



Kenneth Kovalchik <kovalchikk@togny.org>

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

1 message

Fran Porter <mfporter.fp@gmail.com>
To: Kovalchikk@togny.org

Tue, May 26, 2020 at 4:21 PM

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

Re: 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.

Dear Ken and members of the Guilderland Planning Board,

After the UN report presented devastating facts on the rapid global decline of animal species in 2019, I believe every level of government has the urgent responsibility to protect wildlife.

Guilderland has been a champion of green initiatives, including cluster housing to preserve green space. The current building projects that encroach into the pine bush preserve do not align with our Climate Smart Community values. The projects, including the building of Costco, will cause unique local vegetation and wildlife species to be lost.

It was sad to see mass tree cutting at the end of March to avoid endangered bat populations from nesting in the trees prior to the DEC deadline for seasonal tree clearing. I think the DEC is wrong-minded in knowingly preventing the bats from settling in this habitat. If the State won't act responsibly to protect our wildlife, it's up to the Town to do so. We have that power by ensuring that the environmental impact study truly addresses the impact on our vegetation and wildlife. Let's continue to be a Climate Smart Community in every way.

Thank you.
Sincerely,

Fran Porter
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Town of Guilderland