

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN
PUBLIC HEARING**

Tuesday, August 15, 2017 - 7 pm.
Yeomans Hall
323 Route 87, Columbia CT.

Members Present: First Selectman Carmen Vance; Deputy Selectman Steven Everett; Selectman William O'Brien; Selectman Robert Bogue.

Also Present: Town Administrator Mark Walter; Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) Chairman Bryan Tarbell; EAC members Andrea Drabicki; Carole Williamson; Carol Coley. Rosemary Senyk; Jennifer Siskind of Food and Water Watch CT; / Lake Association President Mary Roickle; Gary Littlefield; Paula Cahalan; Pat Gallagher; Art Austin; Judy Ortiz; Tom Currier; Ann Dunnack; and numerous other citizens.

1. CALL TO ORDER: C. Vance called the public hearing to order at 7:01 pm.

2. NEW BUSINESS:

2.1 Public Hearing to adopt Ordinance #21-5 entitled "Fracking Waste Ban"

C. Vance explained that per the town's Charter, a Public Hearing must be held prior to the BOS voting on adopting an ordinance. She stated that the EAC did quite a lot of work and research on the issue of fracking and that a very well attended public session was held in July. C. Vance turned the floor over to B. Tarbell.

B. Tarbell explained that an overwhelming amount of support has been received in regards to implementing a fracking waste ban. He then referred any technical or legal questions to Jennifer Siskind of Food and Water Watch CT. who stated that if Columbia adopts this ordinance, it will be the 23rd town in Connecticut to pass this ban.

Residents expressed concern with fracking waste on state roads which travel through Columbia. J. Siskind stated that unfortunately, the town cannot do anything to stop this however, if the ordinance is adopted tonight, then the haulers will be legally accountable in the event a spill or leak occurs.

Mary Roickle of Erdoni Road asked what can be done to drive state legislators to make this a statewide ban. She encouraged citizens to write letters in support of this ban to the Public Health Committee and Environmental Committee Chairpersons. M. Walter stated that he has spoken with Senator Chris Murphy and Senator Cathy Osten about the importance of this ban.

Carole Williamson of Gaulin Road asked if there is a way to decontaminate radioactive waste. J. Siskind said no.

S. Everett stressed the importance of this ban, and stated that the fight against fracking waste must be brought to the state legislators. Something has to be done to protect the health and well being of the state. He urged citizens to contact state legislators!

Andrea Drabicki of Route 87 spoke about the region, which she refers to as the “middle zone”. She stated that when she contacted the Capital Region Council of Government (CRCOG) they knew little about the ban. She reminded citizens to reach out to the regional level, as well as the county and state levels. A. Drabicki stated that after speaking with Eastern Highlands Health District (EHHD) and the Columbia Fire Chief, neither one had anyone position on fracking waste or any type of emergency action plan specific to fracking waste.

J. Siskind stated that she is scheduled to give a fracking waste presentation to the South Central Region Council of Governments (SCCOG) Board next week, August 23rd. She has already forwarded the ordinance language to the executive director, who has distributed it the mayors and selectmen of this COG, made up of 15 municipalities in the New Haven region.

Discussion followed among the audience.

C. Vance asked if there were any further questions or comments. Hearing none, the Public Hearing was adjourned.

3. ADJOURNMENT: The Public Hearing adjourned at 7:47 pm.