

## HOOSICK FALLS

### Sen. Gillibrand Pushes PFAS Medical Monitoring Bill

by Doug La Rocque

Kirsten Gillibrand came to Hoosick Falls on Monday, April 5 to conduct a round table with officials and residents of the Village as well as the towns of Hoosick and Petersburg, to discuss her proposed legislation that would help those impacted by PFAS contamination, and in particular, PFOA. Known as the PFAS Accountability Act, Senator Gillibrand says it would provide accountability for what she labels as irresponsible PFAS manufacturing/use by creating a medical monitoring program for victims and would make improvements as to how PFAS research is used in court. Specifically, the Act would create a medical monitoring program for PFAS contamination victims to prevent against premature morbidity, disability or mortality.

The Senator told the round table "we have a principle in this country: polluter pays. Well, not only should they pay for the cleanup, but they should pay for the medical monitoring. And that is what my legislation says. It says they have to pay for all of this." She added the bill is modeled after the medical monitoring of 9/11 first responders. In Hoosick Falls, Honeywell and Saint Gobain have been identified as the primary sources of the PFOA contamination, while in Petersburg, it is Taconic, Inc.

The legislation would also create a national registry for contamination victims, which should help for those who might move away from the area or attend school outside of Hoosick Falls.

This was a real concern expressed by the newly elected Village Board of Trustees member Bob Decker, who worried these people might, at some point, have



Senator Kirsten Gillibrand speaks to the roundtable discussion in Hoosick Falls on Monday. Here she is flanked from left to right by Hoosick Falls Mayor Rob Allen, Senate staffer Sarah Roberts and Town of Hoosick Supervisor Mark Surdam. Photo by Steve Bradley.

to avail themselves of medical treatment by professionals who are not familiar with the ramifications of PFAS contamination. The Senator is pushing for the creation of a medical information base for doctors who might find themselves in this situation.

Ms. Gillibrand also told those gathered at the Hoosick Falls Armory she hopes to have a similar roundtable discussion in Washington and plans to invite area leaders to attend.

Following the discussion, *The Eastwick Press* spoke with Hoosick Falls Mayor Rob Allen who was elated to see action on the federal level. He called it "a big step toward providing lasting coverage" for those physically impacted by such contamination.

He noted that Senator Gillibrand proposed similar action five years ago, but both he and the Senator indicated they feel the Act has a much better chance of passage during the next two years.

#### What Is PFAS

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals that includes

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## BRUNSWICK

### New Solar Project Lights Its Way Toward Completion

by Doug La Rocque

The Brunswick Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) joined the town's Planning Board for a joint public hearing on Thursday, April 1, to consider the application by Tamarac Solar, to construct a commercial solar energy collection facility on 58 areas of land that is listed as 126 Brick Church Road (NYS Route 278). The parent company of Tamarac Solar is Eden Renewables, which labels its project as an environmentally friendly operation, including using grazing sheep to help with vegetation management, bee hives and solar panels that actually move with the sun during the day to help with efficiency and cut down on any glare in one direction for a considerable amount of time.

There were only two speakers at the hearing, one for whom the project would be visible from his home, and one concerned about a setback reduction request. The first speaker said "I am not opposed to the solar insulation, I just didn't want to see it." By Brunswick Code, Tamarac Solar must respond in writing to the two boards how it plans to address the concern. Its representative said in the meantime, he would be in contact with the resident to try to evaluate his problem. The only other speaker was worried about a proposed setback change, which he thought would bring

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## SCHODACK

### Veterans And Friends Breakfast Club

by Denise Wright

If you walk into the Schodack Diner on a Thursday morning around 8:30 am, you will be met with a beautiful, heartwarming sight. Veterans from all different service branches and wars come together to support each other and have some fun with people who have been through similar circumstances.

One of the coordinators, Lois Wilson, explained that this "Breakfast Club" started

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The veterans "Breakfast Club" gathers at the Schodack Diner on Thursday mornings, cementing a special camaraderie that only those who have experienced what they have experienced can share and understand. Photo by Denise Wright.



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