



Kenneth Kovalchik <kovalchikk@togny.org>

Impact on the Environment Comment for DEIS Rapp Rd Residential/Western Ave project

1 message

Tam Kistler <tamkistler3@gmail.com>
To: Kovalchikk@togny.org

Sun, May 24, 2020 at 11:01 AM

Attention: Kenneth Kovalchik, Town Planner

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 18 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 world is experiencing the sixth major extinction. 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 woefully 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.

Thank you,

Ann Kistler



No Pyramid building please.

1 message

Tam <tamkistler@nycap.rr.com>

Tue, Mar 24, 2020 at 12:14 AM

To: kovalchikk@togny.org

Dear Ken,
I am emailing you in hopes that you will not allow the Pyramid plan to move forward. The Pinebush is a very special and precious area and must be preserved as such. There are other places to build, but how sad and unnecessary a thing it would be to put new buildings in that special space. There are enough homes built in there already.

Please, please don't let this happen. I have to think that you are a thoughtful man who will see and understand that the Pinebush should remain as pristine as possible.

Thank you for reading my email.

Sincerely, Ann Kistler

Sent from my iPhone