good evening, Mr. Supervisor, members of the Board, ladies and gentlemen. For the record, my name is Barbara Blass-- "

Councilman Kent: "Just put it closer."

Barbara Blass: "Closer. Good evening, Mr. Supervisor, members of the Board, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Barbara Blass. I live in the town of Jamsport and I'm here this evening representing your Planning Board.

We have submitted a five page report on the subject petition for your consideration and although I'm not going to-- I'm only going to read parts of it into the record this evening. I trust that the entire report will be included in the record.

But before I proceed with that, I would like to make a comment on a procedural issue. As you know, the Planning Board has a limited time frame in which to respond to matters that are referred to it. If the matter of the referral is subject to an impact statement, the timing of these referrals become very important. The discussion of the change of zone petition at hand, in fact, is a separate issue from the discussion of the FEIS although they are intimately related. They do, however, have separate time frames and this can become problematic in that there's a SEQR time frame governing your actions as lead agency and that's separate from the time frame that the Planning Board is under regarding the referral on the change of zone.

The Planning Board respectfully requests that in the future you possibly consider amending your procedure such that if you do desire to have the Planning Board's input on an FEIS, that perhaps it could be referred to us sooner in the process rather than later, even before you accept it as a complete document or in the alternative you can refer to the change of zone petition to us a little bit later in the process or perhaps we actually need to collectively look at the town law that governs the referrals to the Planning Board, the SEQR statute and those-- how this issue is dealt with in the Riverhead town code just to make sure that these time clocks are internally consistent and they don't present a problem to any Board.

As you know, the Planning Board has recommended conditional

approval of this change of zone petition and there are certain statements of fact that I think need to be emphasized at this time. The first is that the 268 acres which is the subject of the change of zone request are currently zoned to allow for a residential buildout at one unit per acre. The adjacent parcel which we call the Malibu parcel of approximately 85 acres which is part of the assemblage of the property from the proposed development but not the subject of the change of zone request, is already zoned Recreational and that is a mapped change. It's not an overlay district.

There was a special permit which had been approved for that site to allow for condominium development but that permit we understand has lapsed. The property then as existing as Recreationally zoned property could be built out at a residential density of two units per acre. Therefore, the Planning Board is looking at a site of assemblage of property north of Sound Avenue of approximately 350 acres that could yield between 330 and 350 single family residences right now.

During the appearance before the Planning Board, the applicant stated that they were looking for no more than 75 single family residences in the golf residential alternative. The Planning Board considers 75 homes and one single golf course on 350 acres preferable to any of the other scenarios presented.

We recommend the change of-- the approval of the change of zone for this and several other reasons which are included in the report which we have submitted but if there's any single point that the Planning Board would like to emphasize at this point is this. That this approval comes as a package with conditions. I can stand here tonight and assert with confidence that were it not for these conditions the Planning Board would not have recommended approval for this change of zone on this site.

You can choose to disregard our recommendations in their entirety but you should not accept them partially. If you choose to grant the change of zone we implore you to encompass all of our conditions and in no event should the conditions you impose be less restrictive than what we are suggesting.

The first condition is that the development of the property conform to those land uses depicted in the FEIS. We're not talking about the siting of a golf course or the residential development here. We're talking about the uses only. That prior to the adoption of the

change of zone, a declaration and covenant acceptable to the Town Attorney shall be submitted restricting the use of the assemblage of the parcels, again, those north of Sound Avenue, to a golf course, a golf clubhouse and residential development and those uses customarily incidental to such uses and further prohibit all other permitted and specially permitted uses described within the Recreational zoning use district and those conditions should run with the land.

That no site plan shall be approved which depicts disturbance of land seaward of the coastal zone erosion hazard area except in the beach access (inaudible) pursuant to the issuance of a permit by this Board that (inaudible) Planning Board subject to a Chapter 12.

That a contemplated site plan submitted to allow the construction of a golf course shall avoid the regrading of sloped areas in excess of 15%, depict a balanced cut and fill grading plan and minimize clearance of woodland areas and show future development areas for the residential construction.

That pursuant to Section 271 paragraph 14 of the Town Law, the Town Board refers such contemplated site plan to the Planning Board for its report and recommendation.

And that the residential yield shall not exceed 75 units for the entire assemblage. That is, again, the two parcels north of Sound Avenue.

Be it further resolved that the recommendation of this Board was predicated upon the proposed golf course use, the perpetual agricultural use of Suffolk County Tax Map parcel-- the one south of Sound Avenue-- I won't read the map number, a represented density of no more than 75 residential units, and in the event that subsequent to the adoption of a finding statement issues arise with respect to either changes in the proposed project, discovery of new information, or a change in the circumstances related to the project by a supplemental environmental impact statement shall be prepared pursuant and the appropriate citation is here.

The only outstanding issue obviously is the siting of the golf course and of the proposed residences and this will be dictated by your findings statement and I understand that you have hired outside consultants to help you address the controversy surrounding the (inaudible) and that issue or those issues will be resolved in the findings statement that is to be issued in the near future."

Supervisor Villella: "Correct. Because we know we don't know anything about it."

Barbara Blass: "Right. And we applaud your efforts, by the way, in hiring the outside consultants because at least in terms of the Planning Board they are certainly not the expertise to access all sides of the (inaudible)."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you very much, Barbara. Very thorough. Aram-- does Aram want to speak now, or-- Aram Tuchian (phonetic)-- you'll wait. Okay. Before we go in-- now we're going to have-- instead of all these people speaking, I don't know how many cards there are, but it's got to be maybe about 70, instead of them speaking on, they're going to condense their environmental presentation. Would you like to start that off?"

Councilman Kent: "Did anybody bring popcorn? Any popcorn?"

Supervisor Villella: "We've got the popcorn."

Richard Amper: "Give us a minute-- while we're setting up, we want to show you some pictures and provide some information. Let me start as I was asked to identify myself. My name is Richard Amper. I'm executive director of the Long Island Pine Barrens Society and I'm chairman of the Grandifolia Sandhills Coalition. Before we take too much of your time, what I'd like to do so that we understand this was an effort to consolidate the presentation of our material tonight so that we didn't have a series of three and five minute presentations but I need the people who came here in opposition to the zone change and who have filled out cards to stand up and identify themselves so we know roughly how much time we have. Could you do that, please?"

Unidentified: "The town that they live in?"

Supervisor Villella: "I got the cards. No, no, no, you don't have to go through all that."

Unidentified: "I'd like to know which town they are."

Supervisor Villella: "No, no, no. Hey, I'm running the meeting. Whoever that was in the back room, would you mind to keep in quiet, please? We have the cards here and they-- "

John Talmage: "Mr. Supervisor, I rise to a point of order."

Supervisor Villella: "You can come up here if you'd like."

John Talmage: "No, I would just like to make sure that-- "

Adam Grossman: "Sir, we want to have whatever you say on the record."

Supervisor Villella: "We need it on the record, Mr. Talmage."

John Talmage: "I'm John Talmage. I'm a resident of Riverhead. I rise to a point of order. I would appreciate it, Mr. Supervisor, that you make a record of where the people that have submitted these cards are from so that we have a fair representation and report -- "

Supervisor Villella: "Right here."

John Talmage: "-- through the meeting as to where these people are."

Supervisor Villella: "Okay."

John Talmage: "I see this as a Riverhead question and we do want to be sure that it's a fair explanation of where people are from."

Supervisor Villella: "Okay, thank you, Mr. Talmage. Are we ready? Okay. When you address the Board, you have to-- "

Richard Amper: "Well, that's a good idea-- "

Supervisor Villella: "Excuse me."

Richard Amper: "Nobody wants to look it up."

Supervisor Villella: "Excuse me."

Councilman Kent: "We're already working on that."

Supervisor Villella: "All right. I'd like to say something before we continue here. When you're addressing the Board at the microphone, you are looking at us and no grandstanding from the audience."

Richard Amper: "(inaudible) we'll try to provide some visuals

for you and we'll back it up later. That's right, this is a night for truth. And I'd like to get underway with it unless there's more card (inaudible) that still has to be done."

Supervisor Villella: "We're just trying to get these lights up so we could-- "

Councilman Kent: "No, those stay on. No. That's it."

Supervisor Villella: "That's good."

Councilman Cardinale: "Do you have a report on that, Barbara?"

Barbara Grattan: "There's only two. (Inaudible)."

Councilman Kent: "Jack. Jack, could you see if you could just put these back on? The ones over us?"

Richard Amper: "We're going to actually pass out stuff (inaudible)."

Mr. Supervisor, Members of the Town Board. This is a night of truth. For more than a year you and we have been hearing repeated falsehoods about what this application means in Riverhead and beyond. This is not merely a Riverhead issue and it does not merely impact one family or one partnership. It involves everyone. It involves a natural feature which you will hear and see amply demonstrated tonight that is of state, national and even global significance, something that Riverhead should be proud of.

We don't go out and buy everybody's yards who happen to have a few trees in them. The people have singled out this particular parcel and we'll identify why they did that and how important it is that we know the truth before you make a decision as big as this one. I'm going to go to the next (inaudible), the one that deals with clarification of issues."

Councilman Kent: "Excuse me, hold on Dick. There's no way you could be anywhere else-- that's better."

Richard Amper: "This is a night (inaudible) need some clarification. Let's deal with the matter of the grandifolia sandhills. The grandifolia sandhills was named after the Latin name for the plant. The applicant's paid consultant know where the name

came from but we don't care what you call it anymore. We'll call it Friar's Head, we'll call it the Talmage Farm. We're willing to call it (inaudible) or low landing. It doesn't matter what you call it. We all know what it is. We've identified the property and its features so let's be done with the issue of the so called grandifolia sandhills hoax. There are too many people here and who have commented and we're concerned about this, they are not all engaged in a hoax or a joke on you or on the Talmages. You may have different values when it comes to preservation but you must not believe that there's anything remotely like a hoax here. And over the course of I hope a limited time and much less time than time that we have to hear everybody, I think you're going to see that what we've been looking at is a pattern of misrepresentations from the time this was presented, and I want to clarify them and you will be the judge of who you believe.

The hoax is the applicant. Governor George Pataki put this parcel by name, grandifolia sandhills, in his budget. So did the Democratic Assembly and the Republican Senate. Are they engaged in a hoax? Are they wasting the taxpayers money? I think not.

County Executive Gaffney has indicated that he wants to purchase the land if the Talmages will make it available. And we need to make another clarification here. Environmentalists don't build subdivisions. Only developers do. There is no way the Talmage family which has threatened this community with an increasing number of houses every release, every statement, every advertisement, there is no way that anybody but the Talmages and their partners build 222, 444 or the most recent development of the devil, 666 houses. It's a threat-- "

Supervisor Villella: "All right. Let's keep it quiet."

Richard Amper: "It's a threat, it's a lie. At least three of those of you who are sitting here admitted that when they presented the notion of two golf courses or 444 houses at the time of the draft environmental impact statement, you were annoyed about it. You said you knew and they know that that wasn't a real project. It was simply being tried out here in order to scare you into doing something that would appear to be moderate.

They're back six months later making the same claims as recently as September 9th at the Planning Board in which they said their preferred alternative remained two golf courses and a 500 room hotel.

They haven't been telling you the truth and they haven't been telling you the truth about the environmental stuff. And I think we ought to look at it.

The developer's purpose is a change of zone. They hired paid consultants to go out and say things that would make you think that the property was not special, not significant. The most frequent phrase is not unique, occasionally it's common. We're not able to find a half a dozen examples of it anyplace and as you will see tonight, the independent lookers at this project feel very differently.

So, they need you to decide that this is not an environmentally worthwhile piece of land in order to get what they want. They're developers. The developer's paid consultants purposefully mislead by calling these things common not unique happenstance. The preservationists are neither inventing or conspiring. I want to simply show you just a few of the groups that have written to you and those letters will appear in the packet we present you at the end of this presentation that are not engaged in conspiracy or hoax. That are environmental groups very, very committed to the preservation of this great natural treasure, like the Long Island Pine Barrens Society. I like them. The North Fork Environmental Council. They do a good job, too. SOS Now. It's north fork based, just like the Pine Barrens Society and the North Fork Environmental Council. I want to get this local versus state versus national. You've got a natural treasure here that's globally significant and it's in Riverhead. It's nothing everybody is celebrating but the Pine Barrens Society has its offices here in Riverhead.

The North Fork Environmental Council is before you and SOS Now represents the north fork. The Moriches, the Audubons, all of these people have an interest in this area. It would be easy just to look at one's own property or even one's own boundary but environmentalists, yes, they do. They look at the larger world and when they find something rare and extraordinary, they fight to preserve it.

There's another Riverhead Group, the St. John the Baptist Environmental Committee over in Wading River. The Group for the South Fork, you'd think they would be jealously fighting to preserve their own areas but they recognize, too, and ask you not to-- every one of these groups ask you not to grant the zoning change.

We're looking at the Archaeological Society, Nassau and Suffolk. They ask you not to make the change of zone.

Why is everybody interested in this so called hoax? Long Island Botanical Society. They're concerned about plants. They will talk to you as will the Nature Conservancy and the Natural Heritage Program. Mr. Supervisor, all of these are a part of this (inaudible) and at that point, I think the environmentalists will have made case. And finally the New York League of Conservation Voters supports Republicans and Democrats alike. Their purpose, their function, what they exist for is to demonstrate who is supporting the environment and who isn't. They're calling on every one of you to oppose this zone change.

Now, we've got a problem because we keep getting bad information from the Talmage family. They have been six generations here, but they continue to represent as recently as their advertising and their flyer display that they think they can build 666 homes. Now, would you please tell them tonight that they can't? That no matter what it is that you decide to do about the zone change, that that's been made up. It's a threat and it's a deception and we-- many of you have asked-- determine what the yield is. Planning Board Chairman Blass suggested what the calculations might be. But the fact of the matter is in order to make a decision can we once and for all get this mythical number off the board. They're trying to scare everybody with lots of school taxes and those numbers aren't real. It's not possible. It's a lie. It's a deception like the FEIS was a deception, like the notion that they could build two golf courses and a hotel is a deception. They've been standing, lying in your faces and their neighbors' faces for a year and I want to get the facts square tonight.

Can I have the next slide, please?

The problem is continued misrepresentation. We have to dispose of the preferred alternative tonight. It's impossible. The county has made it very clear. The same George (inaudible), the same legislature, the same Bob Gaffney. They cannot take the land out of the preservation program. Get this everybody. They sold it to the county, the development rights on it, and now they want it out to build a 500 room hotel and two golf courses in Riverhead. On Sound Avenue. Cross it off the list. It's a lie. They're not allowed to do it.

The alternative two invades the grandifolia sandhills. You have heard and you will hear just how valuable they are and you will hear and have heard just how much money people are putting up for it and how important it is to preserve it.

Alternative three involves this massive yield, still not agreed to. It gets bigger everytime the Talmages come out and ask you for something. And let's get one other thing clear right now. We want no delay about this. We want this matter disposed of because this lie's gone on long enough. We do not want a delay. We want this disposed of in an orderly and rapid fashion because this was a bogus application and the science that backed it up was equally bogus.

Here's what the resulting effects have been on the review process. It's not bad enough that they're just misleading the public. They're misleading you. You failed to name the Planning Board as involved agency. You need to do that. They had to do with the original zoning and by the way they're houses here. It could be 50, 75, 222, 444, 666. They want you to decide on that and we haven't even made that determination. That involves the Planning Board. The Planning Board's attorney said at the September 9th meeting, and I quote, the Planning Board should have been named an involved agency. That's a serious mistake. And it's a mistake that was created-- that has a result has created illegal segmentation of this project. You are now looking at a golf course as opposed to the already admitted residential component.

The State Environmental Quality Review Act all of you know is that you have to look at everything together. You can't say this won't hurt the environment, this little piece won't hurt the environment and that little piece won't hurt the environment. We know we're looking at one of the biggest developments, Mr. Talmage said. The biggest potential residential subdivision in the history of this town. You were not even looking at in connection with this application. Can't do that. That's not right. It's not fair and I don't think you should let them do that to you.

It also resulted in the unsupportable Planning Board recommendation. The Planning Board did not hear what you're about to hear tonight and which you're listening to now. They had no access to the record because they were not an involved agency. So all they saw when they made their decision was the final environmental impact statement and your planning director's analysis of it. Does that sound fair to you? It doesn't sound fair to most people. Most people

want all the information they can get and I want to tell you that the Chairwoman of the Planning Board went out of her way to make sure that she had as much information and as much time to digest that information and was considering all of the legal ramifications as she could and she got no help from Mr. Hanley. He railroaded things one after another. You have not even looked at a site plan and these people want you to expedite the approval of the zone change.

There was an over-dependency on your part, on Mr. Hanley who ill served you when he did not advise you you needed to look at this in a nonsegmented way and to present all of the information to your (inaudible). How can they give you a recommendation of a report if all they've heard is what the developer had to say?

Let's change slides.

But this result is the first litigation over the process. This process is not for fun. It's a legal process. It's a process that involves the law. It can be fixed. The Planning Board can go back and do it right. The Planning Board this time cannot go behind closed doors with the developer and come back and express the preference for the one golf course alternative. Maybe they won't do it that way the next time around.

But this is not something that is convenient. This town responsively-- and I think I have the date wrong, Louise, on this. But the town issued a letter either on April 12 or April 28, 1999, in response to the comments that you very responsively heard from the public and the scientific community about. There were 28 areas that you sought more information on and our analysis is that about four of them were addressed. What the developer did was simply unresponsive. What they did is they minimized the concerns and said that's not a big deal. Or they ignored mitigation.

Let's understand the argument about mitigation. Every one of you knows that in order to have an environmental impact statement pass muster they have to tell you what they're going to do to minimize the damage. Do you know what their answer is? I mean I know it was tough. It was a big voluminous book that I'm not sure all of you have read. But what they said is that anything that they did would be better than what they're doing. That they're running a sod farm and is highly injurious. And so what they're saying is let us do something else instead. That would be what mitigates it.

But remember, folks, we don't-- none of us believe that the sod farm is going to be anything else than a sod farm so the sod farm stays and we get whatever they're proposing and the sod farm and as you will hear from the hydrological experts that appear here tonight, it's a pretty sad situation. You ought to have someone to clear that up first before they decide they're going to do something else that doesn't have to be mitigated.

But whatever you do, you don't want them to make the mistakes at the Planning Board. Find out from your experts what mitigation is in order and get it in the document, part of your findings, and then reach a sound conclusion.

The Planning Board told you that he thought it was a great FEIS and that all of the information raised by the public was heavily cross-indexed. But it didn't address the substance of issues, don't you see? And you were ill served. Mr. Hanley's been part of the deception. And if you depend on Mr. Hanley and he is simply parroting the applicant's paid consultants party line, what are you going to get? How do you know independently?

You took a step tonight to get a person to look at the stuff. Everybody who's looked at it up to this point beside the developer's paid consultants agrees with us and not with them.

The Town Board accepted the FEIS as complete and accurate. Actually Mr. Hanley did so badly on his recommendation in terms of that charge that you had to go back and put a new resolution in and the new resolution said that it was complete and accurate. Well, independent scientists here are going to tell you it wasn't complete. And it sure as hell wasn't accurate. And you are going to see it. On these two screens you're going to see tonight what they said and what everybody else agrees.

What's the solution? Let's be done with the problem. What, then, is the solution? The solution is independent project review where you people look at this independently. We think maybe you can be fair if given the right information that you can weigh it, you can balance it. You may be scientists but you know how to ask the right questions. You can get the information and satisfy yourself as to who you believe and who you don't. That's what it's going to come down to. It does in a courtroom and it will in this particular case.

Tonight we will present summary statements on botany, zoology,

ecology and coastal issues, drinking water and geology. I think it will be pretty persuasive. I think you'll look at it and I think you'll be a little bit annoyed both with the FEIS and the fellow who told you that the FEIS was okay.

What we will do is we will provide a booklet, details in the package so that it doesn't have to be disposed of tonight. If something bothers you you can go back and find out for yourself or ask the local science teacher, almost anybody that isn't being paid by the developer to tell you what they're doing is great and that the property isn't worth anything. We expect that of them but you guys sort out the truth and we're going to help you. The community is going to help you here. Not the developer, not help advance the developer but help you arrive at the truth.

We will contrast and disprove the developer's paid consultants, time and time again.

So a solution is an independent project review and you're the jury. Some of you are attorneys and all of you are experienced in government. You are going to be asked to sit and consider the evidence and here's the evidence that I'm going to ask you to look at tonight and satisfy yourselves about.

Observers for 150 years have agreed about the creation and the nature of the grandifolia sandhills. The dunes on the bluff that this whole thing is about. The only people who think that's not so, the only people who have said otherwise are the developer's paid consultants. Only ones. We want you to look at the independence of the presenters. The people who are going to come up in front of you tonight are fair minded people. They've been working in the environment, not to make money, not to tell a developer what he wants to hear, but they've been working to preserve the environment because it matters to everybody. They have a non-pecuniary interest. They don't have an investment. Not a one of them who's out here tonight is paid for being here. Not a one of them.

We expect developers to come back with a so-called expert and Mr. Hanley, by the way, is referred routinely that what he needs to hear from are PhD's, PhD's are the people who have the answers. Well, actually you're going to find out what the answers. They don't have PhD's in ethics. You're going to see some of the most decent people come before you. I want you to look at them. Jurors are told this by counsel and by judges. You have to decide who's telling the truth

before you render a verdict. I want you to look at the people who are up here and listen to them. The sounds of their voice. I want you to look at Paul Adams when he's up here. I want you to look at geologist and Assemblyman Steven Englebright when he gets up here. I want you to look at John Turner and listen to what he said and look at what he's done with his life. And then I want you to look at (inaudible). I want you to make judgments here about who's doing what and why they're doing it and how it impacts our great national treasure.

The burden of the proof is not on the people who are standing up here for the community. We had no resources. We used the time as well as we could. We asked for more time. We were constantly rushed. Many of you have complained including members of the Planning Board they have still not yet completed the FEIS and we certainly haven't but whatever it is we're doing we're not delaying. We're working as fast as we can and as hard as we can with very limited resources coming from not-for-profit organizations in order to give you the information on which you can make a fair judgment. And we must trust that you'd be willing to do it if we gave you that information or we wouldn't have gone to all this trouble.

The burden of proof is on the applicant. He must show you beyond a reasonable doubt that we're completely out to lunch. He's got to persuade you that this is not a valuable asset, it isn't worthy of perservation despite the fact-- despite the fact that it's been ranked number one by the County of Suffolk among all of its projects in terms of ecological worth, despite the fact that the Governor and the Assembly and the Senate have put the grandifolia sandhills in the budget to offer the Talmage family millions upon millions of dollars just to keep the golf course out of the sandhills.

Next slide.

The applicant's assertions of non-significance do not rise to that-- beyond reasonable doubt. I think you're going to find that what you're going to see tonight disburbs you relative to what it is that they told you. I think that the FEIS is highly dubious, very suspect and unsupported by any other so called scientific evidence produced in the last 150 years.

Let's also look at what the results of denying the request for a change of zone. The threats continue. The applicant warns you that you have no choice but my way or the (inaudible). That you cannot turn down the change of zone or we will go out and build an

unspecified number of houses, paralyzing the school district, and crushing government. He will. Not the environmentalists. The environmentalists don't build houses.

The answer is very, very simple. If you turn down the change of zone as not supportable, then the applicant can return and do something that allows the combination of both the natural resource and his entitlement to use his land. No one is going under any scenario. The only scenarios you heard from, the applicant, or those that we've advanced. None of them takes his land. We have been preserving land in New York State since the beginning of the Adirondacks effort and no one's ever had his land taken. We pay fair market value. And where does that money come from? The same people they claim they're worried about but whose taxes they're threatening to drive up. The people pay. It's a quarter of a penny sales tax here, it's a bond act of the Community Preservation Fund. Things that you've all fought for. The people are paying for the land and they're doing it in a time honored social contract between the interest of the people and the rights of private individuals. And that's what they're doing even now.

In conclusion, the solution is independent project review, a town hired environmental analyst, preferably somebody that doesn't do these environmental impact statements for fun and profit on their own, but somebody who can separate what's being presented by the independent scientific community and the (inaudible).

You could require a supplemental environmental impact statement, we raised earlier. Let me surprise the Talmage family one more time. We don't support that. We think that of the information that would be on the record before this night is out combined with what was presented before if properly sorted out will give you more than enough information to deny the zoning change.

So we're not advocating a delay. On the contrary, let's move expeditiously to get these lies off the board and Riverhead back on track.

The applicant-- I want to remind you one more time-- is not entitled to a zoning change. You have to do him a special favor. And in the process he's got to make a compelling argument as to why you should do it. And threatening his neighbors with 666 houses or telling them that he's going to build 500 homes and two golf courses or that the final environmental impact statement is correct, the grandifolia sandhills either don't exist or are a hoax and that

there's no environmental benefit to their preservation is one huge falsehood.

There is a very, very simple solution to this problem. Just say no."

Supervisor Villella: "Okay, hold it up, hold up."

Richard Amper: "Mr. Supervisor, please everybody, he wants to retain order. The first speaker is Paul Adams."

Supervisor Villella: "Paul Adams."

Richard Amper: "I'm sorry, Eric Lamont."

Supervisor Villella: "Eric Lamont."

Richard Amper: "I'm sorry, Dr. Eric Lamont."

Eric Lamont: "My name is Eric Lamont. I'm a resident of Riverhead and I'm president of the Long Island Botanical Society.

One of the first issues I'd like to address is the conclusion derived in the final environmental impact statement and it's repeated throughout the statement that the project site is a mosaic of severely to moderately disturbed habitats. This is the conclusion of over 10 years of study by the applicant's paid consultants. That this forest consists of severely and moderately disturbed habitats. And that's what they present to the Town Board.

Now earlier in this review process, it was determined by the Planning Department director that a paper that was published in 1970 by Drs. Ralph Good and his wife Norma Good from Rutgers University, it was proposed that their study would be, and I quote, the Seminole (phonetic) work that this study would be based upon; Seminole meaning life-giving work. And I have that paper in front of me. And in the paper, in the opening paragraph, Dr. Good states that this area constitutes one of the larger areas of mature natural vegetation on the north shore of Long Island. It's one of the larger areas of mature natural vegetation.

Now, obviously, immediately we're presented here with a contradiction. After 17 pounds of impact statements, the consultants conclude that the site is severely to moderately disturbed. Yes not

only every environmentalist and environmental group states that this is a precious environmental jewel, that this is so rare that every group on Long Island is coming out to support it. Not only does every environmental group say that, but in the Seminole work that the Town Board is supposed to base their decision upon in the opening paragraph, it says this area constitutes one of the larger areas of mature natural vegetation on the entire north shore of Long Island.

And I might just add, I mean we will have a geologist speak tonight, but in the sentence preceding the statement I just quoted, it says the study site is located on deposits mapped as dune sands. And throughout the paper there's a little section on the geology. It says all of the vegetation study is developed on dune sand deposits. Yet when we read the final environmental impact statement, the consultant's paid-- the consultants-- the developer's paid consultants, are trying to convince you that there are no sand dunes. That there are no dunes on site. Well, that's very interesting. Why would they want to do that?

But, let me go on."

Supervisor Villella: "Do you have a copy of that for the Town Board."

Councilman Kent: "We haven't received it."

Eric Lamont: "Yes, and I would add that each Town member has probably been supplied with several copies during the last few years. And we also have additional copies.

Okay, let me go on to the next issue that I'd like to raise. And that is that every environmental group has provided substantial evidence that there are rare ecological communities on the site. Not only just private non-for-profit environmental groups have provided this information, but as was noted earlier in a letter that Rob Abrams can't seem to understand, but the Natural Heritage Program. This is the Governor's top environmental scientist. They confirmed that, yes, there are globally and state rare ecological communities on site but if that's not good enough and if all the information that has been provided from the environmentalists during the past year, if that's not good enough, let's go back to the Seminole work that Mr. Hanley asked us to look at. Let's look at the Good and Good paper which is supposed to form the basis of our study here.

In the paper, there are four different communities outlined. There is the globally rare dwarf beech forest which, of course, everyone admits occurs on site. And isn't it a little strange that all these dwarf beech trees just happened, according to the consultant, they just happened to not grow any further inland than 25 feet of the bluff line which, of course, is by law the area that cannot be cleared. Isn't that just a little bit of too much of a coincidence, I ask you?

I mean we have provided documented information that there are hundreds of-- and I'm just kind of repeating myself-- and possibly thousands of dwarf beech trees landward of the coastal zone erosion line which will be destroyed. Not only will these globally rare dwarf beech trees be destroyed by bulldozers, but this coastal oak beech forest which once again Rob Abrams just can't seem to understand what it is, this coastal oak beech forest which has been identified as one of the top three examples of its kind in New York State by the Heritage Program, it has been documented that the destruction of this rare forest, this is a forest of tall trees, the destruction of this rare forest will also result in the destruction of the globally rare dwarf beech forest. So in other words, this development project will destroy a globally rare community.

But let's see what the environmental impact statement says. On page 46, this is what the consultants would have you believe. The project will not have any, any significant adverse environmental impact. This is quoted. And you're asked to believe this.

Once again, if you don't want to take the words of the environmentalists that are here tonight, let's go back to the Good and Good paper. Okay. In that paper, is documented four rare communities. And if you need me to, I'll just briefly read the pages that they're on. On page 206 and 206 the maritime dune land community is described. I have it right here. It's described under the herbaceous community section. It talks about an area dominated by beech grass. Beech grass grows on sand dunes. It's also called dune grass. It's also dominated by seaside goldenrod. I'm just reading from the paper. It's also dominated by beech heather. I think there's a picture of beech heather somewhere (inaudible). Okay. So, those are two communities, rare communities, that are described in the Good and Good paper.

The coastal oak beech forest is described on page 206 of the Good and Good paper. Another rare forest. And, finally, the fourth rare

community and this is another globally rare community. It has been documented, not only by every environmentalist in this room, by by New York State Natural Heritage Program, the fourth community is the pitchpine dune woodland. This is a globally rare community. And, once again, it is described on page 206 of the Good and Good paper. On that page, an area of the property is defined as having 93% mature pitchpine trees. And this is the area that is being referred to as the pitchpine dune woodland.

Thank you."

Supervisor Vilella: "Thank you, Doctor."

Richard Amper: "He asked if it was good enough. I think it was Good and Good. Our next presenter wants to deal with perhaps the most significant element about the truth or fiction of the grandifolia sandhills. Is this a trivial, is this a minor, is this a recent creation or is it something of enormous historic value? I'd like to introduce to you the founder of the Museum of Long Island Natural Science at SUNY, a curator of geology at SUNY Stony Brook, his MS is paleontology and (inaudible), a BS in geology biology. He's been involved with the Natural Heritage (inaudible), Botanical Gardens, the (inaudible) program. We know him better as the Assemblyman and geologist from Long Island, the Honorable Steven Englebright."

Steven Englebright: "Good evening."

Supervisor Vilella: "Good to see you, Steve. Good evening, Steve."

Steven Englebright: "It's nice to see you. Mr. Supervisor, distinguished members of the Town Board. My name is Steve Englebright. I reside on Lake Street in Setauket and I'm very pleased to have an opportunity to speak to you tonight on the geological origins of the (inaudible) dunes found at or near Friar's Head. Through my colleagues and myself at the State University of New York at Stony Brook where I've been curator of geology for about 26 years, have authored a paper which we're going to submit for publication. I have brought copies of it and would be very pleased to distribute it to you at this time. I'll hand it to the appropriate person."

Supervisor Vilella: "He knows the business. See that."

Barbara Grattan: "Thank you."

Supervisor Vilella: "Thanks."

Steven Englebright: "And this paper was the subject of a presentation through the Geo-Sciences Colloquium on Friday of last week where it was presented to the general public-- geologists from the department of Geo-Sciences at SUNY Stony Brook to review (inaudible)."

I'd like to at this point go to the slides. This is a photograph looking to the northwest, the direction that, as we'll see the winds came from that created the grandifolia dunes. We're looking across this fair hamlet of Riverhead toward the Long Island Sound at the upper right hand portion of the picture and the subject site that this hearing relates to is-- let me just point at it-- it's right here. Riverhead is there, to the south lies the dwarf pine plains and the Long Island Pine Barrens.

A closer view of the region that we're talking about on the north shore cliffs, this has been the subject of discussion for more than 150 years in terms of the origin of the sediments. I'm going to be speaking primarily to you about the geological package of sediments found here. As a sedimentologist I think I bring a certain insight into that but it is interesting that it was the vegetation that in recent days since about the middle portion of this century has been the most intensive part of the discussion among scientists.

Next slide. That is centered on (inaudible) grandifolia, the American beech, which is an astonishingly very growth form at this site ranging from tall trees up to 70 and more feet in elevation above their base to dwarf trees. Some have suggested it may only be one plant connected through a route system. Certainly it is one community that has a great deal of morphological variation.

Next slide. The origin of the sediments really begins with the origin of Long Island. The glacial origins of Long Island itself.

Next slide, please. During glacial maximum of the last continental ice sheet that covered North America, Long Island was at the southern terminus of the sheet that had its ice source centered over Labrador.

Next slide. As it reached this relatively southerly climate, the advancing rate of the ice sheet equaled the rate at which it was melted and the melt water created glacial (inaudible). That's a term

that's been used-- that means glacial flow from melt water streams creating a landscape that probably looked something like this at the time.

Next slide. In cross section today, in house foundations and cliffs we very often seen these water laid deposits. There's a (inaudible). This is a typical glacial (inaudible) deposit.

Next slide. Where the glacier was in direct contact with sediments that left a very different kind of-- very distinctive sediment. This is glacial pill. Glacial pill has boulders, cobbles, sand, gravel, silt and clay all jumbled together as if a dump truck had just dumped in unceremoniously all in one place. This is because it almost is exactly what happened. The glacier deposited fill when it melted and it just-- this is the unsorted sediment as opposed to what we saw in the previous slide which is the sorted-- the water sorted sediment. And these are the two major forms.

We know that the larger-- this is the glacial boulder in Long Island Sound. We know some of the larger pieces of sediment demark former shoreline. This is a general perspective that we know when we look out off shore that those are thought to be demarking former shorelines and that these large rocks had not been moved by coastal storms or sediment transport system but-- you're anticipating me, that's okay.

Until recently, until this study, we really had no way of meaningfully measuring the long term effect of that coastal erosion and the way in which the cliffs have been set back.

Now you can go to the next slide. Thank you.

The first look obviously at this in the last few decades has been from naturalists and botanists because that's what you see first. These are the dwarf trees on the slope of this eroding (inaudible).

Next slide. And the first of the really notable scientists to look at this is a man who I think is every bit a scientist, Roy Latham (phonetic), the late Roy Latham, referred to this area as high sand dunes west of Reeves Lane towards Baiting Hollow in his very extensive journals and was a very competent scientist even though he was unschooled. He was a great scientist, in fact.

Next slide. Roy Latham died about eight years ago. He did much

of his work in the first quarter of this century.

In 1970 in a classic paper published in the (inaudible) Botanical Society Journal which is a major botanical journal, Ralph Good and Norma Good of Rutgers University stated that the vegetation at Friar's Head had developed on sand dune deposits. Well, so far we've heard from the botanists.

Next slide. As you can see in this slide a portion of the eroded cliff, parts of the cliff fell off and formed an equilateral triangle in the cross section of what is at the top of the cliff. Let's take a look at this, bear this slide in mind, we're going to see other equilateral triangles in a moment and try to understand them. But first let's take a look at what the applicants have been saying about the geology. They have four main contentions. First, that there are no dunes on this site.

Next slide. Second, they say that in the mid 1800's, the north shore of Long Island was actively exploited by the cordwood industry and that the observations of dunes by geologists Lewis in 1876 and Fuller in 1914 can be reasonably be assumed to have been influenced by the anthropomorphic effects of the cordwood industry. That's a direct quote from the comments made by the applicant.

Next slide. These are their contentions. The third contention is that quote the statement that the land forms on the Traditional Links LLC site are quote parabolic dunes end quote is completely without substantiation. Only the surface layers of sediment show any sign of (inaudible) or wind processes, the (inaudible) was the Greek God of the Wind and to call these features quote parabolic dunes end quote without any supporting evidence is completely without merit and unscientific end quote. That's their third contention. And their fourth.

Next slide. Is that there are simply quote, there are simply no scientific basis for calling the subject site geologically unique, end quote.

Those are their four main contentions. I'd like to explore those.

Next slide. This is a map from the US Geodetic Survey dated 1838. Do we have a copy of that map? As you'll notice in the upper left hand corner, you'll see that it says Friar's Head and to the left

and right of Friar's Head, there is vegetation. The vegetation covers dunes and the year is 1839 before the cordwood industry began."

Supervisor Villella: "All right, let's hold-- "

Steve Englebright: "The cordwood industry followed rather than preceded this. And Friar's Head was so high in elevation that it was the main survey station. That's what the small writing to the left of the dome of the Friar's Head is being called even in 1838, just like a Friar's Head-- and gets it's name, it says there Friar's Head main survey station. Meaning the the triangulation of the entire eastern part of Long Island began at Friar's Head. It was the main survey station. It had great elevation in 1838. I just want you to see if we could get someone to hold up-- I have two maps-- to show you-- actually three. These are copies from the National Archives of Maps. They are very detailed, by the way. They show the direction of the contours of the actual furrows cut into the farmfields. Notice that the farmfields and houses are quite distinctive. (Inaudible)

I should point out that this map series is extremely reliable. For example, due south of us here, is another pigmy forest in the pine barrens, the pigmy pine barrens, in 1834. This survey took four years. It ran between 1834 and 1838. They mapped the trees in the pigmy pine barrens and they drew in pigmy trees in 1834 and it was this map series that confirmed that in an analagous accusation or attribution of perception, some years ago there was a statement made that the dwarf pine plains was a recent phenomenon. This map series by the same hand, I'm not sure who the exact cartographer was, but by the same hand, he drew in pigmy trees in 1834 and in 1838 he drew in Friar's Head, partically vegetated as a dune.

Next slide. This confirms what I just said, the dunes were in existence in 1838 well before the cordwood industry began in this town.

Next slide, please. This is the 1885 US (inaudible) Geodetic Survey Map. The copy from the National Archive is both being circulated before you gentlemen and also this-- and you can see the vegetation, once again. For the forest to conveniently grow, those little dots are trees, for the forest to have conveniently regrown by 1885 is inconceivable. It is the (inaudible) of maps demonstrating that this site was, in fact, vegetated in the last century. I truly believe that the forebearers of the current citizens of this great town understood by and large, I'm sure there were some who didn't

fully understand, but most understood that if you go into a dune field and cut it you're going to have real problems. And I don't think they cut it. That's just my opinion. I think that there were some who cut here and there. There's an 1876 reference to the resulted debauche in which one farmfield had three feet of sand covering it. That reference is in the text of history but by and large I don't believe that this was a clear cut region.

Next slide. In fact, there probably was a wood lot in small bits and bites but if you go into wood lots today, you'll see-- and even in clear cut areas such as this one in Northport, that when you clear cut, unless you go in with heavy equipment and rip out the roots, you don't make the sediment available to the wind. Especially if in this wood cutting industry, the wood cutting took place as it did here in the winter, in the off season. So that in the spring, you would get compost growth, regrowth from the existing roots. You didn't kill the trees. You just changed the way that they looked. And that seems, again, to be consistent. I mean, you will not be able to find any place on Long Island-- there's been a lot of clear cutting on Long Island-- where the sand from the winds that blow across our Island have created the kinds of dunes that are referred to by the applicant as the result of wood cutting at this site. And if it didn't happen anywhere else then for goodness sakes, it didn't happen here. And the maps demonstrate that even further.

Next slide, please. The geologists who looked at this site in the last century and the turn of the century were good geologists. (Inaudible) Lewis was a very fine geologist and he said quote, at this point in the great-- is the great dune known as Friar's Head. It is evidently of considerable age as its windward slope is covered by a thick growth of beech grass, bayberry and other bushes with stunted trees of beech and cedar quite at its top. End quote.

Next slide. In the 1914, in the United States Geological Survey professional paper, US GS Professional paper '82, Myron Fuller, who died in 1976 by the way, our department has occasionally given its top award to its top graduate, the Myron Fuller Award, to give you some idea of how we regard Myron Fuller, the Geoscience Department at SUNY Stony Brook, and he said quote, that capping the tops of the bluffs and running southward from the bluffs at Friar's Head are sand dunes and he detailed it in several different parts of his Seminole work.

Next slide. This is a slide taking a look at various forms of dunes. I just want to take a moment to talk about parabolic dunes

because these are parabolic dunes and that is the one that is found at the lower right hand corner of this picture. Dune forms are found in (inaudible) environments and (inaudible) habitats and they're very specific. We also know from probes to our sister planets in this solar system that there are dune forms on other planets. All these other dune forms are found, for example, on the desert planet, Mars, but not parabolic dunes. All but parabolic dunes. Parabolic dunes are found only on earth and nowhere else in the universe.

And there's a reason for that because parabolic dunes are a biological phenomenon. They're part biology. And even such you do not find parabolic dunes, for example, where the Sahara desert because there's no vegetation. That's the largest desert on earth. You find parabolic dunes primarily in coastal areas where beach grass and other shrubs and help trap the arms of the dune. Where you also find them is in paraglacial areas. That term means-- which means near glacier tundra regions. In fact, paraglacial areas are the primary place-- the primary dune found in paraglacial areas are parabolic dunes and in one or two partially vegetated deserts such as the (inaudible) Desert in Northern India.

Parabolic dunes are pretty rare to begin with. But large parabolic dunes are in the Northern Hemisphere primarily associated either currently with paraglacial areas or with the former paraglacial areas. Once again, I would bring to your recollection that Long Island was formed at the edge of a glacier.

Next slide. This is a slide showing the parabolic dunes that are most often referred to and are best known from Long Island at the (inaudible) dunes area, these are the so-called walking dunes and this particular photograph is an electronic elevation map taken from a seven and a half minute quadrangle. This DEM as it's referred to, a digital elevation map, is a way of taking and using the computer to put a shadow effect on one side to show what the contours of the land look like. As you can see, this is a very clear parabolic system with at least five dunes in it.

Next slide. This is a sketch showing how a parabolic dune might work.

Next slide. And I wanted to put this in because whenever dunes of any form that are migrating dunes, star dunes are pretty stable and do not migrate, but other dunes including parabolic dunes do migrate and when they run into a wall or an obstruction they become climbing

dunes. Notice the left hand side of this cartoon you can see climbing dunes climbing over this obstruction. On the other side they can sometimes fall over the same obstruction and they become falling dunes. Climbing and falling dunes are found in the American Southwest, for example.

Next slide. This is White Sands, New Mexico. Parabolic dunes, you'll notice the extent of the vegetation. Notice they are hairpin like in their shape and their form, that the noses of the dunes are unvegetated when they're active. That the tails or the arms or the wings as they're sometimes referred to trail backwards and point in the direction that the wind blew from. Among all dune forms, this is unique. For example, among (inaudible) dunes, the most common dune in the Sahara, the arms point away from the direction of the wind. It is the trapping and binding of the sediment by the vegetation that causes the symmetrical reversal to create parabolic dunes.

Parabolic dunes range in height from about one meter to about 15 meters. There are 94 sites that were identified in a classic study in Sweden about 20 years ago. They ranged up to about 16 meters in height. That would be about 50 feet high, in the entire nation of Sweden which is paraglacial. They had glaciers. It is tundra permanently frozen soil in the northern third of that country.

Next slide. Looking at the site here in Riverhead, one can see that the shape of this particular feature is a parabola and it's quite sharp. It hasn't been blurred by sediment moving too much away from its original shape.

Next slide. We'll see more. Here's another feature, this one overlooking the water itself and you can see equilateral triangle that this ridge forms. The wings on parabolic dunes form equilateral triangles. I can read to you from (inaudible) classic paper of location, morphology and orientation of inland dunes in northern Sweden. He makes that point. I'll provide you with a copy of the paper rather than read it to you.

Let's go on. I just want you to get a sense of this is a site that you're all familiar with. This is going into the (inaudible) blowout. And I'll go to the slide for a moment. This is on the road on the way in. Glance to the right you can see an equilateral triangle. That is a cross-section of the wing of a dune.

Next slide. Interestingly referring back to Mr. Lewis' comments

in 1876 as well as Good and Good, all of whom indicated that this was an old forest. If you look at the soil profile this is a close-up of the previous photograph, the soil profile is indicative of a very, very ancient plant cover. This wasn't disturbed in the last century. This is a very thick plant cover for this type of highly permeable substrate.

Next slide. Looking in the neighborhood is a good way to get a sense of what other geological context exists at this site. This is at the end of a street that is immediately due south of the water tower at the (inaudible) blowout. This is a photograph that I took yesterday. In it we can see glacial (inaudible) sediments at the lower portion of the picture and what appears to be an (inaudible) or a meltout pill at the top, what happens when a glacier melts down and places that (inaudible).

Next slide. A close-up to show you what glacial (inaudible) sediments look like. Notice they're pretty coarse.

Next slide. By contrast, if you go over, this is a close-up again showing a glacial-- please go back. This is a close-up showing the glacial (inaudible) sediments. I just want you to sort of take a look at that and be sedimentologists for a minute. To be a sedimentologist is to basically be Sherlock Holmes. You take clues, little clues and from those inference-- from those bits of information you make inferences and put a story together. In this case, the clues are the size, shape, the orientation of the pebble. The only way that this happens is with water flowing and laying down sediments like that.

Next slide. By contract, on the other side of the hill from where that house foundation that's presently being constructed exists, you find this. This is the (inaudible) blowout.

Next slide. And a close-up of the sediment is the (inaudible) blowout once again. If you are a sleuth, geologically you look and the sand grains tell a story. They are tiny, first of all, very fine grains, and they are mostly quartz and they're mostly sub-round, and they're very well sorted and these are (inaudible). This is a wind blowing sediment. It's quite characteristic. It is a signature of wind.

Next slide. The applicants have said there is no comparison between the features at the tail site in the walking dunes at

(inaudible). I respectfully disagree."

Next slide. This is what dune forms look like at the (inaudible) dune. They look just like the dunes in very, very similar sediment size, orientation and composition to the dunes at Friar's Head. Thanks a lot.

Let's take a look at the Friar's Head site in detail. Looking down from an aerial photograph, you can see that the woodland extends inland from the cliff, some portion of the distance between the cliff and Sound Avenue.

Next slide. I want to give you some insights into the features found from looking at aerial photographs. Aerial photographs such as the one that you just saw of the site here in Riverhead were how this map was derived. And this is a map that was put together by Mattie Sapalla (phonetic) of the Department of Geography at the University of (inaudible) at the University of (inaudible) in Sweden. It was published in 1972 from the Swedish Geographical Society. He worked from aerial photographs just like the one you just saw and those are parabolic dunes in northern Sweden.

Next slide. These are parabolic dunes in northern Riverhead and going from an aerial photograph to a topographic map, you can easily see the parabolic (inaudible) shapes. But this is crude as maps go relative to the one I'm going to show you next. I have already shown you the digital elevation map for the parabolic dunes at (inaudible). I'm now going to show you a digital elevation map for northern Riverhead. This is taken from aerial photographs and translated directly into the continuous elevation map which you see here, which is done digitally.

Let me go to the map. This is the Long Island Sound, this is the farmfields of-- that's all right-- these are the farmfields that are so characteristic of the landscape of northern Riverhead and along here you can see hairpins, one after the other, after the other. There's nothing in the universe that makes this geological shape except the wind in combination with plants. These are parabolic dunes. More importantly, these are truncated parabolic dunes. They've been cut off by the receding of this cliff. That means that these aren't contemporary parabolic dunes. These are ancient parabolic dunes. They've been here a long time, so long, in fact, that the receding which is something that goes on about six inches per year, the receding of the north shore of Long Island has cut back and

in some cases caused these dunes to lose most of their overall length. Once again, bear this in mind and I want to show you the dunes at White Sands National Monument, the parabolic dunes there. You can see what a parabolic dune looks like and to restructure and show what they must have looked like along the north shore of Riverhead, you take the parabolic shapes and you add the tails that are eroded away.

And this means that what we have up here are paleodunes, fossil dunes, these are ancient. They've been here a very, very long time because it would take that long to erode the cliff back. That's what I mean when I said earlier that previously we only had a few boulders out there to look at to think that that represented former positions of cliffs. Now we have dune forms that when you draw this symmetry in it gives us a minimum of how far to the north the land surface of Riverhead once extended. It's really quite dramatic. Let me go back around here.

Similarly, I mentioned earlier the possibility that these were climbing dunes as well. That is to say something stranded them. I think two things stranded these dunes. I believe that they were stranded in part by a change of climate because there is no wind today that will create dunes like this. Because if there was, we'd have them in Northport, wouldn't we. We'd have these dunes in Glen Cove. We'd have dunes like this forming today in Setauket just down the street from my home. But that isn't the case, is it? That's because the climate today doesn't create winds that make dunes like this. Not on this scale. And the dunes have to blow across a surface to become organized and for their shape. And that surface is now the open vista of Long Island Sound. These are old.

We're looking now at a glacial boulder in the bottom of the (inaudible) blowout. What happened, I believe, is that the other thing that helped other than the change of climate, the other thing that helped strand these giant super tanker size dunes sailing in the sand sea of perhaps 15 to 18,000 years before present that Long Island was, was the barrier along the north shore, the moraine. After the blowout occurred, this boulder was exposed at the bottom of the blowout. So these galleons, ancient galleons ran into a wall and I believe they started to climb that wall and they welded themselves on to the north face-- the windward side of the (inaudible) moraine.

And to the north was a glacier with a high pressure from its extreme cold. It was so cold that it froze the soils in this area to bedrock 800 feet below where you sit now, frozen solid. It was a very

different Riverhead in those days.

Next slide. The cliff recession goes on. These are pigmy beech trees falling into the surf at the base of the cliff. It brings to mind the question of what is the relationship between this particular vegetation and these particular dunes. I've already demonstrated that parabolic dunes are unique in that they are the product of the interface and interaction between a biological and a geological component. I think that what we're looking at is not only relic dunes but also a mediate post glacial climatic relic in the form of the vegetation. We know from studies of fossil pollen that (inaudible) grandifolia first came in at around 13,200 years before present. It is part of the northern-- that is cold climate of our North American continent. And I believe it is reasonable then to look at this pygmy forest as a plant pipe that is in refuge at this site and nowhere else. That's why it's globally singular. It is a visitor along with the dunes that it helped form from the geological past.

This is an ecosystem that hasn't been here since it regrew in 1859 or something. Quite the contrary. I believe that the forest was here long before this eroding cliff was. Thousands of years to evolve this particular forest. In fact, if you can focus on that, I don't think that the trees grow along the bluff upwards. I think it's the other way around. I think that this relic vegetation and dune form is being undercut and it is the forest itself at the top of the dune that is the most significant part of this. It's what remains and it has sloped-- as it has been undercut it has slumped down and tried to accommodate the reality that its soil is being removed by erosion gradually. And you can see that in this photograph. The forest has adapted to this new reality which is an advancing cliff base.

In summary, the Friar's Head area contains ancient parabolic dunes. They appear to be among the rarest of land forms still (inaudible) from a now vanished climate in a time when Long Island's landscape was both exceedingly cold and vegetationally primitive.

Next slide. There is nothing else like the subject site anywhere. The parabolic dunes at Friar's Head are the largest and oldest such system in New York State. Of equal importance, the site is unique as a biogeological phenomenon. It is a climatologic relic in terms of both the land form and its flora. The association of dwarf American beech trees with this land form is found at this site only.

Next slide. Elsewhere on Long Island such as here at the walking dunes in (inaudible) we're looking at the photograph of a state park. We protect the dunes, we recognize their extraordinary importance as well as when they are violated what can happen when the sand is set loose.

Next slide. On Fire Island we have a national seashore that has wrapped around the presence of those dunes. Look at the salt spray trim vegetation of the Fire Island national seashore. These are linear dunes, not parabolic dunes.

And then look at this slide. We can focus-- what is this if not significant at the level of public protection and preservation. It is the most significant land form not only in Riverhead but on all of Long Island.

Next slide. The fate of this extraordinary resource is in your hands. Please treat it with the gentle respect that I believe it deserves. Thank you very much for this opportunity."

Supervisor Villella: "Dick, how much more do you have? How many more speakers do you have?"

Richard Amper: "Okay. There are to be three speakers. I want to say that this is, I think, a very decisive presentation and it went on longer than we anticipated so I need to ask the remaining speakers to move swiftly through the program. What you have to contribute is important. All of it is contained in the packet in greater detail so let's not repeat the stuff that they have in the packet so that we can hear from some other speakers. Let's move-- "

Supervisor Villella: "If they could make it real quick because we have a lot of people. Excuse me."

Bill Talmage: "There are many people here who came to speak who have traveled from far away and some from Riverhead and they may be denied their chance to speak."

Supervisor Villella: "How much more time do -- all right, wait a minute, hold up, hold up, hold up, hold up."

Richard Amper: "Mr. Supervisor, if I could just respond to the suggestion."

Supervisor Villella: "How many more minutes-- "

Richard Amper: "Seventy-five people came out here. They were here early. They signed up cards first. They yielded the time and there's no reason why these folks cannot be heard. But you asked for a scientific presentation and I present that you do not want-- that some folks here do not want you to hear it and we'll not yield. We have 15 more minutes-- "

Supervisor Villella: "Fifteen? Fifteen, that's it."

Richard Amper: "-- and I want to conclude it and nobody else needs to speak. They all yielded the time so that you have scientific information."

Supervisor Villella: "Okay, relax, relax. Fifteen minutes. That's it."

Ken Bakst: "Mr. Supervisor, before that occurs, one request. This has gone on-- is this working?"

Supervisor Villella: "The other one."

Ken Bakst: "This has been going on for two hours. We're happy for them to complete their presentation and for the speakers to speak."

Supervisor Villella: "We have the speakers."

Ken Bakst: "No problem with that. I think it's somewhat unprecedented that all the time be yielded and used by a small group of speakers for such a long block of time. What I would like to request and Mr. Englebright just made a presentation of I don't know, was it an hour and like forty-five minutes, whatever it was, that-- so that we have some degree of congruity, that I be allowed to bring up a geologist who is present who I think would speak to some of the issues that was discussed-- "

Supervisor Villella: "We'll bring him up right after the 15 minutes that they have. Fifteen minutes, Dick."

Richard Amper: "We want the truth."

Supervisor Villella: "Fifteen minutes. That's it. And then

we'll have them speak. Can you please keep that-- we'll start at five after."

Richard Amper: "The next issue is what we find at the site in terms of biology. Paul Adams, let's do this in five minutes. I'm sorry, Paul, we took too much time on the geology. But you can do it and they're up to the task. So let's look and listen. If you're good students and you pay attention we'll be done in a hurry. But you need this information-- "

Supervisor Villella: "Okay, continue. Let's keep it quiet, please."

Paul Adams: "I'm Paul Adams. I've been a resident of Riverhead since 1991. I've been a professor in the biology division at SUNY Stony Brook since 1982. I'm a fellow at the (inaudible) and a winner of the (inaudible) prize. I've submitted detailed comments on the environmental impact statement to the Board and tonight I'm just going to address the zoology at the site.

Basically the developers claim that the animals, the fauna, at Friar's Head are typical of those of any suburban environment by (inaudible) to the west. And it's true that you will find some of the animals like raccoons and squirrels that you find in typical suburban environments. But there are many animals at the site which you will not find in suburbia. For example, there are weasels, there are green snakes, there are great (inaudible) owls, there are (inaudible), there are ruby throated hummingbirds, and these birds are present throughout the summer. They're breeding, they're not just migrating through.

It's true that none of these animals is listed as federally or endangered species. But these animals are now rare on Long Island. The reason why they're rare is simply because they do not like people and they're difficult to find. And I'm not too surprised that the environmental consultants to find these animals. But they are our last connection with a Long Island of the past and they need to be considered in all of this.

Let me take first the weasels. We have negative feelings about the weasel but most of us will never see a weasel in its wild state and they are, in fact, extremely graceful and beautiful animals. They're very shy and wildlife management experts say that it is significant that they are still found in the grandifolia sandhills. They are rapidly disappearing from Long Island.

Let's take the green snake. Again, most people have negative feelings about snakes. But the green snake is a truly wonderful animal. It's like a tropical jewel. The environmental impact statement says that green snakes are as common as garden snakes on Long Island. That is just simply not true. You talk to any herpetologist. They will tell you the green snakes are much more difficult to find and for example wildlife experts-- there is a well known book on Long Island natural history by Sam Yeaton (phonetic) which was published 20 years ago and even then green snakes were disappearing from Long Island and they are according to the endangered species unit of the DEC, the grandifolia sandhills may be one of the last places on Long Island where you can still find them. In the whole of (inaudible) 2,000 acres, you will not find a single green snake. But they're up there in the grandifolia sandhills.

Let's move on to the birds. There are (inaudible) owls there but I want to focus on the-- the last couple minutes on the ruby throated hummingbird which must count as one of Long Island's most spectacular animal. The-- again, the environmental impact statement says that there are no hummingbirds there or if they are, they're just passing through. But that cannot be so. One sees hummingbirds all through the summer, one sees mating-- one sees nests, one sees young (inaudible). The reason why they did not see hummingbirds were a number of reasons. But hummingbirds do not like to nest in populated areas. They attempted to see them by putting up feeders on the edge of the farmfields. But the hummingbirds don't go to the edge of the farmfields. They're up on the bluffs and that's where those tests should have been.

The nests as you saw before are extremely difficult to find but I have seen nests in the grandifolia sandhills and, in fact, although I don't have a slide there is my photograph of a nest which I will-- but on the animal page of this booklet I photographed that nest in the grandifolia sandhills. It was on a down sloping branch of a dwarf beech tree and I can take you to the tree. The nest is no longer there. That was two years ago, but the tree for the time being is still there.

So hummingbirds disappeared from the western part of Long Island. There are only a few places left on eastern Long Island where you still find them. There are a few at (inaudible) and the grandifolia sandhills must be one of their last strongholds.

Finally, I want to comment in relation to birds that the impact

statements claim that the National Audubon Society or (inaudible) of the National Audubon Society would approve of the proposed golf course design. But what they are actually citing is the Audubon International and the Audubon Society of New York which have no connection to the well known National Audubon Society-- I mean, in fact, as far as I can see are just fronts for golf course developers. So they're just trying to pull the wool over your eyes there.

So, in summary, I think it's a very simple choice. You can either have golf courses or green snakes. You can have weasels or you can have more houses and get more taxes. You can either have hotels or you can have hummingbirds. And I think we all know what our grandchildren would choose. Thank you."

Richard Amper: "Mr. Supervisor, I'm going to move onto the (inaudible) but I must make one protest before we go further. For the last six months, neither you nor the Planning Board have heard from anybody but the developers and their consultants. These people gathered, other people came to give them their time and they need to be heard. It hasn't been fair up to this point and I don't want this cut short. Can John Turner explain the water impact if he will come forward from the Legislative Water Commission. He knows the story and he needs to contrast for you what the developers have been telling you and what the truth is? We'll move ahead. The last speaker will talk about (inaudible) issues and then you need to accommodate the Nature Conservancy and the Heritage Program whenever you see fit. That's not part of this specific presentation."

Supervisor Vilella: "No. I want to have their geologist come up after this."

John Turner: "Good evening, Supervisor Vilella, Members of the Town Board. I want to take this opportunity to discuss some of the water related issues. My name is John Turner and for the past five years I've served as Legislative Director of the New York State Water Resource Commission, a commission that was established by the state legislature back in 1980 to assess water quality and quantity issues on Long Island and to further develop legislative remedies and appropriate public policies to protect that water resources.

We have reviewed the FEIS and reviewed the EIS and provided comments earlier on about the issues we thought should be contained in the scoping document. I want to say that we remain of continuing concern that some of the issues raised are still not being addressed.

Three letters or four letters that we have sent relating to these issues in which we've made it quite clear how important they are and how they should be delineated and yet they still remain to a large extent unresolved.

I'll give you a particular issue. With regard to the applicant's preferred alternative, it's clear that they would need to have a sewage treatment plant on site and they basically say, trust me, that through the operation of this treatment plant there will meet all Suffolk County Sanitary Code regulations. That's not good enough. What you need to know is what the specific water quality impacts of the project will be. The nitrate management standard for the State of New York, the Health standard, is 10 parts per million. So presumably the project would be able to meet that. Would it be nine parts per million or would it be point nine parts per million? There's a great latitude there and there's a great difference between those numbers and there is (inaudible).

Just like you would not want to know other things about traffic, say, well, the project generates between one car and a thousand cars, be satisfied with that, you shouldn't be satisfied with what the consultants have told you. Ask them, please quantify the water quality impacts of the proposed sewage treatment plant, of the homes, both in terms of typical either parts per million or milligram per liter standards, okay, or-- and also to quantify in terms of poundage. This is the only EIS that ever reviewed and the Commission has reviewed scores of them since it began its existence, the only one I've ever seen that hasn't done that.

For the sake of time, I think I might depart a little bit from the slides but I do want to raise just a few other issues relating to water quality. Again, the applicant proposes a sewage treatment plant. It's a rather small plant and it's important to note that many so called small STP's have operational problems. In fact, that's unfortunately often the norm rather than the exception. And so I ask is what assurances can the applicant provide the lead agency that its plant won't be subject to these same operational problems?

See, the FEIS comes up short on mitigating measures as it relates to the project and water quality. For example, the document says that if golf courses are constructed instead of the sod farms, water quality impacts would be improved, implying that the sod farm operations have had a fairly adverse impact on water quality. That's bolstered by the information provided about two monitoring wells that

are nearby, one of which exceeds the state standards for nitrate nitrogen and the other one that comes very, very close to it. So why not ask about why shouldn't the applicant attempt to introduce mitigating measures with regards to the sod farm operations to try to reduce impacts to water quality.

Another mitigation measure that should be assessed is utilizing reclaimed wastewater from the sewage plant to irrigating the proposed golf course. This approach could result in significantly reduced water quantity and water quality impacts. The FEIS fails to discuss and assess the project's potential water quality impacts on nearby private and public water supply wells. It also fails to discuss and assess the potential water quality impacts stemming from the proposed residences.

The last point I'd like to make has to do with the Long Island Sound. The FEIS documents that most of the subject property is within the shallow flow recharge zone with eventual discharge of sewage effluent and water recharging through the parcel to the coastal waters of the Sound. But the FEIS fails to assess the potential adverse impacts of nitrate nitrogen and other containments generated on site on the water quality of the Sound. The FEIS addresses this point by making the declarative statement with virtually no evidence to support the contention that quote the project has been designed to remain sufficiently setback from the coastal waters to preclude impacts on the Long Island Sound. This can't make declarative statements. There has to be something behind that, that leads a reasonable person to be able to reach that conclusion.

The Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for Long Island Sound requires each of the 11 shoreline regions fringing the Sound to reduce nitrogen loadings to the Sound by nearly 60% over the next 15 years. Local municipalities are key and involved players in meeting these reduction targets.

As I recommended in the past, the FEIS should be required to discuss the extent to which the project is incompatible with this Comprehensive Conservation Plan and how it might make it more difficult for the Town of Riverhead to meet its own commitment in the future in reaching that target. Because certainly the Town of Riverhead as you know will become a player in trying meet the goals and objectives of the Sound plan, calling for a point reduction but more typically non-point source (inaudible) reductions.

In conclusion, the Commission has continuing concerns over the adequacy of the EIS and the many adverse impacts the proposed project will have on the environment and we ask, again, the comments that are delineated in detail in this letter which are just summarized as well as prior correspondence that we've given to you be addressed in a satisfactory manner so you feel comfortable when it comes to addressing what is clearly one of the most important aspects of this project as it relates to environmental and public health. And I thank you for your time."

Supervisor Vilella: "Thank you, John."

Richard Amper: "The last presenter in this segment is a report on coastal and ecological matters and touch on the SEQRA process that you're all so interested in concluding, then we'll inaudible) accommodate the Nature Conservancy -- "

Supervisor Vilella: "What do you mean by wrap up after?"

Richard Amper: "We're going to-- I'm going to--"

Supervisor Vilella: "I want to-- "

Richard Amper: "I don't want to argue. I'd like to move on with the presentation."

Supervisor Vilella: "Okay."

Richard Amper: "But this is our first opportunity in six months that-- "

Supervisor Vilella: "Let's keep it quiet in the back, please."

Richard Amper: "To answer the volumes of documents and testimony that's before you so let's just do it. That's what you asked us to do-- "

Supervisor Vilella: "All right. This is your last speaker for now?"

Richard Amper: "That's correct."

Supervisor Vilella: "And then we're going to go to the geologist, whoever wants to speak."

John Talmage: "Mr. Supervisor, I rise to a point of order. I would like you to stand by your original declaration of how you would manage this meeting."

Supervisor Villella: "I said 15 minutes and they went 14 and a quarter minutes. I did say that. Board-- wait a minute, excuse me. No, hold on a minute, I want to ask the Board members."

Richard Amper: "But there were 75 people who yielded their time for the purpose of this presentation and they're not going to be heard. At least we ought to listen to those who will."

Supervisor Villella: "All right, we'll finish up then. Because I want to hear the other people that have brought these cards out also. It's very important to hear everybody. Continue."

Louise Harrison: "Thank you, Mr. Supervisor. Mr. Supervisor and Members of the Town Board. My name is Louise Harrison. I live in Setauket, New York. And I thank you for the opportunity to share some of my views and some facts on this application."

I am going to briefly go through my qualifications but you'll find the rest of them in the packet. But I want you to know that I am an ecologist and a professional environmental and natural areas consultant and I've been serving non-profit and private organizations interested in preserving and managing open space. For the last two years I served as a consultant to the Citizen's Environmental Research Institute under a USDPA grant, the Nature Conservancy, Suffolk County Parks, the Paul Simons Foundation and SUNY's Museum of Long Island Natural Sciences. And, yet, I am not representing any of those organizations tonight. I am representing myself only. I am receiving no financial remuneration whatsoever for my participation and efforts towards protecting the unique resources at Friar's Head.

But I'd like to familiarize you with my professional background briefly so that you can understand that I do have some expertise in the topics that I'll be addressing to tonight. It is in the packet, you'll find it there.

Let's see. That's fine. As you have heard tonight and you will hear again, the SEQRA process in the review of this application has been severely compromised. It's become increasingly clear that the Town's management of the environmental review of the Traditional Links application has been aimed at circumventing the intent of SEQRA. Your

Planning Director has expressed sentiments that SEQRA is just too burdensome. However, carried out properly, SEQRA provides decision-makers like yourself with information and exploration into alternatives and mitigative techniques that are needed to give a hard look to proposals that could have an adverse effect on the environment.

Having been a part of the SEQRA review process on Long Island for many, many years, I can testify that the towns that are most liveable today because of their efforts to protect their natural resources are the towns that took their obligations under SEQRA seriously.

I'd like you to consider this town which will go unnamed that perhaps did not take its SEQRA obligations very seriously. And on the other screen, you'll see some towns that did.

I've been examining environmental impact statements since 1977 and yet-- "

Unidentified: "Is that a golf course?"

Louise Harrison: "No, it's not a golf course. And yet though I have reviewed hundreds upon hundreds of development proposals, I have never seen so much paper and repetitive, almost useless texts generated for a single project. EIS's don't need to be burdensome to reviewers. One shouldn't need strong biceps to review the facts. The burden is on the applicant to provide useful, cogent factual information and not weigh down Town Hall with pounds of unsubstantiated assertions and illogical conclusions.

Yet here you have an applicant's paid consultant that admits the proposed development will reduce or eliminate animal population. Well, we agree. This is a significant negative environmental impact and it must be avoided. Not only did the FEIS treat this impact dismissively, it also neglected to propose mitigation or discuss alternatives that would avoid this impact. The applicant's paid consultant then says there will be no environmental impacts from the proposed development. But, in fact, there will be clearing of forests, bulldozings of substrate and massive intensification of use. This information is in the EIS.

The developer's paid consultants assert there will be no impacts from clear cutting areas of the state rare coastal oak beech forest. But, in fact, forests provide important functions that no levels of

human engineering can duplicate. In addition to wildlife habitat for species that cannot live elsewhere, forests hold the soil and decrease soil which in return carries out the functions of atmospheric gas and water exchange, nutrient uptake and cycling, and watershed protection. The very soil that the Talmages have been farming for generations was created by forests. And those services are provided by even your average northeastern deciduous forest, if one could ever call a forest average. Forests provide these essential services without fees, without capital construction costs, and without bureaucratic delays. Left untouched the forests can provide these and many other environmental services to countless future generations.

In my opinion, it is evidence of ignorance or perhaps arrogance to assert that we can continue along our path of suburban sprawl and ignore the important functions forests provide us.

The developer's paid consultants say there's nothing unusual about this site. Centered around Friar's Head, in fact, is a large stretch of uninterrupted forest. Would you go back to the earlier slide, please? Thank you. This alone is unusual for a site in the Town of Riverhead. Riverhead's rich agricultural heritage has rendered it poor in forest resources because of centuries of land clearing to harvest wood and grow food. Over the years tree cover in much of the town has been reduced to patches around kettleholes and hedgerows between fields. And I had a conversation to that effect with your Planning Director over 10 years ago and he admitted as much.

Growing upon unusual dune features and bluff crests, the forest at Friar's Head protects coastal properties during storms and provides critical habitat for wildlife species that can't make their living elsewhere where forests are fragmented.

The next slide, please. The applicant's paid consultants say there will be no adverse environmental impacts stemming from this project but in truth the impacts of clearing and regrading are not simply those related to disturbance of the soil and vegetation at the precise locations of the cutting and filling. The impacts of cutting and filling diminish the stability of trees and soils far beyond the areas that have been cut and filled. Trees in the forest are connected to one another in a three dimensional labyrinth of roots and soil. When one tree is uprooted in this complex system, it can affect the fate of many trees around it. The need for trees to be supported by one another is even greater on deeply sloped parcels such as the subject site. When one tree is blown over, it pulls another one with

it which in turn pulls another, and so on and so on.

The FEIS should give a realistic assessment of the overall damage to the topography, soils, and the rare ecological communities on this site that would result from each of the proposed alternatives including the housing subdivision.

Next slide on this site, please. The developer's paid consultants say the project will have no adverse environmental impact. However, the rare coastal oak beech forest areas that will be cleared are vital to the protection and regeneration of the globally rare maritime beech forest. As the bluff facing Long Island Sound erodes away as geologist, Steve Englebright, pointed out to us, the coastal oak beech forest provides vegetation that descends by gravity over the bluffs, securing the sediments with those complex root systems.

Just to the west of Friar's Head as you can see on that slide where it's eroded, is evidence of what happens when the forest is truncated by development. The bluff face is rendered void of vegetation and the erosion was exacerbated.

Can we go through the animal slides on this-- "

Supervisor Villedella: "Can you finish up, at 8:30 I'm cutting you off. I'm sorry."

Louise Harrison: "Okay. The developer's paid consultants says that animals that have sufficient mobility would move onto other sites when their habitat is destroyed. In fact, asserting that wildlife-- please go on-- would be displaced is-- keep going-- again, thank you-- is illusory at best. The habitat that inhabit the coastal oak beech forest where fairways would be constructed would be eradicated. Animals that can flee the bulldozers would enter territories already occupied and defended by others. Why am I showing you this slide? Because the next slide-- please show the next slide-- is evidence of what I saw the day that land was cleared for that shopping center. This is a print of a white tail deer who obviously came back to forage and found his habitat destroyed. I don't know the future fate of that particular individual.

Can we go on to the next slide-- the (inaudible) blowout?"

Supervisor Villedella: "This is it, right here, last one. I'm sorry. You could talk-- you could talk after the other speakers

talk."

Louise Harrison: "I would like to conclude then."

Unidentified: "Mr. Supervisor-- "

Supervisor Villella: "Yes, no, no."

Councilman Kent: "Please."

Louise Harrison: "Would you please move forward to the-- you can leave it on that and move forward on this, just keep going."

Supervisor Villella: "You could speak again later if you'd like."

Louise Harrison: "Thank you. I just want you to know that I have in my work for the Department of State, studied the entire Long Island Sound coastline, on foot, by boat, from aerial videography and photography, and I did this between December '92 and March '94 and I am willing to testify under oath that there is nothing along New York Long Island Sound coast like the area at Friar's Head. It is unique. There is no other area in this region where a hardwood forest extends from inland areas down over the face of the bluff to its (inaudible) and beachfront. There is no other area in this region where the face of the bluff has such extensive stabilizing vegetative cover.

Now, you are entertaining a request that not only undoes the Town Board's own planning decisions-- zoning decisions from the past but you're pitting the future of an ancient natural history wonder against the profit motive of a single generation of its human inhabitants. If we lose this rare natural resource, we can never build another one. It's something found nowhere else on earth and will be gone forever. The proposal before you today requires your highest level of scrutiny. You're poised to make a decision that could permanently alter your town's claim to natural history fame. I implore you, use all the tools available including a sound, complete and forthright environmental impact statement and a careful review of the entire public record before you make your decision.

Thank you very much."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you. Okay."

Richard Amper: "Mr. Supervisor and the Town Board, thank you very much for your attention. I think these people deserve the time to refute what they've been told in the past and I can very clearly detect the applicant's discomfort over it."

Supervisor Villella: "Okay, everybody-- "

Kenneth Bakst: "May I, Mr. Supervisor. Just a point of fairness. They basically went for two hours uninterrupted. My name is Kenneth Bakst-- "

Unidentified: "Where are you from?"

Supervisor Villella: "All right, relax. Wait a minute. Hold up. Hold-- let's go."

Kenneth Bakst: "And I am the managing member of Traditional Links."

Supervisor Villella: "Go ahead, Ken."

Kenneth Bakst: "We started tonight, they were going to yield all this time to shorten this meeting to 45 minutes and we've been now going for well over two hours. What I'd like to request is the following. I, unfortunately, have many paid consultants. It's the way the world works. I have no choice. They're here. I pay them by the hour. Some of them needed to get out of here; I'd like to try to get them to speak. I didn't expect a two hour presentation. I'm more than happy to-- "

Supervisor Villella: "You're absolutely right. We didn't expect that."

Kenneth Bakst: "Wait. I'm more than happy that they had the opportunity to make the presentation. I'd like to try to refute some of the things that were said, but going-- rather than going chronologically, I do have some geologists here. The geology presentation was long. I'd like to get that through first. If we could try to get a situation where a lot of the people who came in support of the project have an opportunity to speak during the next two hours so that we can hear the other side of the story and that will intersperse our comments throughout that."

Let me just say the following. Is that okay, Mr. Supervisor?"

Supervisor Villella: "Continue."

Kenneth Bakst: "Thank you. It's interesting. Every time we hear from the opposition about geology, they keep citing Elias Lewis (phonetic) from 1876 and Myron Fuller from 1914 and more recently we've been referred to literature in the likes of a one page letter written to the town on this project by John Black (phonetic), and a one page memo written George Barnick (phonetic) in 1989 which says nothing more than that site is geologically unique and should be preserved, without any support, no science.

Somehow every time these people go out and do a literature search on geology they miss-- they miss the body of work by Dr. Les Sirkin. Amazing how they can do that. Amazing how Dr. or Mr.-- I don't want to be disrespectful-- Englebright-- is it Dr. or Mr.? Whatever it may be. Whatever it may be, I don't want to be disrespectful to him."

Supervisor Villella: "Please address us."

Kenneth Bakst: "Did a literature search and is talking about all these geologists from way back when, but doesn't say one word about Dr. Les Sirkin. Dr. Les Sirkin is Professor Emeritus at Adelphi University, founded the Geo-Sciences Department at Adelphi, wrote the book on Long Island geology in 1995. When you do a literature search on the geology of Long Island, you can't miss Les Sirkin. So when people get up and talk about geology and they don't say anything about Les Sirkin it is intentional. I would like to introduce Dr. Les Sirkin so he can speak to some of the issues that were brought up and we will reserve the right to respond in writing to the comments when we have an opportunity to review the paper and the transcripts that were submitted. Dr. Sirkin."

Dr. Les Sirkin: "Thank you, Ken. Mr. Supervisor, Members of the Board."

Councilman Kwasna: "You're going to have to pull that mike down to you."

Barbara Grattan: "Doctor, could you please spell your last name, please?"

Dr. Les Sirkin: "Okay. My name is Les Sirkin, S-I-R-K-I-N."

Barbara Grattan: "Thank you."

Dr. Les Sirkin: "Again, Members of the Board. I spoke at the earlier meeting about the glacial origin of the north shore of eastern Long Island and at that time mentioned the nature of the sediments and the fact that involved in the overall pattern of glacial deposition, the great many different environments of deposition were represented, one of which, of course, is deposition in the late phases of glaciation as the ice has receded from the region, the deposition of sands in various configurations. Steve Englebright covered that topic to a certain degree tonight and put-- I think put the deposition of the sand covering the hills of the north shore of Long Island in the proper perspective.

These are sands that were formed during glacial recession which took place in this region around 20,000 years ago. And this is a point that I made at the last hearing when I was talking about the geology.

Incidentally, what I didn't say this time is that I was asked to-- the reason I spoke here at that time was that I had been asked to review the geology section of the EIS that had been written by Aram Terchunian and more or less concurred with the written work that Aran did.

Also, since Steve Englebright has given a long talk based largely on a paper that he plans to publish, one that hasn't been circulated in the geologic community and I didn't know that it was given to the classes at Stony Brook, so that tonight is the first time I've had a chance to see this paper, I would like to reserve the right, if necessary, to respond in writing at your convenience to some of the things that he stated.

Otherwise I have some comments that I'd like to make at this time, if it's all right with you, based on what Steve Englebright presented to you. To a large degree, Steve's lesson in glacial geology was fairly accurate even to the point of a (inaudible) with Myron Fuller, Fuller's Geology of Long Island, 1914, that glacial deposits are often capped by sand and, of course, this is something that I have written in my books and also I stated before, before this committee. So that this is not a new revelation. However, Steve goes on at length about the parabolic shape of these deposits and the fact that vegetation is required to create this parabolic shape and I would like to make this following analysis of that statement.

That in order for the parabolic shapes that Steve has inferred

exist in the coast of Long Island or in the moraine I should say, this would had to have happened 20,000 years ago. Now, Steve commented that a beech forest existed on Long Island 13,200 years ago and that this was proven to him by the pollen that was found. He doesn't state where this came from or document it with any citation in the literature.

As far as I know, I have been one of the primary (inaudible) on Long Island for the last 25 or 30 years and I've written extensively about the ancient forests of Long Island or ancient vegetation of Long Island. Nowhere in the written record or in any of my research have I seen any evidence of beech forest 13,000 years ago. The vegetation of Long Island at that time was dominated by spruce forests.

Secondly, when these parabolic-- so called parabolic dunes were formed, Steve says 13,000 years ago the record, the geologic record supported by various lines of evidence including (inaudible), shows that these-- this moraine which we call the Roanoke Point Moraine was deposited about (inaudible) 20,000 years ago, the vegetation at that time documented by the pollen record was tundra vegetation and the plants, the dominant plants in the tundra vegetation were herbs, herbaceous plants and shrubs and there's no evidence, no record at all, of beech forest. So I think that he's quite far off in the dating of this and also in the analysis of the pollen record.

And as I said before, he does agree with both Fuller in 1914 and myself that the moraine does have sand on the top of it. In fact, there's sand in various sizes running across the surface of Long Island. And the south fork of Long Island, south of the terminal moraine there is a layer of sediment called loess, l-o-e-s-s, which is made of silt. Now, if the wind is blowing from somewhere north of the Roanoke Point Moraine and the Riverhead area southward because the energy of the wind diminishes, the wind can be depositing sand on the moraine, this recessional moraine, the Roanoke Point Moraine, and silt south of the terminal moraine in the vicinity of Bridgehampton where the soils are rich in silt from that very process.

It's also curious in Steve's presentation that he mentions sediments-- he mentions that he's a sedimentologist but in his sediment analysis, he shows a picture of sand grains which he identifies as tiny sand. This is not a scientific designation of any grain size of sand but what struck me in looking at that picture which, of course, is not labeled and didn't say where it came from or what it signified or what part of the sand dune it came from, or

whatever, the sand was angular. And when Aram Terchunian and I responded to work by or letter by John Black mentioning that the sand-- he believed that the sand came up from the beach over the bluff and deposited dunes on the surface in much more recent times, in glacial times, he also neglected to provide any sediment analysis. Well a sediment analysis done by Aram and I and also by an independent laboratory showed that the sand on the surface of the subject property was angular sand. And it wasn't tiny sand. It was probably in the-- what we refer to as a medium sand grain. So in other words it was a much more angular material and curiously it came from the beach. And if you've ever been down on a beach along the north shore you know that there are deposits of shells along that beach.

Any sand that originated at that beach and blew up over the hill would have to contain shell. And we found no shell in the sands on the subject property thus leading us to conclude that we were really looking at sands that dated back to glacial time rather than sands-- much more recent sands blown up from the beach. It would seem very difficult to me to find sand deposits on the subject property that were derived from sea level at the beach on the north shore of Long Island.

The other point that I want to make and as I said there may be others after I read the paper, is that Steve compares the-- what he calls parabolic dunes and the subject site to dunes that John Black has studied at (inaudible), the dunes at (inaudible) are active geologic phenomenon. They do not date back to glacial times. In other words, these are dunes that are ongoing at the present time, they're forming, they're migrating and they're engulfing the existing vegetation as they go along. So-- and this is fairly well documented and they are essentially originating at sea level and migrating along at a low elevation. The highest elevation in that region-- in that (inaudible) Hither Hills region is in the dunes.

In other words these are sand dune elevations. The shape of the dune is parabolic and it's due to the fact that these dunes are being essentially deposited around what we call blowouts. And these dunes are active, they're being supplied by-- actively by northwest winds and they are migrating along to the southeast. So, in other words, it's not a comparable situation and it is not proof that because there are dunes at (inaudible) the dunes or sand found on the surface of the subject property have to be parabolic dunes.

And with respect to the parabolic dune shapes, an analysis of a

map prepared for the subject property which is part of their application, which I believe is at a scale of 1 to 200 and (inaudible) two feet. In an examination of the map and the way that the map depicts the surface of the site, it is very likely that a lot of the so called hairpins referred to by Steve Englebright are the result of erosion by running water as opposed to deposition by the wind.

Anyway, those are the major points that I would like to make from what I've heard tonight and I can amplify on that at a later time. Thank you very much."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you."

Kenneth Bakst: "Aram Terchunian our lead consultant. If you can just keep it short and just summarize-- "

Aram Terchunian: "Thank you very much. For the record, my name is Aram, A-R-A-M, Terchunian, T-E-R-C-H-U-N-I-A-N, First Coastal Corporation, Westhampton Beach, New York. I'm an environmental scientist and geologist.

Words you have not heard tonight, applicant's paid consultant. I think all of us work, we all work for a living. The fact that we go to work every day and work and get paid to do a job doesn't mean that we do it poorly. In fact, I would say 99 out of 100 times it's the pride in our work on a day to day basis that gives quite a bit of sustenance to going back the next day.

With that having been said, I'd like to respond to Mr. Englebright's comments and I enjoyed very much his presentation. I have to say to the Board and to the assembled audience, you've been treated to not one, not two, but now your third geologist in an evening. So you won't have to sleep tonight when you go home, you'll be all set when you get out of here.

I respectfully disagree with Dr. Englebright's conclusions. His conclusion is that these are ancient parabolic dunes because, one, he can find them on a digital elevation map; two, he's examined aerial photos and he sees parabolic shapes; number three, he looked at a United States Geological Survey Quadrangle map and based upon that topography he can find parabolic dunes; four, he looked at surface (inaudible) sediments that showed that they were (inaudible), that he concluded were (inaudible) in their deposition. A side bar on that. He also showed that the subsurface sediments in the same general area

are all glacial. And number five, he made a statement that this feature does not exist anywhere else on Long Island. However, then concluded by pointing out that there is-- that he thinks that this is a similar feature to what is occurring at (inaudible) dunes.

I respectfully disagree with everything that he said in that regard. I would say that the fact that a map from the 1830's or 1880's depicts a dune does not make a dune. What makes a dune is the sediment and the arrangement of the sediment. To coin a phrase, the proof is in the pudding. Regardless of the geomorphic shapes that he's been able to identify on digital elevation maps, the only way that those can be dunes is when you dig into them, you find dune sands and in the scientific community there are definitions for what a dune sand is. And I have dug into them and they do not contain other than a surface veneer of dune sand, they are the mass of these features are glacially derived sediments. Whether they're outwash materials, glacial (inaudible) or isolated kettleholes, they are glacially derived. And, yes, there is a surface veneer of sand; we have said that from the beginning. But that is not the formation of these geologic features.

I'll show you one thing. I'm sorry I don't have a great deal of slides but you can see that this is Herod Point, this is Roanoke Point, this is the subsurface map of Long Island Sound completed by-- completed by United States Geological Survey within the last several years. What you can see from this map is that there are a series of (inaudible) along the north shore of Long Island. This is the underwater remnants of the glacial moraine on the north shore and the features that Mr. Englebright has pointed out to you as being parabolic dunes, are nothing more than the leading edge, the southerly edge, of the recessional moraine and that is proven by sediment analysis.

So in summary I believe that his conclusion at this site is in error. I think that the vast abundance of scientific evidence demonstrates that these are glacially derived features. I enjoyed the tremendous opportunity to spend so much time talking geology in public because I never get to do it. And I thank you very much for this time."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you."

Kenneth Bakst: "(inaudible) the geology, I'd just like to make clear that Steve Englebright just so nobody misunderstand us, is not

just a geologist appearing here to speak as a geologist. He's an assemblyman, he's written to Sheldon Silver (phonetic) advocating preservation of land and it is in that context that he is here. And with that, I would suggest that we let some of those people from Riverhead who are here speak."

Supervisor Vilella: "I will have them but there's a group that has to go back to Albany so, New York Natural Heritage Program, how long would it take? Please, okay."

Kathy Schneider: "My name is Kathy Schneider. I'm the Director of New York Natural Heritage Program. We are a state-wide program and we're based in Albany, New York.

We're here tonight to address the inaccuracies in the final environmental impact statement for the Traditional Links golf resort project. Our comments focus specifically on those parts of the document that discuss the work of the New York Natural Heritage Program and that analyze and interpret data provided by the program to Dru Associates.

The FEIS does not accurately describe the mission and the purpose of the Natural Heritage Program. Our program is a joint project of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Nature Conservancy. Our mission is to conserve the biological diversity of New York State by identifying the locations of rare species and significant ecological communities. We provide data and scientific advice to a broad audience of natural resource decision-makers.

Our program was established within the DEC's Division of Fish and Wildlife in 1985. We have a professional staff of 18 scientists and assistants with expertise in zoology, botany, community ecology and information management. In our statutory authority as biodiversity information managers for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation was formalized in legislation that was passed in 1993.

The FEIS portrays our data as being for conservation purposes rather than for a scientific objective. These two purposes are not mutually exclusive. Our primary link to the Nature Conservancy is the use of a common set of widely accepted standards and procedures for inventory and information management, procedures that are shared with Heritage Program's in all 50 states, 13 Canadian provinces and Latin

American countries.

Our data are sufficiently rigorous and scientifically defensible to be used by academic institutions such as Cornell University and the SUNY Environmental College of-- College of Environmental Science and Forestry. It's also used by public agencies like the US Fish and Wildlife Service, The Environmental Protection Agency, the National Park Service, the Army Corps of Engineers and the DEC.

Our ability to compile and share data with heritage programs beyond New York State's borders allow us to interpret New York information from a perspective that is not available to most consulting firms.

At issue in this project are several natural communities identified by the Natural Heritage Program as ecologically significant and worthy of protection. Along with (inaudible) locations our program identifies and documents rare and exemplary natural communities as a way of efficiently conserving whole assemblages of species and their habitats. I work on the classifications and use of natural communities of conservation targets for the protection of biodiversity. It's supported and endorsed by public agencies such as the US Forest Service, the National Park Service and academic professional organizations such as the Ecological Society of America.

Work has been statistically analyzed (inaudible), peer reviewed and published as a part of several books on ecological communities in the northeast. These references are provided in our written comment.

Throughout the FEIS, the author implies that our data are unscientific, unstable and flawed and that they should be dismissed. They criticize and make false statements about heritage methodology to refute well documented information about important natural areas at this project site. I want to use the remainder of the time to focus on these important natural features.

The Natural Heritage Program has confirmed the occurrence of two significant natural communities in the project area. The most important is the large high quality globally rare maritime beech forest that you've heard about before. This hardwood forest is dominated by beech and usually occurs on north facing exposed bluffs and the back of portions of rolling dunes in well-drained sands. Wind and salt spray cause the trees to be stunted especially on the exposed bluffs.

This community is reported only from the coastal zones of Massachusetts and New York and it is known from only three sites in New York State. Based on its range, distribution and information from ecologists in Massachusetts, it is estimated that there are only about 150 to 300 acres of this community left in the world. New York probably has about half the global acreage and the Heritage Program is reasonably sure that the occurrence at Friar's Head-- this is the one at Friar's Head-- is the best in the world based on large size, diversity, excellent condition and buffer of coastal oak beech forest. It is certainly the best in New York State. The FEIS does not seem to dispute the rarity or importance of this natural community.

The Heritage Program considers the coastal oak beech project at the project site as the second most important element of biodiversity, also worthy of conservation. Coastal oak beech forest is best described as a hardwood forest co-dominated by oaks and beech. It is found on dry, well-drained loamy sand.

This community occurs near the coast of southern New England, New York, and the inner coastal plain of New Jersey. It is not rare on a global scale and it is not exceptionally rare in New York State. What makes it significant at Friar's Head is the combination of its limited distribution in New York State and the quality of this occurrence as measured by its size, condition and landscape setting.

At this site, the forest is part of a 2,500 acre forested landscape that extends from Wildwood State Park to Jacobs Point. Most important, it is adjacent to the globally rare maritime beech community for which it provides critical buffer.

Our program has information on two other potentially significant natural community occurrences at the project site but at this time we have not added these data to our data base. We do not have complete community maps that are supported with survey data that used our methodology. However, if other significant communities are present at this site, their presence would add to the overall biodiversity value and elevate its significance and conservation value.

The FEIS debates at great length the classification of the coastal oak beech forest implying that it is misclassified and, therefore, more common than our current assessment. This debate is irrelevant. The most important contribution of this forest to the biodiversity of Long Island is that it provides a large, relatively intact buffer for the maritime beech forest, a community whose

uniqueness and condition are not in dispute. The conservation of this forest is essential to the continued existence and viability of the world's best example of maritime beech forest, an ecological community that is found at fewer than 15 sites in the world.

The FEIS suggests that cutting down nearly 35% of this forest and replacing it with golf course fairways will have no significant adverse impacts to either natural community and these activities will actually improve the ecological values of the site. These statements are without scientific merit. There is a large body of scientific literature from the last two decades showing that forest fragmentation is one of the world's threats to conservation and biodiversity. Fragmentation creates edges and because it is brighter, windier and dryer than the rest of the forest the vegetation at the edges respond differently. Regeneration, growth, density and mortalities of trees have all been shown to be affected by distance from the edge. Invasive exotic plants thrive at edge habitat and they can inhibit regeneration of native species.

Common, edge inhabiting species become more abundant while declining forest interior species often disappear from the site entirely. Dozens of studies have shown that the creation of edge habitat increases predation and cowbird parasitism on forest nesting birds.

The impact of the proposed project on the unique natural communities that make up the coastal landscape at this site will be substantial. The maritime beech forest and coastal oak beech forest will no longer function as two components of a natural landscape that interacts with each other through physical processes such as wind and rain. Their ability to perpetuate the combination of plants and animals that make them special will be reduced and over time they will come to include the cosmopolitan species that are found all over Long Island. The development of this landscape will be a significant loss to the town of Riverhead and the people of New York State.

Thank you."

Supervisor Villella: "All right, we have one more scientific group to speak and that will be the Nature Conservancy"

John Talmage: "Mr. Supervisor, I rise to a point of order."

Supervisor Villella: "Yes. We are-- "

John Talmage: "(inaudible) what is your plan?"

Supervisor Villella: "Their plan is to speak and then I want the residents-- I want to hear from the residents of the town."

John Talmage: "Is this a resident of our town?"

Supervisor Villella: "No, this isn't. This is the last scientific data that we're looking for. We hired a consultant to listen to scientific data tonight."

John Talmage: "This is the consultant you hired?"

Supervisor Villella: "No. Right here."

John Talmage: "Why doesn't this person talk to your consultant?"

Supervisor Villella: "That's why she's here."

John Talmage: "Wasting the time-- "

Marilyn Jordan: "If you could let me speak, I could answer your questions."

Supervisor Villella: "Mr. Talmage-- "

John Talmage: "-- the time you have dedicated to the rest of the people of Riverhead."

Supervisor Villella: "We are going to-- I want to hear from the residents of Riverhead."

Marilyn Jordan: "I apologize to the audience for the lateness of the hour. I'm Dr. Marilyn Jordan, PhD in plant ecology, Stewardship Ecologist for the Nature Conservancy for the last seven years, and I'm representing the Nature Conservancy which owns several preserves in the Town of Riverhead.

I have four main points to present tonight and I'm cutting my remarks quite short because of the lateness of the hour.

My first point is the Friars Head forest does indeed contain globally and state rare ecological community types, and both are

clearly worthy of protection.

Second, the applicant fails to demonstrate that the proposed project will not have serious detrimental impacts on these rare and ecologically significant natural communities. In short, the applicant fails to meet the requirement of SEQOR which places the burden of proof on the applicant.

Third, the attack by the applicant on the New York Natural Heritage Program is completely fallacious, biased and offensive. Heritage methodology is soundly based in science, follows rigorous protocols, is widely respected and used by government agencies, private companies and conservation organizations, including the Nature Conservancy, which is utterly reliant on Heritage data.

Fourth, the FEIS fails to adequately address the significant deficiencies The Nature Conservancy identified in our comments in writing on the draft EIS. The FEIS is vague, evasive, misleading and scientifically inaccurate in numerous instances.

I would like to very briefly elaborate on this point and present a brief conclusion at the end.

The first point, the Friars Head forest contains globally and state rare ecological community types. The Friars Head forest contains 45 acres of globally rare maritime beech forest on the bluff facing Long Island Sound and as Kathryn Schneider of the Heritage Program-- Dr. Kathryn Schneider explained, its the best of its type remaining in New York, highly likely in the world.

Adjoining this maritime beech forest on the upland back from the bluff there are 180 acres of state rare coastal oak beech forest. Careful, rigorously analyzed data from the Heritage Program supports the rarity and quality of these communities at Friars Head. There are many voices saying that this entire forest stand is significant and must be protected in its entirety, undamaged and uncut, if it is to survive. There is only one voice claiming otherwise: that of the applicant.

The second point, the failure of the applicant to demonstrate that the proposed project will not have serious detrimental impacts. The Nature Conservancy contends that the construction of the golf course would seriously impact and degrade both of the rare forest types present at Friars Head. The burden of proof is on the applicant

to demonstrate otherwise. The FEIS does not and cannot demonstrate that there will be no adverse impacts for the following reasons.

I had intended at this point to go into a little bit of detail about fragmentation and edge effect. Kathryn Schneider has touched upon that. I hope you will read the written statement which will be distributed to you by my colleague (inaudible) which outlines the scientific arguments and the published literature behind these phenomena. But the net result is that inevitably if you cut golf course fairways through the coastal oak forest up to within 25 feet of the maritime beech forest, you will inevitably degrade both the maritime beech forest and essential buffer, the upland oak beech forest, and they would both likely be destroyed as viable ecological entities.

Contrary to the applicant's claim, the two forest zones are indeed ecologically linked and must be preserved together as an intact forest unit and the bigger the better. And the burden of proof is on the applicant to prove otherwise.

On my third point, that's the attack on the Heritage Program is fallacious, biased and offensive, I think Dr. Kathryn Schneider has addressed that quite thoroughly and I simply wish to concur and point out that Heritage methodology is the core science that (inaudible) all that the Nature Conservancy does. It's the methodology that is applied throughout this country, not just here in New York and not just at Friars Head. Thus, the attack on the Heritage Program has implications far beyond Friars Head.

The Nature Conservancy stands by the objective findings of the New York Natural Heritage Program with respect to Friars Head, just as we rely on similar data elsewhere on Long Island, in New York, and across North America.

My last point, the FEIS is vague, evasive, misleading and scientifically inaccurate in numerous instances. The FEIS has to be vague and misleading for a clear and unbiased presentation of ecological science would expose the fallacy of their claims that the site is not worthy of protection and that the project would have no adverse impacts, and incredibly, that the project would actually improve ecological values. I have time to verbally mention only few examples and the rest of the details in the written statement.

Example one. The applicant was asked to address the issues of

fragmentation and edge effects, and consider modified golf course design in order to minimize forest clearing and the creation of edge. The applicant presented a weak and inaccurate discussion of fragmentation. I don't have time to go into all the (inaudible) now, but I hope you will look at the written statement.

And the applicant did not present any consideration of minimizing forest clearing.

Second, the Conservancy identified the need to explicitly exclude several species of noninvasive native plants from the landscaping plan in the DEIS. The applicant ignored this need: invasive species are still included in the landscape species list.

Third example. The applicant ignored the request to discuss the effects of fragmentation on migratory bird species and repeated their empty claim in the DEIS that there will be no adverse impacts.

I'll cut that short here and conclude it by saying that Friars Head and the property of the applicant are home to globally significant natural communities and the Town Board must decide whether it is in the interests of the residents of Riverhead to allow these globally significant natural communities to be destroyed for the purpose that is proposed by the applicant.

Our position is that the applicant has failed to demonstrate that the proposed use of the property will not have serious and detrimental impacts on the quality, extent and survival of ecologically significant communities-- natural communities which have been the focus of public and private conservation efforts for over a decade.

The Nature Conservancy opposed the development envisioned in the pages of both the DEIS and the current FEIS. On the basis of sound and objective science alone, it is clear that none of the three alternatives advanced in the FEIS will leave the important natural features intact."

Supervisor Villella: "Is that all in your pamphlet, Dr. Jordan? It is."

Marilyn Jordan: "The last sentence. If this applicant is granted the requested change of zone, it would be a death sentence for the globally rare and significant natural communities and we appeal to you to stay this execution of Riverhead's biological heritage."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you. Okay. I'm going to call up James Golden and right after him, Howard Johnson, the President of the Farm Bureau, right after him. Can James speak first? And have Mr. Johnson right behind him."

James Golden: "My name is James Golden, a life long resident of Riverhead and a very good friend of the Talmage family. Now I think they really deserve a citation or an award from the State of New York for taking such good care of this very important property. And, secondly, the lesser of two evils would be a golf course. We all know that. Everybody in this room knows it. Because any kind of housing would completely destroy the area, any kind of housing. Because you have children there, they get out with mopeds, they cut a hole in the fence, they build (inaudible) over the place. They destroy it.

A golf course wouldn't do nearly that much harm. Maybe one-tenth of that.

I got one more point to make and I'll sit down. Riverhead has another golf course that was installed at one time, Calverton. That's a game preserve and there was a lot of controversy over that, building that. Well, it has had very little effect upon the environment. The game is still there. I (inaudible) all these years across the street, still plenty of deer and animals running around. But a housing development, forget about it. You'd have nothing. Thank you."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you. After Mr. Johnson we have Mr. Talmage, Henry Talmage speak, please."

Henry Talmage: "I'll do-- I'll pass-- "

Supervisor Villella: "Come back later, I'll put it towards-- okay. Dave Macknee be next. Dave. Okay, continue, please."

Howard Johnson: "Good evening, Supervisor Villella and Members of the Riverhead Town Board. My name is Howard Johnson. I am President of the Long Island Farm Bureau. You are fully aware of our position on private property rights. I am here on behalf of the Long Island Farm Bureau and our 5,600 members island-wide to support the Traditional Links change of zone application that is before you tonight.

It allows the construction of a high end golf and residential project on the Talmage property. The Town of Riverhead has

consistently identified the area north of Sound Avenue as an area designated for recreation and high value development for over 10 years. In fact, the Town of Riverhead adopted the transfer of development rights program that identified this area as a receiving area for development rights.

Even though the full residential development would provide for the use of development rights that would preserve farmland in the greenbelt of the town, the result would be devastating to the Riverhead school system and other governmental services. We believe the development of this property should be to promote tourism and provide a positive tax base. The proposed change of zone would provide a sensible balance of high value development while limiting the impact on the Riverhead school system, traffic and the land itself.

The Farm Bureau believes the tactics used by some of the people opposed to this project are disturbing. The Talmages have reported to us that opponents have trespassed to the point where they have had to patrol the property to protect it. The apparent creation of new environmental conditions that no one knew of until the land was being considered for development and the (inaudible) of the Talmage family themselves. It seems that in order to utilize your property you had better be prepared to endure a lot of public hype and misinformation.

My own family went through this eight years ago when we were selling our family farm for development. We were accused of harming the neighborhood by allowing the development of \$600,000 homes in a neighborhood where the value was \$150,000 homes. (Inaudible) is rampant on Long Island.

The Long Island Farm Bureau has been very concerned with strictly voluntary preservation programs that strictly voluntary preservation programs have been pushed by many groups and governmental officials despite the pleas by the property owners that the property is not for sale into the program. Some environmental leaders have said things like, well, nobody wants to sell their property initially and quote we just need to take a more determined approach unquote. It seems that the goal of the preservationists is to make the permit process so expensive and so drawn out that the Talmages and their partners will just give up and sell the land to Suffolk County for whatever they can get for it. If the land owner says that he does not wish to participate in a voluntary preservation program, that should end it.

The Talmage family has lived on Long Island for many generations and have told me that they plan to stay for several more. How many environmentalists can say that?

The Talmage family has tried very hard to create something that their family, past and future, and the Town of Riverhead can be proud of. As is often the case, the more creative and innovative the project, the more expensive and harder it is to obtain permits. The Talmage family has a right to develop this project subject to the existing zoning and environmental laws. In this case it means that many hundreds of houses can be built. The fact that they are trying to build something that will be much better for the community does not change the fact that they still have the right to build what the current zoning permits if the zone change is denied. That is not a threat, it is a fact.

This is the very essence of property rights and the Long Island Farm Bureau is here to help remind everyone of that. In an east end economy that is based largely on tourism, we feel that golf courses are a good complement to the other attractions that people already enjoy. Surrounding property values are sure to do better next to a quality golf project than next to a large grid subdivision. It will serve as a positive tax generator as opposed to a drain on the school system and town services.

Less land will be disturbed as a result of the golf development than a full residential build-out. It is for these reasons that the Long Island Farm Bureau encourages the Town Board to accept the change of zone application and choose the development option of building one quality golf course and a reduced number of expensive homes around the golf course. It just makes the most sense.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you. After Dave speaks, is Jake-- Jake Rothkamp, is he still here? Okay, Jake, you'll be next."

Dave Macknee: "Dave Macknee, 30 Sound Avenue. I live next to the property that separates-- it's just one piece of property, Henry (inaudible) Malibu Beach Estates and then it's Talmage's property. I received a letter to Scheinberg and the rest of the guys for a public hearing and I looked at it-- incidentally, I was dead set against Talmage with the, you know, getting the property rights taken off and also a couple other projects they had which extra houses and stuff

like that. But I looked at this one and it was really great, except I don't think this is what they're really going to do. What I have here, it says golf course, clubhouse, hotel and associated amenities. Well, I called Ricky and he didn't get back to me so I don't know what an associated amenity is.

I just made some notes here and I just want to give you my idea and on the notes. But, the hotel I would really, really be happy about and there's a couple reasons I'd be happy about it. The reasons I would vote for a hotel is there are no hotels in the area that are Triple A and I would only hope that if I realized that there would be a Triple A hotel in this town. If needed, part of it should be a single A, you know if you felt that they wouldn't have a lot of different people coming in. And he could have a convention hall there. It would have its own waste treatment plant. Now, I've heard a guy-- the water guy-- is the water guy here? Well, let me tell you I was just watching (inaudible) about-- "

Supervisor Villella: "Dave, over here. Look at us."

Dave Macknee: "-- about six months ago, and they had a thing on Japanese waste treatment plant that they cut the price like, you know, like from 100% to 25% and you can drink the water after it comes out. I wouldn't drink it, but the guy drank it. For him to say that they don't have any (inaudible) it works on an ultraviolet light and it breaks everything down. So I don't quite buy that situation. I think-- and what I really like about the hotel, there's no groundwater concentrations of nitrates or anything going into the groundwater and it doesn't cost us anything to put any sewers in.

Now, I made another thing here to put it on the bluff and that's the condo, next to Malibu Beach Estates which would be okay because he has the-- the road will come right through there and it would be a natural thing to have the condos next to the-- leaving sandhills and satisfying environmentalists. Okay.

And another thing about this is this whole thing about a golf course and a hotel follows the town's master plan for tourism-- hotel tourism as far as I'm concerned. And that's about all. I would definitely vote for that but now I understand that this isn't the situation as it unfolds, that they want houses there instead of a hotel. A hotel I definitely would vote for, you know, if I were you. Because of the different things involved here.

I think what's happened here is nobody's ready really to make a little concession with anybody else, you know. Like the guy said, you know in Cool Hand Luke, what we have here is a failure of communication. Okay? People should get together and they should look at one thing and say, look, you give us this and we'll give you that. Okay? And, that's business. It's done like that all over the world. But it isn't done here. The business guy is always taking a beating.

And another thing I have to tell you just that I have nothing to win or lose by this. My property is next door to him. Talmage and I aren't great friends but I just don't like to see somebody told that they have to sell their property to somebody that they don't-- because if they can tell him, they can tell me that I have to sell my property to somebody and I'll be damned, this is not Russia, this is the United States, and I won't sell my property to anybody I don't want to sell my property to.

And, aside from that, I think it partly falls on the Town Board and I've told you this the two meetings ago, I came here and I said why can't you guys sit down and knock this thing out? Is it too hard? I mean I don't see it, I don't see it. I wouldn't be in business as long as I was-- "

Supervisor Villella: "A very good suggestion."

Dave Macknee: "-- if I couldn't do that. Thank you."

Supervisor Villella: "Dave, that's the reason why we're here tonight, just what you said."

Dave Macknee: "I hope so."

Supervisor Villella: "After Jake, Joe Van deWetering will be next, please. Jake."

Jake Rothkamp: "Jake Rothkamp, Calverton. Well, I guess I've heard everything tonight. I've never been to such a meeting before in my life. But at any rate, let's get down to common sense and let's do it right. I go along with what the Farm Bureau has said 110% and there's nothing more to say because that's the way it should be. And you fellows have got to get down to the nitty gritty of it and use some common sense as to what's good for this town. Thank you very much."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you. Dick Reardon will be next."

Joe Van deWetering: "I'm Joe Van deWetering, from Baiting Hollow. Last weekend, actually Thursday and Friday, I was basically chased out of town by Floyd. When I heard it was coming, I decided to go to the city. I figured I could get some nice tickets to shows there. And I did. I saw some wonderful shows but the theatrics this evening (inaudible) compared to what I saw especially from the gentleman from Stony Brook."

I've never tried to pool together the Sahara Desert, what happens in Sweden, what happened on Mars and the Ice Age before. I do know for a fact that if I were to go to my backyard with a spade today and dug a hole four feet down, I would disturb tiny-- I don't know if that's the technical term-- particles that haven't been disturbed in 50 million years. So what? This is all nonsense. Why do we talk about this whole thing in a national process? We're talking here about a family. We're talking about the Talmages. Their name is synonymous with Riverhead. They've been here over 150 years. They've lived here and farmed here. They are one of the founding families of the hamlet of Baiting Hollow. This is their land. They have paid their taxes each year."

Unidentified: "So have I."

Supervisor Villella: "Let's keep it quiet."

Joe Van deWetering: "They are good neighbors, very good neighbors. They are major supporters of the hospital, of the Boy Scouts, of Cornell, of the Rotarians-- "

Supervisor Villella: "Excuse me, Joe. Can we please-- I don't know what's going on back there, but we don't-- all right, let's keep it quiet, please. Continue, Joe."

Joe Van deWetering: "Let's be rational. A golf course is better than houses. Plain and simple. A golf course is better than a sod farm. Plain and simple. A golf course is the only way to keep land as open space while still collecting taxes. Thank you."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you, Joe. After Dick, Joe Ingegno will be next. Okay."

Dick Redigan: "Good evening, Mr. Supervisor and Board Members."

I guess we should all be very thankful that there is no one here to see me representing mosquito preservation. My name is Dick Redigan. I've been a resident of Riverhead since 1984. However, my roots go back to 1969 when my employer transferred me here from the far off land of Brooklyn.

In 1970 I got married and brought my new wife to this great town. Shortly afterwards she became a contracted teacher in the local Riverhead school. In 1972 I was once again retransferred up island, however, my wife continued to teach in town and is currently entering her 30th year.

Seven years ago my employer offered me a golden handshake and I took advantage of early retirement. My wife decided she did not like the idea of my staying home while she went to work and convinced me to try substitute teaching. I found out that I liked working with teenagers very much and accepted a contract in 1997 to work with special room students on job training, job development and job placement.

In this position, I emphasize that if you have ability, desire, good work habits and honesty all you need to do for success is to open the door and walk through. I've also become involved in a New York State program for teenage entrepreneurs. I tell the kids to take advantage of whatever talents and brains they have and see if these talents and dreams lead to a successful business adventure.

If the town of Riverhead rejects the Talmage proposal and does not allow them to follow their dreams I will have to (inaudible) these students and advise them if they open a door in this town and see a dwarf pine tree (inaudible) because Riverhead trees have a higher value than people. If you're telling humans to stop dreaming you may as well tell them to stop being.

Ironically the Thursday evening was a show on Channel 7 by John Stossel (phonetic) about always (inaudible) greatest. And it made a mirror of four countries, or three countries and one continent, USA, India, Hong Kong and Europe. It's absolutely amazing. There's a total migration out of Europe coming to the United States because they're (inaudible). They can't get permits to do things. (Inaudible) are leaving in droves. In Hong Kong they built a small island into a massive industrial beauty. It's gorgeous, it's clean. It's bug free. In India you need a permit to get a permit to get a permit. USA, we are still the best. Let's not confuse

entrepreneurship, let's not confuse government regulations, let's do what we're supposed to do for the people that live here and for generations to come. Thank you."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you. After Joe, can we have George Goode, please, come up?"

Joe Ingegno: "Good evening. My name is Joseph Ingegno. I'm a 27 year resident of Riverhead and I live about a mile east of the proposed project. First I'd like to read a letter that Jack Van deWetering asked me to read because he could not be here tonight.

It says: Gentlemen: I've been advocating my support for the Talmage plan for a golf course for well over a year and want to take this opportunity to reiterate my position.

The Talmages' request for a zone change is made with the best interests of our community in mind. If the acreage in question under the present zoning law is developed for housing, not only would the open space be lost forever but for families living in these homes would put tremendous strain and burden on our community services and especially our schools. Taxes would have to increase dramatically.

Under the Talmage plan, we would still have the beauty of open space of the golf course but taxes paid by the facility would help the economic base of our community without putting additional demands on services and schools.

Those who claim to be concerned with ecology, preservation and pollution must surely know that housing developments would certainly do more damage and create more pollution than the proposed golf course. I question their true motives.

The Talmages have lived and farmed the east end for over 150 years. Their livelihood is in horticultural industry has kept them close to the land everyday. They have always made our community a priority and I believe that their plan for a golf course is in the best interests of the community and all concerned.

As our Town Councilmen, I am urging you to support the Talmage plan.

This is from Jack Van deWetering.

Now, a little word on myself. I also support the Talmage plan. I've lived in this town and I've seen many good projects go by the wayside because they've been beaten up for years by special interest groups that come in from out of town and try to enforce their will on what we want in this town. I think the time has come for where Riverhead stand up for itself and demand what we want and approve this plan. Thank you."

Supervisor Villella: "After George, could we have Dave (inaudible)? Is it (inaudible). I'm sorry. All right. After, would be Ann McQuade, would be next."

George Goode: "Good evening. My name is George Goode. I'm one of the Riverhead Goodes as opposed to the other Goods that were referenced earlier that live in New Jersey. We have two Goodes here tonight, actually three who have been waiting for about four hours to speak to the Town Board on this issue.

I stand to support the request for a zoning change for the proposed Traditional Links golf project. I've lived in Riverhead my entire life. I have a Bachelor's degree in Biology, a Masters Degree in Environmental Technology. I'm a registered Environmental Manager and I've worked in the environmental protection field for over 20 years. I'm speaking today, as I said, in support of the change of zone and for a minute there, I didn't realize that this was a change-- this is a zoning hearing. We're here to discuss whether we should have a residential for a golf course recreation zone.

The environmental impact statement has been accepted. That debate is over."

Supervisor Villella: "No, tonight it's over."

George Goode: "Okay. Let me talk a few minutes about the property, development, preservation and property rights. The property is beautiful, there's no question about that. Its beauty is a testament to the excellence of stewardship of the Talmage family, who has owned the property for over 100 years. They've paid the taxes on that land for all those years. I can understand why some people would like to see the land preserved. But those people don't own the land, they don't pay the taxes on the land, and they have no rights to the land. The owners have looked at the options available to them and decided that a development in which they maintain some ownership rights would be most beneficial to the family. That's their right.

They cannot and should not be forced to to sell their property for preservation. Surely they have more rights to their land than just the right to pay taxes on it. They have the right to use the land for the benefit of their family within the bounds set by sound planning and zoning.

The owners have clearly stated that the property is not for sale for the purpose of preservation and that some kind of development is inevitable. Therefore, the decision before this Board is what kind of development is in the best interests of the people of the town of Riverhead.

Let's look at some of the environmental impacts since we're going to talk about those. The site has no wetlands. That's a good thing if you're going to develop a site. Natural Heritage has identified this rare maritime beech forest along the bluff. The bluff is going to be protected by the coastal zone setback-- that beech forest will be protected. How rare is it? It's rare, yes, globally, but it's located from Port Jefferson to Orient Point. Take a drive down Sound Avenue in your four wheel drive some day and you'll see it along the east side of the north side of the bluff behind the Reeve farm, behind the Briermier farm (phonetic) and so on all the way down. It's all over the place along Long Island. Okay

Groundwater protection. You heard from an expert on groundwater protection. He talked about a sewage treatment plant being built. Well, that's with the hotel proposal. That's off the table so that's a red herring. In fact, this proposal is for development on the north side of Sound Avenue. The Suffolk County funded study which was funded by the EPA, the so called 208 study, formed the basis for groundwater protection on Long Island. What it said is that the recharge zone in Riverhead was bounded on the north side by Sound Avenue. Therefore, development should be north of Sound Avenue to protect the drinking water aquifer.

Ask Joe Baier (phonetic). He is a member of your Planning Board. And he has made a recommendation that this zoning change be granted.

What about the environmental impacts of the proposed golf course versus the housing option? I mean it's pretty clear. You don't have to be a rocket scientist to understand that.

A few words about the walking dunes. A lot of debate has been talked about the walking dunes. Well, the walking dunes are in

(inaudible) as what was demonstrated there. Walking dunes are formed by the wind blowing sands and the sand then accumulates around vegetation and they form in another location. I don't want to get into it but up at the Talmage farm on the north shore, those bluffs are 200 feet high.

Now, to bring this down a little level from the geologist-- has anybody seen a rock roll uphill? (Inaudible). That sand is not going from the beach 200 feet up that bluff-- up and then walking. Those dunes have been there, they're glacial deposits and they're not walking dunes.

The last issue that I'd like to address and this one cuts close to home which is the (inaudible) taxes, taxes, taxes. Everybody I talk to in this town thinks their property taxes are too high. The town taxes went up almost 5% last year, school taxes were up even more. This is unsustainable. It's time to start building the tax base in this town so that it won't cause higher taxes for the residents that are here.

The current zoning of the property is residential. Depending on whose numbers you believe, anywhere from 350 to 666 residential units could be built on this land under current zoning. Surely this is not what the Town Board wants. A high density residential development would bankrupt the school district and send property taxes in Riverhead through the roof. Taking more land off the tax rolls is not going to help the situation in Riverhead either. The applicant is asking you to change the zoning from high density residential zone to a recreational zone which would allow the golf course option. A golf course, luxury home development would be a valuable asset that would pay taxes and likely result in lower property taxes for other town residents.

As elected officials, you have a fiduciary responsibility to protect the well-being of-- the financial well-being of all the people of this town. The choice before you is clear. Approve the request for a zoning change to recreational. It's the right thing to do for all the right reasons."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you. After Ann McQuade speaks, Dr. John Potente will be next."

Ann McQuade: "Hello. My name is Ann McQuade and I own property directly to the east of the Talmages. In addition, I'm hoping some

day to start a wildlife preserve on part of my land so I'm very vulnerable to development next door. Therefore, I was happy to hear that plan A, the one with the 500 room hotel is being dropped in favor of plan B and also that there aren't going to be 303 houses on the site, but only 75.

Welcome as these developments are, however, they don't address the main problem of plans A and B and plan C, too, for that matter, the problem of damage to the very beautiful woodlands on the site. The FEIS claims that this is not a problem. The woods, it argues, are already so disturbed, fragmented and suburbanized that they are no longer of ecological value. I find this statement very puzzling. Possibly what is being referred to is the Malibu East section where some bulldozing was once carried out but Malibu East isn't at issue in the zoning debate. It's already zoned for a golf course.

It's the land next to Malibu East that needs the zoning change. Well, I've roamed around those woods many times during my almost 50 years in the neighborhood and I can only say the description given in the FEIS is simply untrue. These woods are not suburbanized. They are wild. They are not disturbed. They're deeply peaceful. They are not fragmented. They are continuous. They go from east to west for a good half mile unbroken except for two extremely modest little dirt roads.

The question is under plan B, what is going to happen to these woods? First, according to figures in the FEIS, 45% of the trees, nearly half, will be cut down. The rest will be clumped in patches with fairways in between.

Next, the clubhouse, tennis courts and swimming facilities will be built plus roads and parking lots to access them plus restrooms and the like dotted here and there and, by the way, 75 houses. Finally, there will be the people, golfers tooling about in golf carts, staff mowing the fairways, parties at the clubhouse, cars charging up and down the road.

The end result, I quote the FEIS, no significant adverse environmental impact, unquote. Excuse me, but the impact on those woods will be severe. There will be impact on my woods, too, and on my plans for my woods. And when I look at the map for plan B, I feel pretty discouraged. The first thing I see is a road running right along my boundary, almost all the way from Sound Avenue to the bluff. After the road, comes a series of parking lots which, again, abut

against my woods. Nearby is a stretch labeled beach pavilion but I'm told it's really a combination of tennis courts and a swimming pool or pools and not far from that is a clubhouse with a pro shop just beyond.

In seeking a zoning change, Traditional Links is asking you to set aside certain long standing regulations for their financial benefit. I would like to suggest that they return this favor by giving something back to the community, a common practice in zoning change.

The Town Board could help make this happen. You can grant a zoning change but with constraints. You can say to the applicant, yes, but on condition that you set aside for preservation a significant area of woodland. Such a condition would help compensate for the destruction carried out elsewhere on the site.

Look at the plan B map again. If there were only going to be 75 houses, a lot of farmland will be freed up. Therefore, why not move the clubhouse, swimming, tennis and so forth down to this area? That's where they're located in plan A, which is supposedly the applicant's favorite plan. Moving these facilities would spare the eastern woods a great deal of destruction and possibly make them available for preservation.

If the Town Board can negotiate a good agreement along these lines with Traditional Links, I pledge to contribute a majority of my own acreage so that the two adjoining properties can become one, a continuous preserve of love and woodland large enough to withstand changes on neighboring land which my land alone cannot do. Such a deal would benefit everyone, I believe. But especially it would benefit the land itself and the plants and animals that inhabit it. Thank you very much."

Supervisor Villella: "After the Doctor, Valerie Goode, you're next, please."

Dr. John Potente: "Supervisor Villella, Members of the Town Board. Many people from within the Town of Riverhead have realized the importance and the value of this particular site. They have reached out to other people from Long Island to help to preserve this site. Why did they do that? And why have other people from outside of Riverhead responded to that? People have come to Long Island from other parts of New York State to this Town Board meeting? Why?"

Because they heard that some guy, Bill, was wanting to put a golf course in his back yard and everybody rushed here to Riverhead?

I don't know Bill Talmage but I understand he's a nice fellow. And I've been hearing tonight that he's been around for 150 years, he doesn't look that old, but-- but why are all these people coming out here? For what reason do they come out to Riverhead?

Every major environmental group on Long Island has recognized the importance of this site. People from the academic field have recognized the significance of this site. People from civic groups across Long Island have recognized the importance and the value of this site. It is a very rare important site that measures up to national parks across this country. Geologically, botanically, zoologically, ecologically, this is an important site. That's why they have come. Not for entertainment, not because they want to give up a night of bowling, but because the people of the academic field came on their own time, gave up their own time, to let Riverhead know this is something important that needs to be saved and preserved.

There's not two options to the site. There are 10 or 100. But there's only one right thing to do with this site and that is to preserve it. This measures up to national parks across this country and this may become a national park. Years from now if this is a national park, the members of the Town Board of Riverhead may be asked how did you vote on the national park that we have here in Riverhead. And you can either answer, well, quite frankly, I voted for bulldozing or you can answer, I was one of those who voted to help protect it."

Supervisor VILLELLA: "After Valerie is Dan Morris."

Valerie Goode: "Supervisor VILLELLA, Town Board. Valerie Goode, owner, broker of Colony Realty and 25 year resident of Baiting Hollow. I'm here tonight in full support of the Town Board approving the Talmage application for a change of zone. Time is money and a lot of each has been expended on this project."

North of Sound Avenue has the capacity to put this town in the black. Recreational development is not a dirty word and I'm proud to say I've worked for the past six years in a recreational development north of Sound Avenue. We've sold 85 homes with 16 more under construction. I urge you all to follow the school bus there. Only two children attend our Riverhead schools. These 85 homes pay taxes in the neighborhood of \$4,000 to \$7,000. And these residents are in

the restaurants, the farm stands, supporting local businesses and economies.

North of Sound Avenue has the ability to attract early retirees, second marriages, second homes and snow birds. This is the clientele that the Town of Riverhead should be anxious to welcome. The recreational concept will draw this type of buyer. As a broker, I have worked towards what I consider to be best in this town as I live and work here and (inaudible).

I admire the coming together of the people who oppose this project and I hope that this energy and the relationships that were formed will not be wasted. I urge you all to get in a canoe and enjoy the fall foliage along our Peconic River and pull together for the public acquisition of the available properties. Call in your favors, press your buttons and whistles and hope this Town Board take positive action and you move forward for the (inaudible)."

Supervisor Villella: "After Dan, can we please have Nancy Gray? She'll be next."

Dan Morris: "My name is Dan Morris. I'm SEQRA coordinator for the Open Space Council, environmental group based in Brookhaven hamlet. Our constitutents, our members cover all of Long Island including Nassau County. I'm not going to read my statement tonight because of the length of the meeting so far and I have some questions that I wasn't prepared to talk about but (inaudible).

I'll just make a statement that the Open Space Council made extensive comments on the draft environmental impact statement, most of which were inadequately or not addressed at all in the final environmental impact statement. But clearly there's still demand for a 500 room hotel nor is there any justification for renegeing on the Talmages' 101 acre commitment on land preservation program.

So even if you believe the other conclusions that the Talmages (inaudible) FEIS, there's still four salient facts that have been discussed here a number of times, that is (inaudible) on the bluff, the rare plant assembly (inaudible) by the Heritage Program. There are extensive woodlands on the top of the bluff (inaudible) significance (inaudible) whatever the origin of the process (inaudible) that ties the two woodlands together. This larger system is locally unique if not globally rare. It is incumbent upon the Town Board as our first line of defense (inaudible) to protect the bluff,

dune, woodland ecosystem.

Thus you're left with the disposal of the agricultural land north of Sound Avenue. An 18 hole golf course may be appropriate there but be advised that the Hauppauge Country Club a (inaudible) golf course is currently being developed as a residential subdivision even in the wave of the golf course mania that has overcome Long Island. Is this the ultimate fate of all golf courses?

Based on the foregoing information, the Open Space Council urges that the Town Board deny the change of zone request.

My questions that were generated from the meeting tonight is several of the consultants for the Talmages and Traditional Links have indicated that they want to provide additional information in response to some of the information that's presented here tonight. You've indicated this is the final hearing. We have a consultant that we hired to advise you on these issues. What is the next step here? What are we going to do? Are we going to have a chance to review his conclusions? Are we going to have a chance to review their conclusions? Are there going to be rebuttal? Are they going to be allowed to (inaudible) or is this the end of the process? Are you going to require a supplemental environmental impact statement (inaudible)?"

Supervisor Villella: "Not for the final EIS. Maybe-- we have our counsel here. Because the resolution says September 22nd for the final documentation. That's why we want them to have the consultant here, the comment period on that. Not the change of zone on the final EIS, but-- "

Maureen Liccione: "That's accurate. My name is Maureen Liccione. I'm a member of the firm, Twomey, Latham, Shea & Kelley, special counsel to the Town of Riverhead. The SEQRA statute and regulations provide for a review period on an FEIS. The Town has no legal obligation to provide a comment period on an FEIS. However, since it's interested in taking in as much information as possible, it has held-- this hearing tonight is part of the FEIS comment period.

The hearing tonight is the hearing on a zone change-- is also a hearing on a zone change application. With respect to the FEIS, this is the end of any comment period on the FEIS. The FEIS is still subject to review under the statute and regulations until such time as findings are issued under SEQRA. So as far as SEQRA is concerned,

this is the end of this SEQRA comment period."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you.

Dan Morris: "And the consultant's decisions or opinions or report, will that be public-- "

Maureen Liccione: "The consultants will not be issuing an opinion. The consultants are assisting the town in preparing a findings statement. They're not issuing a report."

Dan Morris: "Thank you."

Richard Amper: "Can I just get a clarification on that? The consultants are assisting the town?"

Councilman Kent: "Our consultants."

Maureen Liccione: "The town's consultants are assisting the town in preparing a findings statement."

Supervisor Villella: "After Nancy, can we please have Kerry Figurinak next?"

Nancy Gray: "My name is Nancy Gray, I live at 705 Sound Shore Road in the Town of Riverhead. In regards to the traffic studies presented in the FEIS prepared by Traditional Links, LLC for the Riverhead Town Planning Department and accepted by the Riverhead Town Board, I am requesting that no zoning changes or special permits be granted. As far as I can see there are no significant changes in the traffic study presented in the FEIS as compared to that of the DEIS. I do not see that any of my concerns submitted to the Town Board on January 12, 1999 were addressed in any way. See the attached letter which were my ten comments at that time.

I also feel a need to comment on a letter addressed to Dear Neighbors and other advertisements from the Talmage family. I have no doubt that the Talmages have the best interests for Riverhead as a community at heart, but in my opinion something has gone dreadfully askew.

I wish to give you another point of view regarding the frequent references to "...out of town opponents are attempting to influence the Riverhead Town Board..." This notion is very disturbing to me.

Point 1. The proposal for a golf course resort includes a proposal to take the 100 or so acres south of Sound Avenue out of the Farmland Preservation Program. This is a Suffolk County program, so we are dealing with a county-wide issue.

Point 2. The northern boundary of the proposed site is Long Island Sound. This is a national estuary. The scope of interest is now broadened further to include New York State, Connecticut and other national interests.

Point 3. The 20 or so groups that have formed a coalition that is working so hard to find a solution for preserving this property for all its uniqueness (North Fork Environmental Council, Long Island Pine Barrens Society, Long Island Botanical Society, Open Space Council, North Fork Audubon Society, to name but a few). All have membership living in Riverhead township.

Again, I can only speak for myself and my point of view is that the only outsiders represented here are the investors in Traditional Links LLC."

Supervisor Villella: "And after Kerry, Jim-- he'll follow you right up, Kerry."

Kerry Figurinak: "My name is Kerry Figurinak. I grew up in Calverton, I now live in Baiting Hollow. I have a comment question for all the environmentalists that don't to answer because they think the Talmages need more time to hear their side of the story tonight. With (inaudible) seem to think that Baiting Hollow and the grandifolia sandhills are such a hot issue, why don't they help the Calverton Civic Association, Vinny Villella and the town, fight the illegal sandmining going on in Calverton."

Supervisor Villella: "That, took you're absolutely-- I like that one."

James Figurinak: "I always follow second after my wife. Mr. Villella, Members of the Town Board, I come here tonight with an open mind to hear issues on both sides, not to make smart remarks, or mumble any smart comments under my breath either. The question I have for you, which I am a little bit unclear on, is do we have three choices in this issue or is there only two? Is it residential housing and a golf course and residential housing or is it preserve the land? That's what I'm unclear on."

Supervisor Villella: "It could be as many options as possible, whatever they could work out. We're here to listen for the facts tonight and everything and then we make-- get together-- that's-- "

James Figurinak: "Because I was under the opinion that it was either a lot of houses or a golf course and houses. I'm for the latter if that's my only choice."

Supervisor Villella: "Adam would like to say something."

Adam Grossman: "Just for clarification, the purpose of the public hearing tonight is on an application for a change of zone, okay. In addition, we're taking comments on the final environmental impact statement. The application of the change of zone is for the purpose of having the golf course proposal and that has been discussed tonight."

Supervisor Villella: "The Planning Board's-- "

Adam Grossman: "In the alternative, if, in fact, the Town Board would opt not to grant the change of zone, then as of right the property owners would have other options available. So that's the reason that those other options are being discussed tonight. But, in fact, the application is-- the purpose of tonight's public hearing is twofold, for a change of zone on the golf course application which is a special permit application-- by special permit of the Town Board and additionally to get comment on the final environmental impacts."

James Figurniak: "Thank you very much for the clarification."

Supervisor Villella: "I'm going to call up two, Carl Bonhem (phonetic) and Ken, do you want to-- I think it's mostly-- Denise Civiletti will be next. And Carl. Oh, all right. Ken Zahler will be next, please."

Councilman Kent: "Carl left."

Supervisor Villella: "Carl's not here? Okay. Denise."

Denise Civiletti: "Good evening. My name is Denise Civiletti. I live on Mill Road in Riverhead. And I'm here to say first of all before I address the question of change of zone, what great offense I've taken at the calculated and cold smear campaign that has been run against this family in connection with this application. The Talmage

name is not now, has never been, and will never be a dirty word in the town of Riverhead.

We've heard a lot about hired guns, a big issue was made that the developers-- the preparers of the environmental impact statement were paid by the developer. Well, when has not that been the case? The town's obligation is to have the developer pay for that environmental impact study and to review it. The town can do it independently-- I never saw that (inaudible)."

Supervisor Vilella: "That's the SEQRA process."

Denise Civiletti: "You can hire somebody to review it and I guess you've done that. Indeed the hired gun in this room who I think is the answer to the question the gentleman asked of why are all these people here, is none other than the Al Sharpton of the environmental movement, Mr. Richard Amper who from Albany, Manorville, to Baiting Hollow to I don't know where the next target is indeed a very effective public relations person and (inaudible). I think that is the answer to why the various people from Brookhaven and all other points of Long Island and New York are here.

Indeed, this town has undertaken some independent analysis and study of the issues presented here. The farmland preservation study that was undertaken in the 1980's that was recommended to a previous town board in the 1980's at that time which was not adopted, it's the closest thing to a master plan that we have in this town, was not adopted because the previous town board did not have the collective spinal apparatus to adopt it at the time, didn't listen to the Planning Board at the time.

But, in fact, that study designated this area and other areas north of Sound Avenue as a TDR receiving area. We studied the bluffs and the erosion of the bluffs and the geological interplay with the coastal zone erosion hazard plans that were adopted back then. This property was not designated a critical environmental area when that study was done back then. You have before you I take it a recommendation of this Planning Board advocating the change of zone which I stand here before you to advocate as well and I hope that you gentlemen have the collective gumption to follow that Planning Board recommendation.

I think that at heart at issue tonight is what is this town really about? What are we going to be? What do we want to be when

we grow up? We talk about wanting to develop our property for the recreational use, attract tourists, attract recreational users, attract second homeowners, and then when we have an opportunity to do that, we stand up and shoot ourselves in the foot. And that's, I think, what we're doing here tonight. I think this is-- "

Supervisor Villella: "Tonight we're just having a public hearing."

Denise Civiletti: "I think it's probably dragged on so long though, Vinny, that, you know, I think that some people might get disgusted and just take the course of least resistance here, which is to do what they are legally entitled to do right now and that's build it out as a residential subdivision. That's my fear."

In any event, I ask the (inaudible) the Planning Board and approve the change of zone for this property. Thank you."

Supervisor Villella: "Thanks, Denise. After Ken, it will be George, George Schmelzer. We always save you to last but not tonight. Ken."

Ken Zahler: "Mr. Grossman a little while ago made mention of something which I think is so terribly important."

Councilman Kwasna: "Ken, sorry, you should know better. Identify yourself to the tape, please. Sorry."

Ken Zahler: "Ken Zahler. He alluded to the fact that should the change of zone be turned down, the Talmages have the right to do what they can with the current zoning. The current zoning does allow them to build houses, lots and lots of houses. Nobody that stood up here tonight and talked parabolic dunes and large sand and little sand and silt and fauna and flora, nobody mentioned the fact that the same trees will be cut down for a house as would be cut down for a golf course. You can't tell me that it would be better for the ecology for this sensitive or not sensitive area, whether it be a moraine or whatever, you cannot tell me that it is okay for this possibly sensitive area to build 600 houses which would have, oh, let's just say 3,000 people living in them, which would have maybe 200 or 300 kids running around, you can't tell me that that is ecologically better than a golf course which will have golfers in good weather, which will be pretty much uninhabited and untouched throughout the cold weather when it's stormy and freezing outside. So all of the

people who have stood up here and at length gone over and over about the ecology of the area, they've completely ignored the only thing that matters and that is what's that got to do with the change of zone? Nothing. It's got nothing to do with it.

The fact is, folks, that you can destroy the area with a whole lot of houses, destroy the economy, make a mess of the school system, cost the taxpayers a fortune. You can do all of that, and do it without doing anything. Don't grant the change of zone. However, if you grant the change of zone, you instead can do something that I believe will have a less impact on the ecology, have a better impact on the tax base of Riverhead, be better for the school district, and be what the taxpayers want. Thank you."

Supervisor Vilella: "Good, Ken. Is Henry Talmage still here?"

Unidentified: "Supervisor Vilella, may I interrupt? Is there a David (inaudible) here?"

Supervisor Vilella: "Yes."

Unidentified: "Well, I think you're about to become a dad again."

Supervisor Vilella: "Wow. No, not you, George. Don't worry."

George Schmelzer: "I'm next."

Supervisor Vilella: "No, no. I mean you're not about to become a dad. Okay."

George Schmelzer: "(inaudible) Anyway, it's been said tonight that no environmentalist ever started a subdivision or something like that? Or put up houses. After it's done, they all move into them though, that's a different thing. That's how they are. Just move into them after they're done.

And about trees being unique, so what? People are unique, too. Everybody has different fingerprints. Yes. And they said that the skunk have disappeared, the weasels have disappeared. I think you can find plenty around, two-legged ones. Maybe some of them are here tonight even.

And these environmentalists, they complain about the destruction

of wildlife and it should be preserved. Except when the geese crap on their lawns, get rid of the geese, we've got to kill them. Same with the deer when they eat their flowers, see. For years they've been saying don't touch the wetlands, no sprays, no this, no nothing. Last year or so mosquitoes are very thick, they start biting their butts. They don't want that, they ask the county to spray the wetlands. That's what we got, see. Some hypocrites they are. I can tell you more, but that's enough of that. I can't stand them.

Now, it was never brought out tonight about the history of the island before the rise of the ocean. The Hudson River canyon goes out to the continental divide so there must have been a long time when the ocean was lower, when the ice was high. Now a lot of that stuff that went on on the sound shore, must have went on beforehand. Now, when Long Island was created, it must have been a deep gulf on the north side near the shore (inaudible) all these cliffs washed away, a tremendous amount of sand washed away, it be going way into the sound and (inaudible) in mean Baiting Hollow, you go a little ways up it's soil, mud. And as far as the sand drifting up. I found sand drifting up (inaudible) and a gulch came up to the top, come to a few trees, it stops. It only drifts in open air, just like snow. You don't find snow drifts in woods. You won't find it in sand either so if any sand drifted up, it was drifted up before the trees were there.

And topsoil is not made-- it was there when the melting of the dirty water, the dirty ice, from the glacier, melted slowly to form the topsoil. I've seen plenty of strange things in the land we got in Calverton. I've got no time to talk about it now but on the south side of the island you can see the straight line. A lot of these lakes were cut off and the dunes took over. The south shore, it wasn't made that way. When water came up when the glacier melted, that's what happened.

So what I think, this (inaudible) people have mental problems now. They-- what land they have that's theirs and what you have is theirs too, see. If any farmer or somebody gets a good price for his land, they're very jealous. That's bad. They should be able to use it for nothing, see. That's their mentality. They're so against people-- did you say something?"

Councilman Kent: "Yes, I'd like you to stay on the project. Let's not talk about the people-- "

George Schmelzer: "Well others can do it, that's okay."

Councilman Kent: "No, let's just stay to the change of zone and-- "

George Schmelzer: "Well, you should have told that to everybody else then. But you didn't."

Councilman Kent: "Well-- "

George Schmelzer: "Yes, right?"

Councilman Kent: "No, I don't think there were many personal attacks going on. Maybe one comment here and there. Not much."

George Schmelzer: "I didn't make any attack anybody-- "

Councilman Kent: "Well, you keep talking about environmentalists. Let's just keep it on the change of zone-- "

George Schmelzer: "Well, everybody's talking about environmentalists. That was the main subject tonight. (Inaudible)."

Councilman Kent: "Talk about the environment, yes."

George Schmelzer: "Well, what's the difference? Did I mention any name in particular?"

Councilman Kent: "No."

George Schmelzer: "All right, then. What are you complaining about?"

Councilman Kent: "Okay. Do you have anything else to talk about on the change of zone application or the FEIS?"

George Schmelzer: "Yes, I'm wasting my time with you. Yes. So, I believe the Talmages have been here long enough; it's their land. It's nobody else's; it's their business what they do with it. They're not hurting anyone and (inaudible) golf course is in demand, they pay taxes, maybe you should pass a law that anybody who runs for the Town Board should have been a farmer for five or 10 years. Maybe that's what we need to do.

It seems that everybody's against humans. If you don't want any people around here, cut off the immigration. Worried about too many

people. What's going on here?"

Councilman Kent: "Okay."

George Schmelzer: "And you've got no respect for private property anymore."

Councilman Kent: "Okay, thank you, George."

George Schmelzer: "Okay, you're very welcome."

Councilman Kent: "Henry, do you have something-- can you follow that any way at all?"

Henry Talmage: "I won't even try. My name is Henry Talmage. I just want to talk a minute about the procedural thing here tonight a little bit. There are an awful lot of people and people mentioned how a lot of people came on their own time to talk maybe from an environmental point of view. There's also a lot of people who came here on their own time as concerned citizens of Riverhead that unfortunately not all could stay around and wait. And I think we need to as this procedure is going to continue on other projects, and you really want good input from the town, you might want to look at maybe looking at that a little bit.

And one other thing I'd just like to say. You know, I think there is a difference between comments from people who are within our town because at the end of the day, it's the people who live in this town that will have to pay for the decisions that are made. And to me that makes a lot of sense and ought to be part of your decision process. So thank you."

Councilman Kent: "Just for the record, I think there was only one person that we called who had filled out a card that didn't come up and speak. I think there was only one person. So I think everybody stayed to speak. Well, Dave (inaudible) is next. I don't-- oh, he did-- "

Unidentified: "His wife had the baby."

Councilman Kent: "Oh, he did. Okay. Kenny Bakst is the next card. If you want to speak, please fill out a card."

Unidentified: "I did. I don't know where it wound up, but it

should be up there. I think you've got-- "

Councilman Kent: "Well, I think you conceded your time then?"

Unidentified: "No, I made no volunteer of my time. Okay, well, Kenny you're next. If anybody else wants to speak, just line up behind the podium there. Kenny Bakst."

Ken Bakst: "Before I make my closing remarks, I would just like to clarify the record on a couple of issues that were brought up in the lengthy presentation. First, Barbara said that at the Planning Board meeting or work session that we made a representation that we wouldn't build more than 75 units in the golf residential plan. In fact, at that meeting, we said it was our goal and hoped to build between 50 and 75 units of what we think will be the most expensive houses ever built in the town of Riverhead but that we couldn't represent that it wouldn't exceed that because we're creating a product that, in fact, today doesn't exist. We hope by building a world class golf course that it would facilitate (inaudible). So I just wanted to clarify that point there.

Two, Mr. Amper started off his whole presentation on this thing about truth. He's the dirty person who wrote a piece and in that piece in Newsday, I don't know, maybe it was a month ago, six weeks, three weeks, it doesn't matter, he said, quote, and he wrote this, he wasn't quoted, he wrote this whole article, he said, rated number one are the grandifolia sandhills, a 250 acre maritime beech dwarf beech forest ranked globally rare by the Natural Heritage Program. We don't have 250 acres of woods on our property. The Natural Heritage Program hasn't said what he said they said. So when we talk about truth, let's stick to the facts.

The third thing he brought up is about this housing. He said it's a threat, it's a lie, it won't happen, I don't understand the point. The as of right yield he said is just getting bigger and bigger. It's not. In fact, it got smaller. The DEIS if anybody took the time to review it said that because of the one acre zoning to the right, the recreational district zoning over on the (inaudible) piece, that there was an as of right 369 units single family yield and that through application of the TDR program on the Talmage parcel, which would require to find more farmland in the sending zone to apply to that land pursuant to the TDR program, and applying duplex units in the (inaudible) parcel which is written straight in the code in the recreational district as we speak, it came to 738 units. That's what

was in the DEIS.

And in response to the town's transmittal to us telling us that they thought that the special permit on (inaudible) actually reduced our yield from 156 down to 80 to 120, we said we think you're wrong, but that's the way we'll write the FEIS. And, in fact, Barbara has since clarified that the recreational district zoning on (inaudible) is a mapped zoning, not an overlay. So if the special permit lapses, you go back to the zoning that's in existence and I know there's a lot of confusion but here's the bottom line. Somewhere between 293 units and 738 units is the permitted yield. If we ever went housing, we'd all figure that out. I don't think it matters because we know the impacts are significant either way. They're-- it's just a matter of how high do they get? Quantify them at three million a year or six million a year, they're still not a good result.

This resort scenario is a lie. It is a quote unquote baloney scenario because it can't be built legally, not true. The Farmland Preservation Program as it's written today, the law provides that that land can come out of that program by referendum of the people. It's the law. The law doesn't have to be changed to do that. Now, if the land isn't going to come out for political reasons or other reasons, that's fine. If the project is going to go north of Sound Avenue and end up going golf housing for that reason, that's fine. But to make the statement that that project can't be built, it's a sham, it's a redherring or whatever the heck it was called, is false. It is legally permitted if we took the land to the people and they voted to send it out. Maybe that wouldn't happen and I think it's likely that we wouldn't even try at this point but I think that was important.

The final point on the paid consultant's thing, all you hear about is how the paid consultants say what they're paid to say. It's maligning to those professionals and their professional responsibilities. And they talk about a court proceeding, look the people in the eye, gauge them and see if they're telling the truth. When you go to court and you bring an expert in, you don't malign them by saying he's paid. They're all paid. Both sides pay experts. They come to court, they testify. If you want to malign an expert, you challenge his credentials. And you challenge his credentials and you're successful, then you prove that his testimony isn't worthy. Never have we heard a challenge of the credentials of Les Sirkin, of Ron Abrams, Bob Johnson. It's not in the record. There's nowhere there that somebody could do that because their credentials are impeccable.

Closing comments just to put maybe all of this in perspective. When we formed Traditional Links almost two years ago, I've been working on this actually for three years, I (inaudible) a group of wealthy investors together to invest 3.1 million dollars to buy an 80 acre parcel of land in the town of Riverhead and covered the cost to permit a world class Krenshaw golf course on both that property and the Talmage land. That was the investors' sole motivation for investing money in the town of Riverhead. And even though I live in Manhattan, I have written checks now totaling \$75,000 plus or minus on that land since 1996. And I would guess there aren't many people in this room that can make that statement.

And to build a world class Krenshaw golf course on a spectacular piece of property, that was their motivation and it's successful to come and build their own personal vacation homes on site adjacent to that course. Now, in response to all this environmental-- I wrote mumbo-jumbo but I'll take it back because I don't want to be-- but in response to all this environmental stuff, many people suggested to me that we just go and build a residential subdivision. That we just get on with it, put an end to this nonsense, and just go forward with our existing as of right use and you know with existing private dedicated beach access on site to a three-quarter mile stretch of beautiful private beachfront on the Sound, with, you know, more extensive Soundfront property both east and west, when we could afford that to every homeowner who comes onto this site, my guess is we'd have a pretty good residential subdivision. And if we can't succeed at that in this town with that site and with that access to the beach, nobody can. And maybe we'll make more money building a world class golf course and maybe we won't.

But building that type of lasting monument in the town of Riverhead was the sole motivation for the investors making this investment. So all this stuff about birds and bees and bugs and trees and geology which I'm going to leave up to the experts, I'm not going to get into it at all, it doesn't matter when you look at the big picture. Because if you try to move this golf course, if you try to tell Krenshaw where this golf course could and shouldn't go, if you were to in effect want to try to design this golf course by consensus from the environmental community telling you where these people can and can't build a golf course, there won't be a (inaudible) Krenshaw golf course. They just won't do it. And if you take away (inaudible) Krenshaw golf course then the sole motivation for them having made the investment in the first place will be eliminated. And at that point, this investment is going to become nothing more than an investment on

their balance sheet. And they'll just go someplace else and build a Kewshaw course someplace else maybe if they can ever find another piece of property as pretty as this one, and they'll build their vacation homes someplace else, not in the town of Riverhead, and at that point I as the managing member of Traditional Links have a clear fiduciary responsibility to maximize the economic return on that investment. By law, I have that responsibility. And that will be my mandate to accomplish that and I can assure you that I will not be able to fulfill that responsibility by selling all or part of this land to the county for preservation. And when I say this land, I don't mean just the 80 acres that we purchased. I mean both our land and the Talmage property because Traditional Links controls all of it.

So all this rhetoric about how the Talmage family can do the right, civic thing by selling their property for its fair market value, quote unquote, is meaningless because having entered into a contractual arrangement with Traditional Links they no longer control that decision.

And furthermore in the context of preservation by county acquisition and fair market value, again, quote unquote, means its undeveloped value. So in effect what they're asking or suggesting is that I, not the Talmage family, on behalf of Traditional Links, should agree to sell this land, all of it, for what I the developer have already paid for it, not for what I can make by working the land and earning for me and the Talmage family and the investors, they want me to sell it in effect for less than or equal to what I already have in it.

Well, I'm in the development business. Put any number you want to it. If I can now develop this land into housing and make "x" and you want to pay me a third of "x" because that's what a developer would pay for before he goes through all this headache which I've been through now for three years, that's what we're going to do. And I have a fiduciary responsibility and can't turn around and then sell it to the county for a third or a half or a quarter or whatever the number ends up being of what I can develop this land into for our collective accounts.

So, I can assure you that if I did do that, I, like I understand the town, would be sued for breach of my fiduciary responsibilities. So I don't have any flexibility here. Because my hands are tied. My mandate was and is and remains crystal clear, to build a world class (inaudible) Krenshaw golf course. Not just another course in the

farmfield. And if I'm successful to build the most economic residential subdivision that the land and the market can support, it's that simple. And I'm not going to sit here today and tell you that because I have the right to build 738 units or 666 units, that I'm going to build that many because as we all know supply and demand will dictate that. If the market is that we can sell \$300,000 houses on one acre lots, then maybe it will be 300 units. If it's half that, it might be twice the number. I mean we'll figure that out when the time comes. Right now we are trying to accomplish something different.

So it's your choice. It's the only decision you can make. World class golf or houses. And only you can make that decision. I think it's an easy decision when you (inaudible) the balance and its (inaudible) economic and environmental issues in accordance with SEQRA, Riverhead's need to enhance economic base is obvious and I think it's clear from tonight that a lot of Riverhead residents think that a world class golf course would be a great contribution in that regard.

Just consider what the fate of Monterey, California would be today if Pebble Beach and Cypress Point two of the top five ranked golf courses in the country weren't built because back when they were built earlier this century people came together like you're seeing tonight and fought it and said no, precious California coastline, this property shouldn't be developed at all, let alone into a golf course. And as a result, fortunately, we now have in Monterey, California, two of this country's most precious possession which have contributed greatly to the success of Monterey, one of our great tourist destinations in the United States and if we're trying to accomplish something like that in the town of Riverhead, we need to start somewhere.

So what we need in the town of Riverhead is another Pebble Beach. We don't need another residential subdivision. We don't need another mediocre golf course. The thought about how a golf course 20, 30, 40 years from now all of a sudden end up being redeveloped into housing, mediocre or bad golf courses get redeveloped. Shinnecocks and Nationals and Maidstones and Pebble Beaches and Cypress Points and Pine Valleys and you can go on and on and on and on, don't get converted to housing developments because they are national treasures.

So project opponents, you know, claim that we're going to destroy this land. Well beauty is in the eyes of the beholder. And we think this canvas is just waiting to get painted.

So let me conclude my remarks by saying this. That everybody knows how much time and money and energy we have spent trying to get this zone change so we can build golf and do something for the town and something for this property other than building the as of right residential subdivision. So when and if we go residential it's not a bluff, it's the as of right use. People talk about 10, 20, 30 alternatives. Well, when you turn the zone change down, I don't see what you do to maximize the economic return from this property except build a housing subdivision. That's it. That's what the zoning allows. There is no other viable economic alternative to its development. And selling for preservation is fractions of what we make doing that. And that's what you need to understand. So when we go residential, nobody is going to be able to say that we didn't give it our best to try to do something else for the town of Riverhead. Thank you."

Supervisor Villella: "I don't know where the line is but-- they started a line."

Councilman Kent: "Oh, Henry, make sure you state your name. Henry, state your name and address."

Henry Silverman: "Henry Silverman, 4654 Sound Avenue. I'm one of the very fortunate people. I live across from Riverhead's newest golf course and there's actually three houses involved and one of them is Adam Gatz (phonetic) who did a beautiful job on golf course. I did come to the meeting being concerned at the time. No controversy. The golf course was built. It's gorgeous, it's successful. As a neighbor to it, I'm jealous. When I look out the window every morning and I see people enjoying the golf. I don't see problems. There's no litter. An occasional someone would yell out fore, but otherwise it's a plus. It's increased my property value. I have a 22 room house across from a golf course. Down the line, I'm going to be here getting a permit for a country inn, it's a no-brainer. All right. So I consider it as a positive thing for the area. It's a positive thing for Riverhead."

Now, just something else that happened to me personally, I'm one of these people that had 15 acres next to Tanger Mall and it's a nice piece of property to hold. After 11 years trying to permit it, I've spent more on lawyers than I ever want to figure, my arm was twisted behind my back and I sold to the county and donated to Nature Conservancy. I came out a good guy. Thank you, taxpayers. You paid very nicely to me and I came out very nice. But it wasn't right. I

was violated, the land was taken from me. You did compensate me. Thank you, taxpayers. It's off the taxrolls. I paid \$11,000 a year in taxes on that land. You no longer get that in the town of Riverhead. All right. Because I couldn't get a permit to develop it.

So just to conclude, I would rather see Riverhead looking like Hilton Head. If you've ever been there, I frequent it. Okay. It's gorgeous. Environmentally they've worked the courses into the landscape. You should go there and look at it next vacation. I'd rather see Riverhead look like that than Medford. Thank you."

Supervisor Villella: "Maureen, would you like to make a statement?"

Maureen Liccione: "This is just a housekeeping matter. I know that there was some exhibit presented to the Town Board this evening. I think Assemblyman Englebright had enlarged photographs and some slides. We need copies of those items for the record so that we can have a complete and accurate record and it's our job to assure that. So that I understand that-- if there are any other documents or items that people refer to in their presentations, we must have accurate copies of them otherwise we cannot consider the statements that reference those documents. Okay. If you bring documents to court as evidence, for example, you don't get to take them back. Okay. So what we need to have happen is by-- if it's-- okay, but the slides."

Supervisor Villella: "The slides-- most of the slides are in here from his presentation."

Maureen Liccione: "Are all of the slides in the-- they're all in there? Okay."

Richard Amper: "Except for Assemblyman Englebright's all of them have been supplied to you and some (inaudible)."

Maureen Liccione: "Okay, any-- "

Councilman Kent: "Some of his are in here also, by the way."

(Unidentified): "-- they are the same, but there are a few that are different and I will provide you with copies of that."

Maureen Liccione: "Okay. Because we can't consider them unless we have them. In addition, the large photographs-- okay, and if we

could have them a week from today. No later than 5:00 p.m. on September 29th, they'll be delivered to the Town Clerk?"

Unidentified: "You shall have them."

Maureen Liccione: "Okay, thank you."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you, Maureen."

Charles Cetas: "My name is Charles Cetas. As you know, I'm Vice-President of the North Fork Environmental Council. I'm also a life-long resident of the town of Riverhead. I live on Howell Court, not too far from Town Hall and I have a statement I'm going to read on behalf of the North Fork Environmental Council.

Also I just want to make one remark about Dru Associates. We've had other experiences with them on the Tanger II project and well, it just goes to their credibility, I think, as environmental consultants because they underestimated the tiger salamander population there, the number of acres needed to be preserved to protect that population so, I mean, I think they're doing of the same kind of stuff-- "

Supervisor Villella: "We're not here to hammer one another. We're here to collect scientific information."

Charles Cetas: "All right, but like I said, my experience with this group on another project. Okay."

Supervisor Villella: "That's your problem."

Charles Cetas: "Okay. Dear Supervisor Villella and Town Board Members: The North Fork Environmental Council stands opposed to the Traditional Links change of zone and proposed development plan. We strongly support the preservation of the grandifolia sandhills and the prime farmland of Friar's Head farm-- Friar's Head farm. With New York State and Suffolk County now having listed the grandifolia sandhills and Friar's Head farm as top priorities for public acquisition, preservation is a reasonable and the most environmentally protective alternative compared to all three of Traditional Links' golf and residential development proposals.

As expected, the Traditional Links final environmental impact statement-- as did the draft environmental impact statement-- claims that the grandifolia sandhills has no ecological and geological and

archeological significance. However, scientific evidence disputed only by Traditional Links' environmental consultants, shows that the grandifolia sandhills, including the DeFriest blowout, is truly a natural wonder worthy of preservation. We know the grandifolia sandhills contain an ancient parabolic dune system, globally and state rare ecological communities and a wide variety of plant and animal life including many rare, endangered, threatened, special concern, and declining species. We also believe the grandifolia sandhills was once the site of a prehistoric Native American settlement.

Indredulously, the final environmental impact statement still proposed that Traditional Links be allowed to use 101 acres of farmland already preserved by Suffolk County and claims that Traditional Links' mega development plans will have no significant environmental impacts. The final environmental impact statement offers no mitigation measures nor an organic golf alternative with an organic pest management plan. To say the least, the Traditional Links final environmental impact statement is nothing more than a very long and tedious advertisement for a project that the town cannot approve.

Therefore, the North Fork Environmental Council strongly urges the Town Board to deny the Traditional Links zone change petition to provide for recreational zoning district in conjunction with the prevalent residential A and agricultural A zoning districts on the Friar's Head farm property.

Also, I just got a couple of comments from the record. The original project description that was in the addendum to the application for change of zone. It is the intention of Traditional Links, LLC to develop parcels A, B and C as referred to above into one or more golf courses and club house, together with a hotel and amenities to create a golf resort. Depending upon the property remaining, a limited number of residential lots may be considered. Thoughts have also been given to the utilization of the shore front for bathing and boating purposes.

So there are three aspects to this project that's a zone change and for golf, residential development which would require a subdivision, and also construction within the coastal erosion hazard area which they claim they're not going to do, but, in fact, they're contemplating doing that.

Now in the record from the staff report on page 4 that's your Planning Department staff report. It states, if a residential

subdivision emerges, the Planning Board joins the involved agency list. The applicant did not list the Planning Board as an involved agency and it should have. It didn't. And for two reasons because as you know the Planning Board approve subdivision applications or reviews them and approves or denies, whatever, and also they have jurisdiction over the coastal erosion hazard area in the town of Riverhead. So there's two reasons why the Planning Board should have been an involved agency in this project.

Another comment from the staff report on page 5, of course, they listed the town Planning Department-- the town Planning Department listed nine potentially large impacts this project would have and I'm just going to talk about land and they have potential large impacts for potential construction over 15% or more are on areas generally of 10% slope or more and for a two year construction period.

Also, the final comment here under land is for potential construction on or near flood waters, that would be the Long Island Sound flooding up to the bluffs. The Sound bluffs and associated dune lands and for the very large scale disturbance necessary.

Page 6 in the Planning Department's staff report-- I'm only going to read one small part of this page. And they're evaluating the significance and the reason, you know, for doing a pos dec on this project and require an impact statement. And the reason for doing that is because to use, at least in part, of the northerly steep forested part of the project site will result in the loss of about 50 acres of forested area with mostly unknown flora and fauna. In a town largely cleared for farming, the wooded remnants have some local importance. This habitat could include mature maritime beech forest or other rare or valuable types. The County soils map shows a duneland association which is rather unusual on the bluffed north shore. This is in your own staff report. I don't know if you read it or not, but I did."

Supervisor Villella: "Charlie, how much-- you're over the five minutes."

Charles Cetas: "I'm just about done. I'll be done in a couple minutes."

Now I'm going to Dru Associates in their draft scoping comments. I'm going through, you know-- the town-- through the record here. And I just have one little comment here. In their description of the

geology which they said in their draft scoping comments-- draft scoping document. The geology of the project site is characterized by soils typical of Riverhead, deep sands and loams with excellent drainage, and the coastal bluffs, with sandy hills and dunes lying inland of the bluff crest. I mean everybody at the beginning of this whole thing said there were dunes there. Now all of a sudden because they know they really can't build on dunes, they're saying, oh, gee whiz, there's no dunes there. That's bullshit.

Now, I've got a quote from Nathaniel Talmage. The Jonathan Horton farm was part of an original grant that ran from Long Island Sound to the Peconic River. And this is Nathan A. Talmage and the Talmages of Baiting Hollow, 1966."

Supervisor Villella: "Charlie, what does that have to do with-- does that have anything to do with this meeting?"

Charles Cetas: "Well, it has to do with the subject of whether there are dunes on this property or not."

Supervisor Villella: "Okay."

Unidentified: "Five minutes."

Charles Cetas: "Just about."

Supervisor Villella: "Just finish up."

Charles Cetas: "I'm finishing up. The Jonathan Horton Farm was part of the original-- this is Nat Talmage speaking-- Jonathan Horton Farm was part of an original grant that ran from Long Island Sound to the Peconic River. That portion of it north of the road which Nathaniel M. bought, consisted of about 100 acres, about half of it having been cleared and the other half being woodlands, sand dunes and banks along the Sound.

One of the sand dunes was the highest hill anywhere along the north shore of Long Island, with a sandy dome rising well above the foliage on the north side of the banks. From the sea, it had the appearance of a bald or shaven head and was a landmark designated on the navigation charts of the early days as Friar's Head. Shifting wind patterns in more recent times have blown off the sandy dome as these still active dunes continue to move, but it still lends its name to the farm."

Supervisor Villella: "Could someone close that door, please?"

Charles Cetas: "The first house on the farm was on the hill just back of the pond. Dru Associates said there's been no wetlands on the site, Nat Talmage says there was a pond on the property at one time at least. And a 12 foot deep well was in the hollow just east of the pond. Okay. So there was a pond there at one time or another.

And also, I'm putting into the record a copy of a decision-- court decision that-- "

Supervisor Villella: "Charlie, that's it, please."

Councilman Kent: "Can you submit written comment?"

Charles Cetas: "This is-- this has to go with my organic golf comment, okay. It's a recent decision against Suffolk County-- "

Supervisor Villella: "Just finish it right now. Come on."

Charles Cetas: "Well, if you'll let me, Vinny, I will, okay."

Supervisor Villella: "Organic."

Charles Cetas: "I've got one minute."

Supervisor Villella: "No, you don't have. Just finish the organic."

Charles Cetas: "I can do it in 10 seconds, if you'd let me finish."

Supervisor Villella: "Do it."

Charles Cetas: "I have a copy of a recent lawsuit decision against Suffolk County for not having included a pesticide free golf alternative in their impact statement for expanding their golf course in Suffolk County. This is a recent decision in favor of the Long Island (inaudible)."

Supervisor Villella: "Well, I'm in favor of the organic myself, so-- "

Mary McGlone: "I appreciate your patience. I do have one

question. Will everything that I say be available to the people who are here?"

Supervisor Villella: "Yes. It's going to be on-- we have it on tape."

Mary McGlone: "My name is Mary McGlone. Oh, I'm sorry. I'm a resident of the north fork."

Barbara Grattan: "Mary, I didn't get your last name."

Mary McGlone: "McGlone."

Barbara Grattan: "Can you spell the last name?"

Mary McGlone: "McGlone. M-C-G-L-O-N-E. I'm a resident of the north fork but I'm speaking here today on behalf of Group for the South Fork. I have a letter I'd like to read from the President, Bob DeLuca who is a resident of Riverhead."

Dear Supervisor Villella and Members of the Town Board:

As you know, Group for the South Fork is a non-profit organization that represents the conservation and environmental planning interests of approximately 3,000 households, businesses and individuals from eastern Long Island. Though the group's primary focus areas are the townships of East Hampton, Southampton and Shelter Island, we are dedicated to natural resource protection throughout eastern Long Island, including the townships of Brookhaven, Southold and Riverhead.

The Traditional Links change of zone application concerns us greatly because of the adverse environmental impacts that would result if it was developed. Our concerns are based on two aspects of the project: (i) the project site is substantially covered by unique and valuable natural resources; and (ii) the size and scale of the proposed development far exceeds the carrying capacity for the property. It is for these reasons that the Group for the South Fork strongly opposes the Traditional Links change of zone application as presently proposed.

I offer the following comments in support of our position.

A significant portion of the 450 acre project site is recognized

as a unique ecological area, the grandifolia sandhills. In fact, roughly 35% of the property-- about 170 acres-- is characterized by the blend of geologic and botanical features which define the sandhills. Importantly, the grandifolia sandhills include two globally rare ecological communities and two state rare ecological communities, as documented by New York Natural Heritage Program.

I realize a lot of this (inaudible).

Additionally, the property contains a substantial amount of farmland along Sound Avenue, including 101 acres of county preserved farmland. These highly visible agricultural lands contribute in a positive manner to Riverhead's distinctive agricultural landscape and character.

Group for the South Fork opposes any zone change that would negatively impact the grandifolia sandhills or Riverhead's agricultural character. In fact, based on our experience assessing impacts of land development throughout the region, we believe that this site is already inappropriately zoned to allow for proper planning and impact mitigation. Important natural areas and valuable agricultural lands warrant low density zoning (at a minimum not more than one residential lot per three acres) in which significant portions of the particular resource are protected through clustering (65% to 80%). For the present proposal, at the very least, the 170 acres of grandifolia sandhills and 101 acres of preserved farmland must be excluded from any development envelope on site.

The present Traditional Links proposal decidedly does not exclude these sensitive areas from the development envelope. As described in the final environmental impact statement, the proposed action would develop a 500 room hotel, (inaudible), 2 18 hole golf courses, a clubhouse, a golf maintenance facility, and 25 residential units over most of the property's 450 acres. Thus, as proposed, the Traditional Links application is insensitive to the natural resources on site. The project sponsors are clearly attempting to do too much on the property.

The Town Board should feel no obligation to approve this change of zone application. To the contrary, because of the very nature of change of zone proposals, the Town Board should be leaning towards denying the application. After all, zone changes are requested because landowners want to do something that is not permitted in the present zoning district. The test for receiving such permission

should be most stringent. The project sponsors have not sufficiently demonstrated that this proposal would be less damaging to the environment than development consistent with the current zoning. It is up to the project sponsors to prove to the Town Board that the change of zone would be consistent with Riverhead's natural resource and community character goals.

In this instance, the Traditional Links proposal is clearly not consistent with Riverhead's natural resource and community character goals. As presently proposed, the project would destroy significant portions of the grandifolia sandhills and devastate highly visible agricultural lands. For these reasons, the change of zone application must be denied.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments."

Sincerely, Robert S. DeLuca, President.

I have a copy for each of you. There is also somebody here from the Moriches Bay Audubon Society and I'd like to submit her letter to the Board. Okay."

Supervisor Villella: "Okay, thank you."

Ralph Schiano: "Good evening. My name is Ralph Schiano. I'm President of the South Fork Groundwater Task Force. So what am I doing here? I'm not paid to be here and judging by the time, I'm going to pay for it when I get home.

So what can we possibly have in common with you on the north fork-- on the south fork. After all, you guys have a Supervisor named Vinny. In Southampton we have a Supervisor named Vince. In this area, you have this golf course with input from an outfit by Krenshaw, nationally known outfit. Well, out in Amagansett, we have a groundwater threatening golf course. In the middle of a special general protection area and aquifer protection district, the owner has moved to thwart SEQR at every opportunity. He's in litigation with both the DEC and surrounding homeowners. And there's some guy involved in managing that by the name of Krenshaw.

Moving a little further west in Bridgehampton, well let's look at this. You have an IPM report from A. Martin Petrovic (phonetic), a PhD with the Cornell Cooperative Extension-- got a lot of credentials. Well, out in Bridgehampton, we have a project called Golf at the

Bridge and we have telephone book size environmental impact statements for that and the town moved to approve all-- the change of zone, which is similar to this, and then we had a supposed entertainment review by someone with many ties to the golf development industry and the pesticide industry and he approved the plan and his name was A. Martin Petrovic.

I notice, too, you have a coastal geologist here by the name of Aram Terchunian, who is very well known. Well, out in Bridgehampton, we had a big problem with a (inaudible) dam, that caused scouring all along the beach. Major damage on both sides because of this thing projecting out into the ocean. And then along came a storm and it blew apart and the consultant on that blamed the storm, vandals, I don't know, maybe a UFO came by. Well, that consultant was Aram Terchunian. So there are some threads in common.

Now, why am I here? Our mission on the south fork is to protect groundwater from contamination, depletion and misuse. And, believe me, we have enough projects down there to keep us busy. But this is significant and I wanted to bring you some lessons we learned on the south fork and I want to show you some examples in the form of several golf courses.

But first let me say that you are all aware of the DEC authorized pesticide report and something like 50% of the wells in farming areas out here have measurable levels of pesticides. Pesticides can be pretty bad things. They include insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, and also artificial fertilizers cause all sorts of nitrate level problems.

Well, that study showed us we have a lot of problems and pesticides have been linked to to cancer, but they're also all sorts of other effects, (inaudible), neurotoxic effects, they're bad things. That's why the county is moving to ban pesticides on county facilities and Southampton and East Hampton are also looking into banning pesticides on their facilities. And there are other movements. Neil Lewis (phonetic) won a lawsuit. This is Long Island Neighborhood Network where county courses-- that the future county courses will go organic.

So I think there's something to be said about pesticides and the threat to drinking water. And I don't think that that has been addressed here. Now I wanted to give you an example. In my neck of the woods is a golf course called Noyack Golf Club. Now, surrounding

that golf course, there's some 40 odd wells contaminated by a degradation product of the herbicide (inaudible). The homeowners in that area are out of luck. County water is a couple miles down the road. Mike LoGrande says you want county water, give me twenty million bucks and we'll be happy to deliver the water to you. They're not going to come up with it and in the meantime I could show you one of my members, John Anderson, who shelled out \$3,500 for a huge filtration system in his basement and he has annual costs anywhere from \$500 to \$1,000, depending on how many cartridges and other things he goes through. So this has impacted these people around the golf course.

And where do the rights of the developer or the property owner end? If it affects the people around them, what about their rights? So that's one instance. Now, with the Golf at the Bridge application, there are a lot of things that are analogous to what's happening here. There the Town Board voted for a change of zone under local QPSUD, Quasi-Public Service Use District, and this is in the middle of the special groundwater protection area and aquifer protection district. It's going to threaten the drinking water of thousands. There are some 33 odd chemicals in their IPM plan and if you go down the list, you can see there are a number of chemicals in common. And you should look-- look at all the health effects associated by those chemicals.

But, now, going beyond that part of it and the change of zone by the way, instantly increase the value of the property but let's look at these huge documents by consultants. Who reviews it? How independent are you own consultants? I'm not casting any aspersions, I don't even know who they are on this project, but I suggest you do a background check and make sure that they're independent. But all these documents are thrown on your laps and then you have a limited amount of time to do these telephone book size things and Golf at the Bridge, the developer there spent something like two million dollars. How are the people going to compete with that amount of research? I don't see how they can.

So, the same threats were used there as well. That developer said, well, I can get "x" amount of houses and if you don't give me my golf course, I'm going to put in "x" amount of houses. So we've heard all these arguments before. Go beyond that. Look at what the potential health effects around this golf course are.

In the case of this Noyack Golf Club, all right, generally groundwater will flow north in this site and it also flows on that

site. But (inaudible) contamination is on three sides of the course so it's spread out as it went out. Now it's threatening the Morton National Wildlife Refuge which is just to the north in the case of this other one. And this golf course will impact the Sound with nitrate levels and I don't know what else that will be going into it.

So, look at the public health issues here. It's an important aspect of this. I know you've heard a lot about ecology but look at people's drinking water and how that will be affected. Thanks a lot."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you."

Christine Berman: "I'm a resident. I live right behind where-- it's Christine Berman. I oppose it. I feel that we have enough golf courses in this town. They just built that brand new one down by Briermier Farm. I, you know, look at the Home Depot project. That got started; that's not going anywhere. We could use a Home Depot, that would benefit us more than the golf course. There's a whole bunch of, you know, golf courses in this community. What's going to make this one special compared to all these other ones around us. They can have tournaments and stuff. Georgio's has a nice, you know, country club. That's all on top of the hill. You know, I just oppose it. I just feel it's going to, you know, ruin the wildlife. I mean you have a lot of deer running around on Sound Avenue, as it is. They have nowhere to go. They should preserve it or they should sell it.

I understand it's their property. I would feel, you know, threatened if the county wanted to buy my property, too. I respect their right for that. They do have beautiful property. I think that they should preserve it for the wildlife or, you know, just do something, you know, nice with it. Don't build this golf course. I think it's going to ruin the town. There's enough and they-- you should finish that Home Depot project. I mean look at all the taxpayer dollars wasted there. I mean I've had detours to go to work every day. You know, I work up at Tanger Mall and stuff and, you know, all that construction and stuff you guys spent on doing that and that's gotten nowhere. You know, I just feel that they should do something better with it. Preserve it for the wildlife."

Councilman Kent: "Thank you."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you."

Jennie Downing: "Good evening. My name's Jennie Downing and I

live in Southold town. I grew up spending my childhood out in this area and lived in California the last four years, I've been back here about a year and the reason I mention that is because the speaker who was involved-- who is involved in hoping to get the Traditional Links happening mentioned Monterey Bay area and he talked about Pebble Beach. And I understand that for many people, many privileged people who are able to have the money to have access to Pebble Beach, it is national treasure.

I would also like to point out that in that area one of the features that does bring tourism, I'm sure in addition to people going to Pebble Beach, are people who are enjoying the national park system all along the shore there. People who are attending the activities at the aquarium there and there are many, many more people who have access to situations like than than to a privileged golfing situation.

And one more thing that I have also witnessed in my time in California was I used to heavily use a park that was similar in some ways, it was along the beach, and there was a whole conversation about getting a golf started, watched that happen, olympic golf course is built outside San Francisco and there the owners, the people who proposed the project went very far in assuring people that they would be aware of environmental sensitivities and work to protect the area. And the final result at this stage right now is that the park below the golf course has been collapsed upon and is no longer accessible because the golf course above has lost a couple of its holes dipping down the side there.

So this isn't easy answers; it's not guaranteed to work. Environmentally sensitive areas and areas where they're shifting sands situations do not make for ideal golfing situations or residential buildout. Thank you for your time."

Supervisor Villeda: "Thank you. Les."

Lester Davis: "Lester Davis. I've lived here seven years and I've lived down where the housing was such a mess, our school district, Longwood, 60,000 and so forth, and I didn't really plan to speak. But something one of the speakers said before and I live right opposite Fox Hill. I can't imagine anybody in their right mind saying they'd rather see housing there and just a few hundred feet the other way is the Talmage family, where they propose the golf course. And what this person said earlier, oh, you could turn it into a park, he even said a (inaudible) park. Well, has anyone read in the papers in

the recent months what's been happening out west? They got so many-- hundreds and thousands of people going to the parks, they're going to have to cut down the cars--they're going to have to bus them in. Now isn't that-- carving initials on the trees and so forth. They'd do a lot more damage than a few golf balls or taking out a few trees for the greens.

And I have one more suggestion. Maybe to take the heat off or whatever. I made my own informal poll and 80% of the people, Riverhead town, would be in favor. And I think somebody had a poll for whatever it was, one of the commercial projects up on 58. It might have been where-- okay-- and I would suggest a poll be made with Riverhead people. And see what the outcome is. That's it."

Supervisor Vilella: "Thanks, Les. Rob."

Robert Pike: "Gentlemen, so you wanted to be in politics?"

Supervisor Vilella: "Well, we want to follow your footsteps."

Robert Pike: "As I got here tonight I was asked what would it take to get Rob Pike out of retirement and come down and speak to the Town Board and there's nothing like a good old fashioned Donnybrook between two people who I consider to be friends. And having sat where you sit, I thought I'd come down and share my perspective of this entire application.

And I have to start this by admitting that the entire debate reminds me of a comment that a young associate of mine over at Twomey, Latham & Shea, a friend and co-associate at Twomey, Latham & Shea once said. We are entitled to our overkill. And I find this to be true in positions of both the applicant and the opponents.

Now since this is a formal record, let me briefly bore you with my credentials. I'm a counselor at law, specializing in land use planning, zoning and environmental protection. In that capacity, I've represented a number of community groups against development. I was infamously on the Save Robins Island Committee throughout the-- along the protracted battle-- the successful battle-- to save Robins Island from development. And I've worked with many of these people in that capacity. I taught environmental law at Long Island University for five years. In spite of my best efforts, in 1985 I got elected and served on this Town Board where I was a major part in the efforts to establish this town's first Planning Department, I started the hamlet

study process, I spearheaded the efforts that we undertook to preserve the pine barrens and we successfully master planned and upzoned 10,000 acres of this town to four acre residential zoning or no residential zoning in the more industrial areas.

We cut the buildout population of this town during my time here from 90,000 down to 60,000. My record in farmland preservation, TDR's, farmer's bill of rights and cluster zoning was not nearly as productive (inaudible) three-quarters of the law, the legislation that I drafted and fought for is now the law of this land. We completed and enacted a comprehensive review of all of the critical environmental areas, with searching and documenting and designating our most important and that is the law of this land.

Now in the last decade, I have to admit that I have traveled far afield in the areas of corporate strategy and health care and during that time I did spend two productive terms as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Long Island Nature Conservancy.

I think I'm about to convince you all that nobody convinced me to come down here to speak tonight. It's possible that I will prove that I have no future career in politics because what I really feel about this proposal and the adversarial positions that have been taken is guaranteed to aggravate just about everybody in the room. But I offer these comments to you as a former colleague and an experienced concerned neighbor.

One of my friends is Bill Talmage and Bill and I came to know each other as adversaries fighting over the town farmland preservation program. The arguments he makes in favor of this proposal on this project are virtually the same ones he opposed at that time when we wanted to upzone and cut the residential development density of this town in half again by upzoning. They were good arguments then; they're good arguments now. He now adopts them.

Most residential development is a real and permanent drain on town resources. They don't pay taxes, the full cost-- in taxes, the full cost of providing services to. There are some exceptions to that. Second homeowner, buildings and very, very expensive residential houses carry their weight.

So other than their opposition to the upzoning, so far the Talmages' record in farmland preservation and in land stewardship and creative agriculture has been bold, exemplary and daring. Very first

property in the Suffolk County farmland program. The very wetland species that so many of us seek to preserve can be attained at the Talmage farm for restoration projects. They have become experts in horticulture and in the development and preservation and creation of new wetlands.

I've worked on Bill's boat and for those that know me, that says a lot about the boat. We have, despite our early history as adversaries, become friends.

On the other hand, this application contains one of the most egregious mistakes I've ever seen my friend make. The very idea of undoing a County farmland preservation easement and converting-- permanently preserved and productive farmland into a golf course, no matter how well lawyered, no matter how much other farmland might be preserved in exchange is a planning disaster. It strikes a hard blow to the very heart of the community's ability to trust a very simple thing. When we buy and preserve land for all time, that it will stay preserved for all time.

People need to be able to rely on that. The farming community needs to be able to count on that land to be part of the critical mass of agricultural commerce required to permanently sustain agriculture, our ancient agricultural heritage for all time. And it's not that the Talmages wouldn't be able to do what they propose well. They probably would. It's that it opens a Pandora's box of precedent that would in the hands of less scrupulous developers and less conscientious town boards destroy the very foundation of the land conservation movement.

Permanent preservation means just that. Permanent preservation. (Inaudible) this findings statement that you're working on today and the subsequent decision on this proposal authored by this Town Board should here and now make it absolutely clear to both the applicant and the development community that land preserve by development rights acquisition or transfer will stay preserved and that nobody, absolutely nobody, not even one of the great farming families of Riverhead should ever again bring an application that attempts to undo a farmland preservation easement. Ever. That was Bill's mistake.

Now on to my friend, Dick Amper. Welcome to Riverhead, Dick, where life is a question of practical alternatives. This is not a perfect town. This is not a rich town. This is not a perfect world. It is, for these men here, a place of (inaudible) alternatives. Now Dick and I don't go all that far back but in the '90's he followed up

on my Town Board 1980's work in the pine barrens and by focusing attention on the merits of preserving truly rare communities such as the dwarf pine barrens he achieved great success and even greater notoriety than I ever imagined any environmentalist ever achieved. We have (inaudible). I have even walked a picket line with him against the west end realtors who tried to oppose the community preservation fund. Frankly, I don't believe that the conservation community's reaction to this proposal wouldn't be half as energetic if the County farmland development issue had never been raised. I don't remember such a-- any-- when the prior Town Board destroyed scores of active core farmland to enable that golf course up there.

And so when my two friends came to loggerheads, I decided it was time for me to take a look at the full record and my own experiences with this site. And that's why I'm here. I used to live in the area. I rebuilt a building up on Sound Avenue from commercial to residential use. I would jog on these properties. Okay, I trespassed. I inspected the Henry Lee property when I was on the Town Board. I know them pretty well and I like most people who have seen the dwarf beech tree community on the northern slope of the elevated bluffs of the north shore have been in awe of that collection of trees. I've also climbed over the lip of the bluffs and walked under the canopies of trees that continued down to the cultivated farmland. It is remarkable that any trees survive there because the water table is a long, long way away. About a hundred feet down. So, trees that survive there must in reality be pretty hearty. The beech tree is one tough cookie. They range over the entire area of the continental United States east of the Rockies. The American beech tree is found in every USDA heartiness zone from northern Minnesota to central Texas from Vermont to South Carolina. They're even known to invade oak forests. They are so dominant in the upper canopy that very little grows underneath. And you notice that on this site. It's what makes that dwarf pine area so interesting.

Now at this site there are oaks and beeches. The topology and vegetation beyond the bluff line is pretty much what you'd find all along our northern shore. They are. You would find such features in many of our existing residential communities like Reeves Park, Roanoke, all the way down the line to Southold before we manicured them to our individual taste.

I have looked at the National Heritage Program's report and an objective review of what they said confirms two things, that we have at this site an interesting but not globally rare oak beech woodland

south of the bluff line and a fascinating and very unique maritime dwarf beech forest north of the bluff line on the sloping north face of the bluff. There is nothing in the record yet that convinces me that either of these communities is dependent on the other. This is a tough tree. If it weren't a tough tree it wouldn't be there. I'm talking to who I want and I'm not taking directions from you, sir."

Supervisor Villella: "Over here, Rob."

Unidentified: "Point of order."

Robert Pike: "But even if you disagree with that, wouldn't you agree that the really compelling asset of this site is the maritime dwarf beech forest?"

Supervisor Villella: "Rob, address us."

Robert Pike: "I'm reading. How did it evolve? Why is it? Unlike any other place on the northern shore from Wading River to the Southold town line, that the bluff isn't bare there? Why doesn't the (inaudible) drift from east to west, it scours the face of every similarly situated property not undercut and eroded here. Why is that? Now if you take a look at the overhead photographs, you'll notice the remnants of the two man made interventions, the (inaudible). The dwarf beech community exists because (inaudible) was put upon the land by sinking the (inaudible), stabilizing the beach, allowing transport over the top of them creating a new and completely unique profile. That stabilization enables these dwarf beech trees to stay there. This natural feature is man made and this leads us to a question of priorities.

Shouldn't we focus on here like every other great environmental movement on preserving the truly rare aspects of the site? If we don't, we run the risk of losing them. Let me paint you a picture in time that sometime, something's going to get built on this property. At sometime following that, what is left of the buried (inaudible) will dissolve and erode and the shore profile which is currently supported and refilled by the literal sand transport across the remaining structures will be gone and mother nature will resculpt this beach just like it does every beach along the Sound and start eating away at the base of the dwarf beech forest. And it will cut and it will cut and it will cut. And if we do nothing, the entire face of the bluff will open up. The undersupport of the dwarf trees will go away and so in time will they.

Shouldn't we instead focus our efforts on continuing to shore up the truly rare and save the habitat of the globally rare maritime dwarf beech forest by protecting the beach that man has sculpted? And doesn't failing to do that strike another blow straight at the heart of the conservation movement? We do the environmental cause no good if we do not focus on priorities.

Now, I very much want to talk to you gentlemen because I want to suggest to you what I would do if I were you in this time. First of all, nobody is entitled to their overkill. Secondly, there should be absolutely no development of the maritime dwarf beech forest, that is the area on the north face supported by the beach. You have to next, when you're looking at the rest of the site, decide for yourself the very real issue that is appropriately raised in the submissions you have from the Natural Heritage and from the Nature Conservancy. Their submissions to you are real and scientific and the dispositive issue about this project. Do you believe it is possible? Can you make in your heart a finding that it is possible to build a golf course within a community of beech and oak trees on this site? There are real issues that effects the edge of a golf course. They have not been adequately answered. You have to answer those in your findings.

If you do, I think you should move forward with this application. In the process, let the world know that preserved land will stay preserved and that we will countenance no lifting of development easements on protected farmland now, forever. (Inaudible) of this preserve the scenic qualities of historic Sound Avenue by guiding site plan review in that direction. Take advantage of the unique planning opportunity that this site presents, a world class environmentally sensitive golf course that is the superior of Pebble Beach. This opportunity will not be repeated in our lifetimes. Do not waste it.

I ask you to honor the master planning efforts that called for destination resort development north of Sound Avenue, (inaudible) other residential development. I ask you to preserve the origin, environmental asset of this site, the maritime dwarf beech forest. To do that you need to make findings consistent with all of these things and then under those conditions approve the Talmage application."

Supervisor Villella: "Thanks, Rob. Jim."

Jim Flood: "Jim Flood, Aquebogue. Earlier this evening I went to the Middle School Open House that Chris, I guess you (inaudible) on that one. Middle School Open House tonight."

Councilman Kent: "I don't have anybody in the Middle School."

Jim Flood: "You don't? Boy are you-- "

Councilman Kent: "I keep track of my own kids, Jim. You don't have to do that for me."

Jim Flood: "And it reminds me of what the town really is. And the town of Riverhead really is the people of Riverhead, the hard working people of Riverhead who-- we have our school district that everybody just bit the bullet in the last school budget vote to do an expansion project in our schools and it wasn't easy because none of us make tons of money. This is not a high income area and yet people, young and old, joined together in order to support the school district in their expansion plans because we just needed the room.

We cannot afford to put a housing development of this magnitude in our-- we must not allow that to impact our school district. The Talmages have gone-- they've been here forever. We know that. I bet you the Talmages have done business in this town by a shake of the hand for 500 years. When the Talmages tell us, and I believe, when the Talmages tell us that they're not going to endanger the trees on the slope or at the top of the dune, I think you can take that and put it in the bank. I know that the Talmages are under a time constraint. We've beaten this horse to death. I think it's time and this is a very important vote for the Town Board, politics cannot get involved in this and I'm not political tonight. I'm asking you, please as a taxpayer, I do not-- I beg you to consider this change of zone in order so we can have a project that I believe will impact us wonderfully as far as financial gain to the town and as little impact to the school district as possible.

And I believe-- and I know all five of you up there-- I know that you are going to take a serious look at this and think of the right thing. When you look at the people that have come here tonight, people from the south fork, people from the south fork, they should probably stay over on the south fork because they have not done a good enough job over there to take care of their land. We, as the Town of Riverhead, have bitten the bullet and have preserved much more farmland than they have ever, ever preserved and we're continuing to buy farmland. As a mixed Board, we continue to buy farmland. We've done the right thing. We've protected our watershed and we're going to continue to protect that watershed.

So stay away from our town. Please. Leave us alone. We're doing a good job. And we're going to continue to do a good job. This project is beneficial to the town, beneficial to the taxpayers, and it's going to have a low impact on the school district. And I ask you to approve it."

Supervisor Villella: "Okay. Thank you."

Esther Layman: "Hi, my name is Esther Layman and I appreciate the opportunity to speak at this meeting. I am a new resident in the town of Riverhead. I actually live very close to the water tower that was on the photographs that were shown earlier. And I can honestly tell you that I came here to listen to all sides, as my neighbor did, and to find out what was really going to happen. And it becomes quite clear that there is only really two choices that I see because I believe Mr. Bakst when he says that he only has those two choices. And to me the golf course is much more preferable as an option than a residential community because of all those things that have already been stated and listed over and over again. And to zone from-- to take a zone change and change it from residential to recreational seems very reasonable given the possibility of a residential zone there. And that's all I have to say."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you."

Louise Harrison: "I'd just like to supplement some of my-- "

Supervisor Villella: "Just make it short because you've been up before. We got you. No, seriously."

Louis Harrison: "Come on. I have a very short amount of-- "

Councilman Kent: "Get started, yes."

Louise Harrison: "I'd like the courtesy of being able to complete this because you did offer that to me earlier."

Supervisor Villella: "Yes."

Louise Harrison: "And I have waited all this time. I believe you offered it several times to me."

Supervisor Villella: "I did."

Barbara Grattan: "State your name, again, please."

Louise Harrison: "My name is Louise Harrison and I just wanted to follow up on the idea of residential housing and that Traditional Links corporation has stated a number of times that it's premature to submit a subdivision plan and that they really only want the change of zone and they have no intention of building residential housing and they want to build a golf course."

But we're left with the golf course alternative now that would include residential housing. That is because the preferred alternative has apparently been abandoned.

The thing I want to add to the record right now and I'd like you to listen to this. The golf course boundaries in that alternative by their very essence are going to create a subdivision of land. They become the outer boundaries, you know, of the housing area. And so the desires and the plans of the developers for the near future, the golf course, and the future housing on the property that they say must await the marketing study, they are all part of a master plan for a resort community.

Not only should the applicant present a subdivision plan and present it now, the Planning Board should be an involved agency. And no one should render a decision until the entire proposal is reviewed comprehensively. That's required under the State Environmental Quality Review Act and if the town does not observe this requirement it renders itself legally vulnerable. SEQRA prohibits this type of segmented review.

If the town does not deem fit to be an appropriate course of action to involve the Planning Board, require a comprehensive review, include a subdivision plan, you should prepare your very own version of an FEIS, which you are entitled to do, and simply deny the change of zone. Or simply deny the change of zone now. And I'm finished with these final words. I ask you please, do the right thing."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you."

Richard Amper: "Because we said this was going to be a night of facts, I don't want to leave anything that was not factual on the record. I'd like to review just some of the things we've heard. I think you got a lot of very good information from a lot of people."

Supervisor Villella: "It seems that way."

Richard Amper: "Make it very, very different looking than it was before we started. I appreciate your having taken a long night to look at the different points of view because I don't think they've been heard by people that needed to hear them here tonight."

Supervisor Villella: "This is very important."

Richard Amper: "One, with respect to Mr. Bakst's observations concerning my piece in Newsday, we're very factual about this. He may not have 250 acres but the way government views it, they do. All of the assemblages that can be made-- you heard from Mrs. McQuade before, we're looking at this thing as an ecosystem, I think he's looking at it as a project. I understand that. The fact of the matter is we're looking at it very accurately. I think there's 250 acres there that ought to be protected. The State and the County of Suffolk have said that they think that it should be, too. No one's imposing this on the Talmages. They're saying it's available and one of the observations that Mr. Bakst made that may be a misunderstanding and may offer a potential for a solution here is the suggestion that anybody's proposing to offer what he paid for it. That's really not how we factor the fair market value of land. It's not merely what you pay for it, but what it's worth with zoning and other considerations and so the fact of the matter is there are millions upon millions of dollars and people think this land is important enough to spend, give to the Talmages and it doesn't preclude a golf course but what you have in front of you and I want to agree-- and the only thing I agree with Mr. Pike about is that I think there are reasonable solutions to this problem. I don't think they've been approached and I think the Town Board has a real opportunity to do that."

I don't know how Riverhead got run since Mr. Pike left because he's not only the finest attorney going but he's a better geologist than Englebright and a better botanist than LaMont and apparently superior to the Natural Heritage Society which I mean-- Program. I really think he has the best expert testimony that you're ever going to hear on that from the people who came down from Albany and the Nature Conservancy and I think that anybody who's trying to second guess that is just-- I mean, it's very arrogant and I just don't think it was useful.

The other observation where I'm going to disagree with him is the notion that ultimately something's going to be built there. I'm glad

that everybody didn't feel that was about the Long Island pine barrens. We concluded that some land ought to be preserved and I get really annoyed working in Riverhead and choosing Riverhead as the place where I shop to hear the statement that Riverhead is Long Island's poor cousin someplace. Other places, other towns, are working with the County and with the State to put together a preservation plans. I don't think Riverhead is incapable of that. I want to agree with the person who said Southampton hasn't done the job as well as you can do it. You've never had a better reason to.

There's a ton of money. We're competing-- we spent a lot of time in Albany to get these dollars put together and the reason we did that is we thought it was important. We had to compete with the Adirondacks and the Catskills and Sterling Forest and we got them to-- grandifolia sand hills across the budget so both Houses of the Legislature and the Governor's budget. There's a ton of money. I think we ought to at least find out what we're talking about here before we say the land's not for sale. I just think it's been very, very excessive, very, very inaccurate. We don't know if it were for sale for fifty million dollars, would it be for sale? If it were for sale for twenty -- if it were twenty-five or seventy-five. The fact of the matter is these questions haven't been answered any better than the yield which is still the subject of dispute at this hour. You know and we know that he is not entitled-- that they have no entitlement to transfer of development rights. That would have to be up to you.

And I have a little bit of confidence yet in the Planning Board that they're not prepared to give a subdivision that would invade that great natural resource.

So if you ask the question why are we opposing the zone change it's because I think you can't cave into this sort of thing. I think you can't have everybody who wants to do something that he wants to do to make a lot of money come to you and say if you don't do it, I'll pave you over with houses. I think that would be really bad for Riverhead and I don't think he's going to do it and I think he's going to do less damage in the long run because I think he will be made to do the right thing if he doesn't stop this my way or the (inaudible).

The description that has been made over and over again here is that we have a choice-- to choose between Myrtle Beach or (inaudible) and I'm saying that I think that there's a real possibility that we could have a world class golf course and we could also preserve the

grandifolia sandhills and no one's given it a shot.

Now, Mr. Schiano's observation on the south fork is we apparently have a very serious environmental problem with golf development on the south fork and I'm glad he made the connection. Because I think we owe it to ourselves to get Mr. Krenshaw in here and find out what the hell he's doing to the environment. He says he's building these golf courses around. I want to know why we can't protect the groundwater on the north shore and on the south shore. Why we can't preserve great natural treasures and still build championship golf courses. I want the Krenshaw-- the international Krenshaw organization, to explain in public and internationally why it is engaged in the assault that it is apparently engaged in or else to see if they can work with the community and with the people they say they care about. A natural terrain they think-- they say that matters very much to them, why they can't work with them and find a way that solves both problems. I don't think we're extreme in any way, shape or form about this.

With respect to paid consultants, I want to do this one more time and make it very clear that we're not challenging credentials. They went out and paid for all the credentials money could buy. What I'm saying is, when you hire these paid consultants, they come back and 99 times out of 100 they tell you what you want to hear. They minimize the environmental importance of the parcel and they support the applicant's aim. These consultants, not just any consultants, these consultants have done scores and scores and scores of environmental impact statements. And you can count on the fingers of one hand the number of times they came back and said this is (inaudible) environmentally safe. You shouldn't let the guy who paid me build it. That's all.

I'm saying that you heard a remarkable presentation from Assemblyman Englebright. I don't know if you were as impressed with it as I was, but the fact of the matter is on this environmental consultant thing, we have heard evidence and saw material presented by these environmentalists indicating Lewis and Fuller and Good and Latham and John Black and Englebright and all those who work with him. Everyone of them acknowledging the parabolic dunes and I heard Dr. Sirkin come forward and say but wasn't mentioned is Sirkin and Terchunian. No, they're the only ones that don't think there are parabolic dunes. They're working for the applicant. You're the judge, you're the jury.

The fact of the matter is that I think the weight of 100 years

worth of research held up to paid consultants that routinely say what the developers that hired them want them to say is something that you are entirely capable of sorting out.

At this point the Farm Bureau, the Farm Bureau's out here standing up for private rights but they're watching the farmland come off out of farming and into other development. How is this town going to defend its farm heritage if the farm bureau is prepared to see it sold out for (inaudible).

As far as the school district impact is concerned, obviously we're not going to inspire our children by making decisions about natural treasures that have been here for thousands of years on the basis of next year's school budget. We all have to plug together and get the money it costs to educate our kids. And residential development is not the thing that does it and I don't think these folks should threaten anybody with any more residential development. The fact of the matter is they can get fair market value for their land and preserve it. The option least talked about tonight, fair market value for their land and preserve it and continue the tradition of the Talmage family or that they can threaten us with any number of things that either hurt the environment or the economy of the town.

The environmentalists aren't doing it. We're out raising the money to give it to them from tax dollars being paid from people across the state. We're not trying to deprive them of anything.

Finally, the Talmage family has always done business on a handshake. On the basis of Mr. Bakst's presentation it appears there was no handshake here. He's got himself a deal that he's using to hammer everybody in this room and across this town and across Long Island over the head. Their basic contention is that we're looking at Myrtle Beach or Mastic Beach. I think it's an ugly threat. I think it shouldn't be issued from somebody in Riverhead and I think it's an absolute tragedy for a family that has a history that this family's had, this kind of dishonesty.

I urge you to look carefully at this record, to weigh all that you've heard. It is not possible to imagine that the representations that began with an effort to get land out of the farmland preservation program and has moved on from there to a denial of any environmental value to something that you've heard very respected and respectable and good and independent and decent people say is extraordinarily valuable, they said it wasn't. They have continued to tell folks

right up until tonight that they were prepared to advance their preferred alternative of a 500 room hotel and two golf courses and all of it's been false right on down to the 666 houses that you will never let them build. I think we've all been ill served and I think the only thing that we can do about it is for you to do your duty and turn down the zone change. And that anybody who really cares about this place will sit down and get together and figure out how to be fair to everybody. Thank you very much."

George Schmelzer: "It was mentioned before about East Hampton having trouble with their water. Well, we had a good glacier lake there, they ruined it in the late '20's, it's called Montauk Harbor now. See. Why don't they close it up again? It only takes about 20 feet. (Inaudible) It might take them a few years to do it. And Mr. Cetas, he mentioned that before a land grant from the Sound to the (inaudible), that's bunk. Look it up in the (inaudible) book in the library."

Supervisor Villella: "Hey, hey, let him speak. George, George, George."

Unidentified: (Inaudible)

Supervisor Villella: "Let's go."

George Schmelzer: "There's two different colonial patents from the Sound to the river and one land grant couldn't include land in both. Could have a private sale but not a land grant. Yes. So, we used to have great fires from the west end of the county up to Shinnecock Canal, burn all the woods off. So the only trees that stayed were big pine trees (inaudible). All the oaks were killed down to the ground. So wherever you have swamps or water protecting them, you find the biggest oak trees, massive oak trees unless some environmentalist comes along and knocks them down, so but these environmentalists again they recommend controlled burning. I wonder if they include their house. So, if an effort is made to stop this burning, eventually oaks will take over from the pine. It might take a couple centuries though but you see where they never had a fire, the oaks are in control. So, okay, and he did say that there was a land grant from the Sound to the (inaudible)."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you for the georgraphy."

George Schmelzer: "Yeah. So long, I've got to go home."

Supervisor Villella: "Well, I'm glad you're going home."

George Schmelzer: "I'll be glad if you'd go home."

Supervisor Villella: "Just be careful, be careful, George."

George Schmelzer: "Be careful?"

Supervisor Villella: "Yes."

George Schmelzer: "Be careful of him?"

Supervisor Villella: "No, no. Going home."

George Schmelzer: "I think-- people who have no land rights, see, they want rights to talk, free speech, but they don't want any land rights."

Supervisor Villella: "George-- "

George Schmelzer: "Because they don't own it. If they owned it it would be different. They're so jealous if a farmer owns some land these bastards can't have it themselves-- "

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you for the words of wisdom. But this has nothing to do with the public hearing. We'll see you next week."

George Schmelzer: "Public hearing. Pike was on here for half an hour. Nothing related to what he spoke, hardly. Others, too."

Supervisor Villella: "Okay."

George Schmelzer: "Yeah, so long."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you, George. Good night."

Councilman Kent: "Short and sweet, come on."

Charles Cetas: "Charles Cetas, North Fork Environmental Council, a resident of Riverhead. Just a short comment. Just to correct the record, I was reading from a document that was written by Mr. Nat Talmage in 1966. It was not me. Okay."

Supervisor Villella: "Okay, thank you. Cut it out, let's go. Next speaker."

Charles Cetas: "No, now, I've got-- I had-- I want to submit something. Okay."

Supervisor Villella: "Submit it."

Charles Cetas: "It's a response to a comment that was made by Rob Pike and (inaudible) when the barges were placed there in the Sound from the bluffs there, it was done after World War II and it's coming from a document that apparently was written by (inaudible) for the Riverhead Bicentennial. So, to have dwarf beech-- a genetic variance of the beech growing or developing after World War II is kind of hard to believe. (Inaudible) is very difficult for me to believe what Rob Pike told you is scientifically accurate that the dwarf beech are there because of these barges. I think the dwarf beech were there before World War II, the barges were put there after World War II and also-- "

Councilman Kent: "I think you're misrepresenting exactly what he said. He said that the beach has not eroded because of the barges' presence. If you look down-- if you look west of that-- I happen to live west of that along the bluff and my beach has eroded terribly and my trees have gone down to the beach. And I haven't done anything at the top. So, that's what I think he was referring to, the fact that the-- "

Charles Cetas: "Okay, well-- "

Supervisor Villella: "I live there-- "

Councilman Kent: "That the bluff has not been undermined at that location because the beach is protected by the man made structures that are placed in the water, is what I took him to say. And our decision up here is the important one. Not what you believe it to be. So why don't you submit your document and let us move on with this hearing."

Charles Cetas: "Right, well, I-- "

Supervisor Villella: "Charles-- "

Councilman Kent: "And not read-- misstate what other people

say."

Supervisor Villella: "We have the Talmage family that would like to speak."

Charles Cetas: "Okay."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you."

Councilman Kent: "Okay."

Charles Cetas: "This (inaudible) is the most noteworthy of all."

Supervisor Villella: "Submit it, submit it. Bill."

Bill Talmage: "Just to give a little more insight. Those ships were World War I liberty ships. They were (inaudible), single screw steam driven ships. I have pictures of them. My dad used to-- "

Councilman Kent: "Can I get two for my property, please?"

Bill Talmage: "Yeah, we'll just drive them right in there. They were put there in the '30's for a sand and gravel operation. They did stop-- the aerial photographs taken over time showed how they-- the beach built up very quickly and it did protect the trees. The trees were there. I think there were dwarf beech trees growing down the bluffs much further to the west and in this big storm where your stairs came down when we had seven inches of rain about three weeks ago-- four weeks ago, a huge hunk of the maritime-- globally rare maritime dwarf beech trees slid down the bluff. Where we may have had 11 acres, I think now we've got about 10 and the fascinating part of this whole thing is that these trees are actually being destroyed by waves as we speak.

And all these people that are concerned about possible impacts on the possible ranking of the forest, if the trees next to the forest from the south are built on, when the actual waves are hitting the actual trees and they're actually sliding down the bluff as we speak. It gives me an, you know, it makes me wonder I guess what Rob was saying about priorities but they are sliding down the bluff constantly and I think in 10 years, maybe 20, they won't be there at all. Thanks."

Supervisor Villella: "Thanks, Bill."

Councilman Kent: "Maybe they'll want to come buy some of my bluff."

Tom Meoli: "Supervisor Villella, Mr. Kent, Mr. Cardinale, Mr. Lull, Mr. Kwasna. My name is Tom Meoli. I'm sure you didn't envy me when I was juggling the slides. I certainly don't envy you in what you have to do. I'd just like to say for the record, that I also submitted a four page-- "

Councilman Kent: "We got it."

Tom Meoli: "-- paper and I would just like to ask you, please, to read it. You've heard a lot of opinions tonight from a lot of very emotional people. I'm definitely one of them. I don't ever do this, so bear with me. I'll be very brief.

My paper I wrote to you is from my heart. It's very sensible, I think. I tried to see all sides to the issues that you have to vote upon. Mainly the point I want to make is that I don't see any-- I don't see any us against them kind of thing here. I don't see developers against landowners. I don't see any losers, really. You have tough decisions to make but I think you can satisfy pretty much everybody that you heard from tonight, my paper goes into that. I would hope some of the residents here who are interested would, you know, ask to see it but I know (inaudible). So thank you very much."

Councilman Kent: "Thank you."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you."

Councilman Kent: "John, did you want to speak?"

John Talmage: "Yes. I'm John Talmage. I'm the I guess the oldest Talmage in the area anymore. We have not been here 150 years. It was 1882, that number has been bandied around and some. The family came from East Hampton however and arrived in East Hampton in 1642. So we've been around Long Island. We've cared. We don't cut and run from our problems. We have a very aggressive business going. The next generation have-- are running our business. We care about the area. There are nine families here.

It's very hurtful to be called-- for the family to be called

liars and some of Mr. Amper's terms. But that's his style and I don't really know who's paying him for his kinds of remarks.

I did want to say that we are anxious to get this resolved. Things, misinformation such as the World War I (inaudible) freighters that Bill talked to, I climbed on them as a teenage before World War II started.

The other thing that has disturbed me very much is the amount of trespassing that goes on. We heard comments, Mr. Englebright made comments. He steered very carefully around saying whether he was there but he presented pictures and I don't know, were you on our property, Mr. Englebright?"

Steve Englebright: "I might have been. Some of those photographs (inaudible)."

Supervisor Villella: "I'll let that one-- "

John Talmage: "Okay. It may be this shouldn't be a court of law but just think of the Talmage feelings a little bit, Mr. Supervisor, about some of the things that have been said about us and some of the things that have been done by people under Mr. Amper's leadership, trespassing and planting things on our property."

Supervisor Villella: "No one can knock the Talmage family, believe me."

John Talmage: "So please think about our history and our feelings and our, I think, sensitivity to the needs of this town when you make this decision. I could probably have, and the rest of the family could also tell you that if we listed the number of times people asked us in the last 50 years could we just buy one acre up there on the bluffs, it would be hundreds and hundreds and hundreds and we have said no. We have carefully preserved this land, we love this land and we've been working for over almost 15 years to figure a way in which this land and our involvement with this land could go on in a positive way in this town.

The town has already said that it wants development to happen north of Sound Avenue and agriculture south of Sound Avenue. And yet here we are with a plan that we've worked at long and hard, including my dad before he died. One of the things we thought about, we must move quickly because pretty soon as somebody else what's mine is mine

and what's yours is mine and what's mine is my own. That's how a lot of the people here today, this evening, have said about our farm. It's not ours. It belongs to all of us. It's a national treasure. We could-- I could probably write your stuff, I know all the phrases, globally rare-- each of us is globally rare. Every one of us is globally rare. There are insects, there are rats that are globally rare-- to Long Island, they're different than any other place in the world because they grew up here and they've adapted to this environment. There is absolutely nothing remarkable about that.

So that if there is something at Friar's Head farm that's different than any other place in the world, I would be absolutely surprised if that were not true. Because whatever it is, it grew up here over the last 25,000 years. Before that there was nothing here. And 25,000 is a pencil line in the history of this earth.

So just think about how our family looked at this. It's a family asset owned by over 20 Talmages that are all across the world. It's a non-performing asset. It is ours. We have carefully planned what we wanted to do with it and this is what we want to do with it. Thank you."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you, Bill-- John."

Bill Ceberek: "Bill Ceberek, Twomey Avenue, Baiting Hollow. Tonight's finally over and I'm convinced that we should approve the zoning change. The Talmages are great people, they've cared for the land. I know this is the best idea they can come up for its usage. Actually it would open it up to the public rather than just riding down Sound Avenue and looking at it from your car. Now, if you open it up for a golf course you could actually walk on it and actually enter this scenic area and enjoy it. And the-- it would actually be improved because a lot of the open farmland would have to be revegetated to, you know, to make fairways and I think it's just 100% improvement.

And I don't think it's a total destruction of its cliffs the way it's been perceived through tonight. Some will be altered, but at least it will be opened up and people will be able to enjoy it. And I think it will be there a long time.

And the housing idea is out because I think we have enough-- and that's not the only development for land for Riverhead. This is one and then it starts to spring up like (inaudible). So I'm in support

of the Talmage-- "

Councilman Kent: "Yes, Bill, I just have a question. I know you're an officer of the Calverton Civic Association."

Bill Ceberek: "Yes."

Councilman Kent: "Has the Calverton Civic Association taken any type of stance on this application?"

Bill Ceberek: "No."

Councilman Kent: "Okay, you are just speaking as an individual."

Bill Ceberek: "That's right."

Supervisor Villella: "Thank you, Bill. Anybody else. Does anyone else like to speak? If not, I think it's time to-- we almost did six hours."

Meeting adjourned: 11:55 p.m.

*Barbara Hatten*  
Town Clerk