

VILLAGE OF WATKINS GLEN  
PLANNING BOARD  
303 N Franklin Street  
Boardroom  
February 25, 2026 - 6:00 pm

Present: Ian Ault, Brian Eslinger, Alice Dalrymple, Emma Herbert, Brandon Margreno, Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) Dennis Tremblay, and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Barb Peterson. Rukundo Benedict was absent.

Ian Ault called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**SITE PLAN REVIEW: *Cargill – Brine Wells 36-37 – Expansion Project***

Jonelle Vredenburg-Project Manager, and Jon Coldron-Environmental Review Consultant were present virtually; Ryan Martin-Engineer was present on behalf of Cargill. The scope of the project entails drilling 2 new replacement wells within a 35-acre parcel east of the dead-end section of Twelfth Street. Access is through an existing gravel road off of Twelfth Street. The parcel currently has two (2) existing well pads, a holding tank and associated buildings. Project will include clearing of trees and brush. After development of the new pads, cleared areas will be maintained.

The life of a well is estimated to be approximately 20-30 years. Cargill is responsible for plugging the wells. New pipelines will be below ground. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) handles the maintenance practices. New York State oversees the design and implementation. There will sound walls constructed around the pads so drilling is able to happen around the clock. Construction may take approximately four (4) weeks per well. The pipeline construction should be completed in August 2026. Discussion regarding emergency procedures ensued. The project has not been finalized with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) yet. Permits from the DEC are anticipated in a couple of weeks.

Alice Dalrymple moved to classify the environmental assessment as unlisted. Brian Eslinger seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Board reviewed the environmental assessment. Brian Eslinger moved for a negative declaration. Alice Dalrymple seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Alice Dalrymple moved to approve the Cargill Brine Wells 36-37 Expansion Project conditional upon copies of the DEC permits being provided to the Village Code Enforcement Official. Brian Eslinger seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Jonelle Vredenburg recapitulated points of discussion: establish/maintain emergency management protocols that are shared with local emergency agencies; tree plantings once construction is complete; and complete surround sound walls around drill pads.

Brian Eslinger moved to add the points of discussion as contingencies for project approval. Emma Herbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**MINUTES**

Brian Eslinger moved to approve the minutes of January 28, 2026 as presented. Emma Herbert seconded, and the motion passed with Alice Dalrymple abstaining.

**BOARD CONCERNS**

CEO Trembly to follow up with Dave Wilcox regarding the Waterside on Seneca extension request.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Brian Eslinger moved to adjourn the meeting. Emma Herbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

7:05 pm Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Barbara J Peterson  
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer