Hearing set for disputed marina

DHEC to discuss Palmetto Pointe Commercial Marina

THE JOURNAL STAFF

SENECA — Opponents of a planned Lake Keowee marina on Highway 130 will get a chance to voice their concerns to the state Jan. 26 at Tamassee-Salem High School.

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control will hold a 6 p.m. hearing on the proposed Palmetto Pointe Commercial Marina.

DHEC issued Palmetto Pointe developer, Ray Fretwell, a Construction in Navigable Waters Permit on Oct. 6 that would have allowed the project to proceed.

However, two weeks later, the agency, under pressure led by Friends of Lake Keowee Society, did an about face, informing Fretwell that it was rescinding the permit pending a public hearing.

Ben Turetzky, executive director of FOLKS, has said that his group would await a second decision by DHEC before pursuing legal channels to stop development of the marina, which is planned for a 13-acre parcel that was originally going to be a housing development.

Fretwell has called DHEC's flip-flop on the permit "a black eye on that agency." He said his proposed marina would "provide the public with a place to go and enjoy themselves."

Described as a public-use marina, Palmetto

SEE MARINA, PAGE A5

MARINA: Hearing set for Jan. 26

FROM PAGE A1

Pointe would include a restaurant, ship's store and four 14-slip docks, as well as a swim-beach area.

Turetzky urged wide participation at the hearing.

"Although this particular application is for a marina, marina store, restaurant, cabins, dry boat storage and boat slips ... adjacent to the Riverstone Development and across from Four Points North, there are numerous other areas on the Lake Keowee shoreline where the Duke Energy Shoreline Management Plan would allow similar commercial marinas," Turetzky warned.

"This hearing should be of interest to all residents living on the shoreline as well as any residents who are concerned about proper standards for commercial development of all types around the lake," he added.

FOLKS has said that should DHEC decide to issue a permit to Palmetto Pointe, then it is ready to appeal to the DHEC Board, and if that fails, take the case before the Administrative Court judge.