



Kenneth Kovalchik <kovalchikk@togny.org>

Comment regarding Lead Agency for DEIS Rapp Road Residential/Western Avenue Mixed Use Redevelopment Projects

1 message

Christine Kielb <kielbcl@icloud.com>
To: Kovalchikk@togny.org

Tue, May 26, 2020 at 10:43 AM

Attention: Kenneth Kovalchik, Town Planner, Kovalchikk

I live in the capital District and the Pine Bush Preserve is one of my cherished places to go for hiking and nature appreciation. It is a beautiful area that would have long succumbed to development pressures were it not for Save the Pinebush and the Pinebush Commission. Even so, the impacts of surrounding development are quite obvious. From the blueberry Hill area one can hear constant traffic from Washington Street extension and Route 90. It really isn't all that big of an area, and is fragmented. Further development that takes up adjacent land is just going to make the situation worse. These lands need buffers to keep the ecosystem intact.

The Town of Guilderland Planning Board should remove itself as Lead Agency for evaluating the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed development by The Pyramid Companies (Crossgates) on Rapp Road, the Mall Road and Western Avenue to build up to 360 Apartments with up to 3 five-story apartment buildings, up to 50,000 sq ft of office space and up to 278,900 sq ft of commercial expansive retail including a Costco with a 700 car parking lot and a 16 pump gas station because:

1. The Town allowed illegal alteration during the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) process when the The Pyramid Companies clear-cut a large wooded portion of the site of the proposed Costco on March 26, 2020 after the applicant provided advance notice of the clear cutting to the Town. I and others witnessed this horrifying illegal clearcutting that day.
2. The Guilderland Planning Board deemed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) "complete" when it was missing a wetland reports for the Costco site and the traffic study that is posted on the Town's website is dated Feb 17, 2020, 5 days after the DEIS was deemed complete.
3. The Guilderland Planning Board claimed Lead Agency before the full scope of the project was revealed.

At the very least, the Town of Guilderland Planning Board should postpone making any decisions regarding the DEIS until all pending lawsuits against the Town of Guilderland and The Pyramid Companies regarding the status of the Planning Board remaining Lead Agency are resolved.

Thank You,

Christine Kielb



Kenneth Kovalchik <kovalchikk@togny.org>

Fwd: Comment regarding Lead Agency for DEIS Rapp Road Residential/Western Avenue Mixed Use Redevelopment Projects - my address added below

1 message

Christine Kielb <kielbcl@icloud.com>
To: Kovalchikk@togny.org

Tue, May 26, 2020 at 10:57 AM

Christine Kielb
[5 Dutch Village Apt 5BR](#)
[Menands NY. 12204](#)

Begin forwarded message:

From: Christine Kielb <kielbcl@icloud.com>
Date: May 26, 2020 at 10:43:40 AM EDT
To: Kovalchikk@togny.org
Subject: **Comment regarding Lead Agency for DEIS Rapp Road Residential/Western Avenue Mixed Use Redevelopment Projects**

Attention: Kenneth Kovalchik, Town Planner, Kovalchikk

I live in the capital District and the Pine Bush Preserve is one of my cherished places to go for hiking and nature appreciation. It is a beautiful area that would have long succumbed to development pressures were it not for Save the Pinebush and the Pinebush Commission. Even so, the impacts of surrounding development are quite obvious. From the blueberry Hill area one can hear constant traffic from Washington Street extension and Route 90. It really isn't all that big of an area, and is fragmented. Further development that takes up adjacent land is just going to make the situation worse. These lands need buffers to keep the ecosystem intact.

The Town of Guilderland Planning Board should remove itself as Lead Agency for evaluating the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed development by The Pyramid Companies (Crossgates) on Rapp Road, the Mall Road and Western Avenue to build up to 360 Apartments with up to 3 five-story apartment buildings, up to 50,000 sq ft of office space and up to 278,900 sq ft of commercial expansive retail including a Costco with a 700 car parking lot and a 16 pump gas station because:

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2. The Guilderland Planning Board deemed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) "complete" when it was missing a wetland reports for the Costco site and the traffic study that is posted on the Town's website is dated Feb 17, 2020, 5 days after the DEIS was deemed complete.
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At the very least, the Town of Guilderland Planning Board should postpone making any decisions regarding the DEIS until all pending lawsuits against the Town of Guilderland and The Pyramid Companies regarding the status of the Planning Board remaining Lead Agency are resolved.

Thank You,

Christine Kielb

5/26/2020

Town of Guilderland Mail - Fwd: Comment regarding Lead Agency for DEIS Rapp Road Residential/Western Avenue Mixed Use Redevel...



Kenneth Kovalchik <kovalchikk@togny.org>

Impact on the Environment Comment for DEIS Rapp Road Residential/Western Avenue Mixed Use Redevelopment Projects

1 message

Christine Kielb <kielbcl@icloud.com>
To: Kovalchikk@togny.org

Tue, May 26, 2020 at 10:56 AM

Attention: Kenneth Kovalchik, Town Planner, Kovalchikk@togny.org

I live in the Capital District and the Pine Bush Preserve is one of my cherished places for hiking and nature appreciation. It is a beautiful area that would have succumbed to development pressures long ago were it not for Save the Pinebush and the Pinebush Commission. Even so, the impacts of surrounding development are quite obvious. From the Blueberry Hill area one can hear constant and oppressive traffic noise from Washington Street extension and Route 90. The Preserve really isn't all that big of an area, and it is fragmented. Further development that takes up adjacent land is just going to make the situation worse. These lands need buffers to keep the ecosystem intact as much as practicable.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed development by Pyramid (Crossgates) on Rapp Road, the Mall Road and Western Avenue to build up to 360 Apartments with up to 3 five-story apartment buildings, up to 50,000 sq ft of office space and up to 278,900 sq ft commercial expansive retail including including a Costco with a 700 car parking lot and a 16 pump gas station should be rejected because the following are not adequately addressed:

1. The Pine Bush borders the Crossgates expansion. The Albany Pine Bush is considered the best example of an inland pine barrens ecosystem in the world. The Pine Bush contains 78 wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need, including the federal and state-endangered Karner blue butterfly) and state-threatened frosted elfin butterfly, and the largest inland sand dune system in eastern North America. The site has been designated a National Natural Landmark, a National Heritage Area Site, a NYS Bird Conservation Area and a National Audubon Society Important Bird Area. Appendices F and G in the DEIS are inadequate to evaluate the impact of the proposed development on the plant and animal species in the Pine Bush.

2. The Pine Bush habitat is threatened by the expansion of this commercial venture, whether it is adjacent to the construction or a few hundred feet away. These species are important not only to the Pine Bush, but to the local ecosystem as well. The cumulative impact of this development plus other proposals on the Pine Bush is not adequately addressed.

3. The mitigation measures offered in the DEIS are inadequate to address the destruction of 46 acres of land. The proposed development decreases the size of the Pine Bush and the mitigation measures offer no possibility for expanding the habitat.

4. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is incomplete because it does not adequately address the effect this massive development would have on the ecosystem of the Pine Bush, or the effect on plant and animal species.

5. The Pyramid Companies clear-cut a large wooded portion of the site of the proposed Costco on March 26, 2020, before State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) process was completed. I and others witnessed this horrifying and illegal clearcutting that day. No applicant that commits such an blatant act should be allowed to proceed further in my opinion.

Finally, why can't Costco use available empty space at the already existing Crossgates Mall? Why permanently and negatively alter the existing ecosystem when other alternatives can be explored?

Thank you,

Christine Kielb
5 Dutch Village Apt 5BR
Menands N.Y. 12204