



## Re the Rapp Road Residential/Western Avenue Mixed Use Redevelopment Projects

1 message

**Sue Cypert** <gardency@yahoo.com>  
To: Kovalchikk@togny.org  
Cc: Sue Cypert <gardency@yahoo.com>

Wed, May 13, 2020 at 5:24 PM

Attention: Kenneth Kovalchik, Town Planner, [Kovalchikk@togny.org](mailto:Kovalchikk@togny.org)

Mr. Kovalchik,

As a new homeowner adjacent to the area covered by the "Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed development by Pyramid (Crossgates) on Rapp Road, the Mall Road and Western Avenue" I'm writing to express my concern for proceeding with this proposal.

This is a beautiful and interesting place to live, that's why I bought a home here. While the studies can document the impacts in scientific detail it's easy to feel this by standing on the side of the road. Compare how you would feel standing on the side of the road at 9 am on a Tuesday- Western Avenue vs Rapp Road? Where would you want to live? Or work? Own a business?

As a Town planner you know that homeowners are the back bone for their communities, they pay taxes, shop in their neighborhood, and care about their towns. And we're learning with the current crisis how much we value our small businesses. How many residents or small business owners are going to want to or have to move because of this development? How many people are going to want to move in or start a new business? I shop along Western Avenue. Making the area harder to get around and harder to find businesses will make it harder for your local retailers and residents.

It has been reported in the local news that the developer in this proposal has not acted in good faith by proceeding with site development, clear cutting, without approval. Should your department continue to support development by this company? A proposal is just that, a proposal, filled with promises about what is going to be done or not done. I've experienced that as a homeowner in other communities. \*\* The proposal may promise that, for instance, a building will be protected. Then, when the building is damaged it's too late, destruction is final, and promises or not the loss is permanent.

The best way to protect Guilderland is to be sure the developer's promises can be trusted: promises by this company must be considered suspect because the company has already shown that doing what it wants will come first.

Letting this proceed is not in the best interests of the people and neighbors of Guilderland.

I have read the documents posted on your website about the DEIS which address important issues. By the way, my congratulations to you, it's a very good and informative website.

For instance, there is no shortage worldwide of congested highways, malls, or apartment buildings. THERE IS however only one, worldwide, inland pine barrens like ours, and once destroyed it's gone. Preserving what cannot be found anywhere else sounds like a better investment for Guilderland. Ditto the Rapp Road Community-reading the materials on your website I learned that the Rapp Road community is unique as an historical site, and reading about it made me proud of the area I now call home.

Again, keeping areas like the Pine Bush and Rapp Road healthy is the kind of investment in Guilderland that is a unique and valuable opportunity, far more valuable than more parking, shopping or apartments.

Respectfully,  
Susan M. Cypert  
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### P.S.

Our Village Street was getting an upgrade. There were meetings and everything sounded like a good idea. One spring day early in the morning the chainsaws started cutting down every beautiful huge old maple tree along the street! I went outside and managed to find the person in charge who pointed out that the proposal said that the street would be widened a few feet. The trees had to go. He said young maples would be planted after the work was done. I asked him what the street was like he lived on. Did he buy a home with small spindly trees or large shady maples? He admitted that he would never want a house on a street without large grown trees. But the cutting couldn't be stopped, after all, the proposal had been approved as written, although the part about cutting all the trees hadn't been addressed. The street has never looked the same and values along the street have dropped.

Sent from my iPad

