

PUBLIC HEARING
November 15, 2017 4:40 p.m.

Chairman Kinowski called the public hearing to order.

Chairman Kinowski asked the Clerk to read the notice on the proposed local law titled "A Local Law Prohibiting Target Shooting on the Northern Section of the County's Reforested Lands on Louden Road in the Town of Wilton".

Chairman Kinowski told all in attendance the rules of the Public Hearing.

The speakers were called in the order they signed up.

Kyle Fillion – Carlyle Terrace, Saratoga Springs – "Good evening everyone, Board, Art I guess there is no sense in going backwards to understand how this was legal in the first place. So I think some common sense here has finally prevailed. This is a small piece of property surrounded by commercial businesses and a lot of residential homes. The last three years have been hell for everybody. It has been pretty traumatic. We can't even have people over to our house or in our yard not to mention the trial itself. If you try to use it for its intended purposes, it wasn't possible. It just wasn't. I don't know how much you guys really know what's been going on. The weaponry that been used in there. The trees that have been shot down, cut down, mowed down. Weapons that are as big as this desk people have had in those woods. Bullets flying around. We have had a bunch of trucks that have been hit. There could be more. Who knows. But common sense has prevailed and I'm glad that we are finally here. That I'm standing here. That we can have this conversation to finally get this passed where target shooting is not allowed because it has been abused to the max. Obviously the next step is for us to work with the State too. I think the State is going to follow our lead, the County's lead. So it's imperative that you guys make this a law that shooting cannot happen on this property any more. We just want our quality of life back. That's pretty much it. So thank you. Thank you Art for your time and your help."

Bill Morris – Kempton Place, Saratoga Springs – "I own 24 building lots exactly due east of this property we are talking about and the fact of the matter is at one time these activities could have gone on. But they just can't anymore because of all the development that's gone on. That area has just gotten smaller and smaller. I'm constantly getting phone call from neighbors that people are on our property shooting guns. The evidence is there. There are tons of shell casings all over the place. It seems odd that we encourage walking and recreation on this land and yet we allow target shooting. And I have a gun and am a hunting advocate. It's just that this area has gotten too small to allow that anymore. It's small by means of development encroaching upon it. I definitely support the ban. Thank you."

Larry Wies – Ingersol Road, Saratoga Springs – "Thank you Board. I live on Ingersol Road. I grew up as the son of a proud Marine who was in the Marine Corp for 30 years. I grew up on bases throughout the Country. Never have I heard so much gun noise as I have in the last three years behind my house. It's really a quality of life issue. It's really something that my wife would like to garden but feels like she might be shot if she's out there tending to her garden. It gets very close and I know Mr. Morris is trying very hard. We hesitate to call the police because we know they have other things to do. But now that we know that there are a lot people in this group that wish to have this stopped we wish the Board will see fit to take this direction. Thank you so much."

Nancy Mangona – Carlyle Terrace, Saratoga Springs – "Hi. My name is Nancy Mangona and I live at Carlyle Terrace. Several of my neighbors are here and we are here because we support the ban. It is a quality of life issue. The guns start before 7 o'clock and they go to dark. This is every day, seven days a week issue. And it is really time for it to stop. A lot of people don't want to walk outside. The dogs all hollow and the babies don't sleep. It isn't getting any better. I know many of my neighbors as well as myself have spoken with the forest ranger multiple times to get this issue to this point. I guess what drove it home for me today is I have gentlemen working on the outside of my home today and he said to me before I left. I said I'm going to this meeting to support this ban. And he said does this happen every day. And I

said yes, this is something that goes on every day. So we'd like to not live this anymore. So we definitely support the ban and hope that you can help up achieve this goal. Thank you."

Ted Van De Ven – Cedarcrest Street, Saratoga Springs – "Hello ladies and gentlemen. My name is Ted Van De Ven and I live at Cedarcrest Drive right off Ingersol very close to where this takes place. I just received a notice in my mailbox yesterday and I am a huge 2nd amendment rights guy. I would love to go target practice and shoot. But the thing is like most 2nd amendment rights people, I am a responsible gun owner and responsible shooter. I've been on that trail not as many times as I should be with my wife. But the thing is that is not the place to be doing target practice. There are no sufficient back stops and is not a safe place to be discharging a weapon unless you are shooting at a target that's going to stop. My neighbor and I were talking about it and he was reluctant to come because he's concerned, and rightfully so with government oversight, he thinks this is the first step in banning hunting on the property. I'm not a hunter but he is. I don't think that that's what this purpose is. I think this is really to stop those people. And like my neighbors have said I too have heard this and I have a pool in my back yard and floating around in the pool it sounds like a shooting range. And that is not something as a 2nd amendment rights person that I support. Go join a gun range. Go do it safe. Not within walking range. I couldn't even believe when I read the notice that I couldn't even believe that it was legal. Several times I've attempted to call the Sheriff. I'll be honest I just was too lazy to do that. Finding out that it's actually legal that's insane. And that's coming from a guy that has his conceal carry permit, has multiple firearms. Shooting should be done in a safe location in an area that is designed for that. Not in the middle of a residential neighborhood. Thank you for your time and consideration."

Sally Gangell – Carlyle Terrace, Saratoga Springs – "Good evening ladies and gentlemen. I live at Carlyle Terrace. Along with the rest of my neighbors my feelings are the same. And I've been a resident at Carlyle Terrace for 17 years and probably for the first 15 years it was very quiet. It was a nice quiet neighborhood. You could go out and walk and you could walk on that trail without any issues. And now for the last two years it's been somewhat as Kyle stated a living hell there. The dogs are afraid to go outside. They will run and hide and go back into the house. The area when you are outside it does sound like a shooting range. I've called the Sheriff's Department and a couple of times they have gone but a lot of times they will say I'm sorry, it's legal and even sometimes we go there and shoot. So it seems like our hands have been tied and I hope that this can come to a good resolution and that we are able to get our quality of life back along with have a safe living condition there. Thank you for your time."

Alan Kindl – Ingersol Road, Saratoga Springs – "I live on Ingersol Road, a registered firearm owner and a Veteran. It's just ridiculous. These people that are out there target shooting they've got no regard for anyone else but themselves. This goes on in the morning and all day long. All we hear is constant shooting and I don't know if they are too cheap to just go join a range or what. It's gotten to the point now where I'm not a big advocate of legislating common sense but I think that's what we have here. Thank you."

Chairman Kinowski asked if any written communications were received. Being none, the public hearing was closed at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela A. Wright, Clerk