



Kenneth Kovalchik <kovalchikk@togny.org>

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

1 message

Mary Finneran <msfynn123@yahoo.com>
Reply-To: Mary Finneran <msfynn123@yahoo.com>
To: "kovalchikk@togny.org" <kovalchikk@togny.org>
Cc: "supervisor@togny.org" <supervisor@togny.org>

Sun, May 24, 2020 at 10:32 AM

Dear Mr. Kovalchik,

Please accept my comment on the DEIS regarding development at Rapp Road and Western Avenue that would abut and damage the Albany Pine Bush. The repercussions are not only local, they are regional, national, and global, if truth be told. The unique nature of this area and the fact that it has been historically so well protected has always been a source of hope for me regarding how industrialization and the drive to develop has decimated other global areas of natural beauty. While I live in Cairo NY, about 40 miles away, the area has been a source of delight for me, and I am afraid that allowing this development would be a snowball effect on the wonderful paradise and tiny bit of hope for me that some in the world still care.

The sensitivity and the destruction of much of the flora and fauna of the world to the impacts of human expansion affects me on a regular basis; for example in China, perhaps the most industrialized nation in the world, the famed paddlefish was declared extinct last week. One would hope that this development would not cause an extinction but considering there are over 70 rare species in the Pine Bush, I fear that this might happen.

Allow me to copy words from a local organization, they elucidate the concerns better than I, and reiteration of these words, in this case, hopefully drives my points home.

"The proposed development borders the Pine Bush Preserve and the proposed development is completely within the boundaries of the Pine Bush study area. 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.

This Pine Bush habitat is threatened by the proposed development, 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 in the DEIS.

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."

Please deny any consideration of this development. You would be cheered, sanctified, for saving this tiny spot of heaven. If an extinction were to occur if this development were allowed to go through, you would be included with those in China who did nothing to save the paddlefish. Please don't join their shame, join those of us who are hoping that our children and their children will have wonderful places to remember and learn what the planet was once like.

Thank you!

Sincerely, Mary T. Finneran

Cowardice asks the question, *is it safe?* Expediency asks the question, *is it politic?* Vanity asks the question, *is it popular?* But conscience ask the question, *is it right?* And there comes a time when we must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but one must take it because it is right." – **Martin Luther King Jr.**