



Kenneth Kovalchik <kovalchikk@togny.org>

RE: Costco

1 message

Neil Gifford <ngifford@albanypinebush.org>

Thu, Mar 16, 2023 at 9:15 AM

To: Donald Csaposs <csapossd@togny.org>, Kenneth Kovalchik <kovalchikk@togny.org>

Cc: Christopher Hawver <chawver@albanypinebush.org>, Steve Feeney <sjfeeney001@gmail.com>, Amanda Diaz <adiaz@albanyny.gov>, Don Csaposs <csapossd@townofguilderland.org>, "Don Csaposs (donaldcsaposs@gmail.com)" <donaldcsaposs@gmail.com>, "Gabriel, Trish M (DEC)" <trish.gabriel@dec.ny.gov>, Jessica Ottney-Mahar <jottney@tnc.org>, "LaBarge, Amy (PARKS)" <Amy.LaBarge@parks.ny.gov>, Laura Degaetano <ldegaetano@albanycounty.com>, Michael Tengeler <TengelerM@colonie.org>, Neil Gifford <ngifford@albanypinebush.org>, Patricia McLaughlin <pmclaughlin@albanypinebush.org>, Paul Russell <Lorax_trees@yahoo.com>

Good morning Don,

Yes , I am happy to comment on the proposed landscaping plan for the Costco project. Technical Committee members are copied.

Based on my review, the landscaping plan appears appropriate for this location. There are a few native cultivars included, but these would not pose any significant risk to nearby protected properties. The plan also includes white pine, (*Pinus strobus*), and white spruce (*Picea glauca*), again both native trees. However, substituting pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*) for these planned evergreen trees would better represent the sense of place unique to the Pine Bush and this part of town. Pitch pine also shed fewer needles and less sap than white pine; and planting pitch pine here would help mitigate the loss of pre-existing pitch pine at the site.

Lists of recommendations for plants to use and avoid in the APB Study Area are attached. If the planning department , planning board, or the applicant have additional questions regarding landscaping in the Pine Bush Study Area, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Neil

Neil A. Gifford (he/him/his)

Conservation Director

ngifford@albanypinebush.org

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Albany Pine Bush**Preserve Commission**

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Globally Rare, Nationally Significant & Locally Distinct

From: Donald Csaposs <csapossd@togny.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2023 8:51 AM
To: Neil Gifford <ngifford@albanypinebush.org>; Kenneth Kovalchik <kovalchikk@togny.org>
Subject: Re: Costco

Neil, could either staff or TC possibly review and comment on the applicant's landscaping plan?

On Thu, Mar 16, 2023 at 8:46 AM Neil Gifford <ngifford@albanypinebush.org> wrote:

Good morning Ken,

I understand that a site plan associated with a special use permit for the Costco project will be considered by the Guilderland Planning Board at next week's meeting on the 22nd.

At the request of the sponsor, we would like to reiterate our earlier comments on the project, submitted September 29, 2022, and attached.

In summary while the project is within the APBPC Study Area, it is not proposed within an area recommended for any level of protection in the 2017 Management Plan Update for the Albany Pine Bush Preserve, and therefore appears consistent with that plan. Additionally, our earlier letter also recommended that the site plan incorporate native Pine Bush landscaping and appropriate external lighting.

I do not anticipate attending the Planning Board meeting, but if you or the Board have any questions regarding the Commission's comments and recommendations, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you Ken. We appreciate your, and the Town's, continued coordination with balancing economic development and Pine Bush conservation in Guilderland.

Best regards,

Neil

Neil A. Gifford (he/him/his)

Conservation Director

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GLOBALLY RARE, NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT & LOCALLY DISTINCT



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Donald Csaposs

C.E.O., Town of Guilderland I.D.A.

(518)356-1980, ext. 1097

2 attachments

 **SPPAVOID_2012.pdf**
24K

 **SPECIESUSE_2012.pdf**
113K