

The Public Hearing opened at 7:01 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Doug Dubitsky (online), Vice-Chair Ken Fortier, Peter Fiasconaro, Helen Weingart, Randy Godaire, Dave Garceau, Alternate Peter Haines, Alternate Dan Pearce.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Eric Beer, Alternate Bill Ireland.

ALTERNATES SEATED: Seat Peter Haines for Eric Beer.

ALSO PRESENT: Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO) Jay Gigliotti, First Selectman Juan Roman, Selectman Joe Pinto and Recording Clerk Kathleen Scott.

K. Fortier read the Legal Notice that was published twice in the Chronicle. Application materials are available at the Town Hall, on the Town website or by appointment.

SUBJECT OF HEARING:

A. SP22-170-238 Willimantic Rd-Charles River Laboratories-Special Permit Application for Laboratory use per section 5.3.B.o:

The hearing was opened for public comment.

Public comment in opposition of the proposed laboratory in-person:

- Randall Weiss of 954 Phoenixville Road asked to identify the 40 jobs and expressed concerns about safety (Charles River as a multinational company has some of the worst environmental reputation) and that a business that requires an Evacuation Plan would not be ideal for the town.

Public comment in opposition of the proposed laboratory online: None

Public comment in favor of the proposed laboratory in person:

- Juan Roman of 161 Singleton Road commented that the building is an ideal location for the lab. The Mansfield lab has been in business for about 60 years with no issues.
- Joe Pinto of 55 Cedar Swamp Road checked with the Mansfield Fire Marshal who reported a clean record for that facility.

Applicant Deb Tosto (Executive Director of Avian Vaccine Services) addressed public comments: the lab will have 20-30 entry level lab positions. Charles River has been in business in Storrs for about 60 years with chicken eggs their only product (3 different grades fully monitored by the USDA and totally compliant with OSHA).

Public comment in favor of the proposed lab online:

- Kitty LeShay of 381 Tower Hill Road commented that there couldn't possibly be a reason to reject this application. Approval to have this business in town will generate more business.

Public comment in opposition of the proposed lab in person:

- Randall Weiss of 954 Phoenixville Road asked about pay scales for the entry level positions.

Applicant Deb Tosta addressed public comments: the entry level positions require a high school diploma or GED with a starting wage for entry level from \$19.50 - \$20.50 an hour.

- H. Weingart asked about the Evacuation Plan (Basic Evacuation Plan complies with OSHA for the HVAC system for clean air and the lab is not working with anything hazardous or any chemicals that would require containment).
- P. Haines (previously worked for a lab) commented about the Basic Evacuation Plan being similar to a Fire Drill (meeting place in the parking lot to take attendance).

Motion to close Public Hearing (7:17 PM) by H. Weingart, seconded by P. Haines. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,
Recording Clerk Kathleen Scott