

February 19, 2006

Letter to the Editors:

Certain members of the Gardiner Town Board like to refer to the way they assumed business was done by past town administrations as the “old boy network”. This practice of “I’ll scratch your back, you scratch mine” and other such backroom shenanagins are sneered at by some as being practices exclusive of Republicans.

Not so. The Democrats in Gardiner seem to have refined this practice so that it could now be referred to as the “new girl network”. It consists of any number of elected and unelected officials of the town who conduct town business without benefit of the usual legal trappings.

In particular, I’m referring to the public hearing for the AR 80 moratorium held at the first February town meeting. In a discussion between councilman Lemmon and Kathy Hudson of the planning board, they were able to agree on allowing Barney Hansen (Ohioville Acres) to be the first poster child for the hardship clause of the moratorium in AR 80. Mind, this is before the moratorium law was even passed, an application made, or either the planning or town boards deliberating on it. At this rate, why should Barney even have to bother to fill out the application?

I hope that the rest of the town board and planning board members feel a little cheated that they were not considered or consulted in this process. You’re allowing the girls to make all the decisions for you.

Oh, and as a response to the post meeting e mail “musings” of Nadine to reporter Anne Pyburn, I am very disappointed in the most recent moratorium in that it does not include the hamlet and commercial zones in the rest of the town. But, that’s for another letter.

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