



Kenneth Kovalchik <kovalchikk@togny.org>

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

1 message

Michael Marston <mmarston@nycap.rr.com>
To: Kovalchikk@togny.org

Tue, May 26, 2020 at 11:32 AM

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

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,

Michael Marston
[6175 Hawes rd](mailto:mmarston@nycap.rr.com)
[Altamont, NY 12009](mailto:mmarston@nycap.rr.com)
mmarston@nycap.rr.com
518-861-0124 home
917-678-2064 cell



Kenneth Kovalchik <kovalchikk@togny.org>

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

1 message

Michael Marston <mmarston@nycap.rr.com>
To: Kovalchikk@togny.org

Tue, May 26, 2020 at 11:34 AM

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

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,

Michael Marston
[6175 Hawes rd](mailto:mmarston@nycap.rr.com)
[Altamont, NY 12009](mailto:mmarston@nycap.rr.com)
mmarston@nycap.rr.com
518-861-0124 home
917-678-2064 cell



Kenneth Kovalchik <kovalchikk@togny.org>

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

1 message

Michael Marston <mymarston@nycap.rr.com>
To: Kovalchikk@togny.org

Tue, May 26, 2020 at 11:33 AM

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

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 18 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.
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,

Michael Marston
6175 Hawes rd
Altamont, NY 12009
mymarston@nycap.rr.com
518-861-0124 home
917-678-2064 cell