



Kenneth Kovalchik <kovalchikk@togny.org>

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

1 message

mmaniak@earthlink.net <mmaniak@earthlink.net>

Tue, May 26, 2020 at 12:22 PM

Reply-To: mmaniak@earthlink.net

To: Kovalchikk@togny.org

Attention: Kenneth Kovalchik, Town Planner, Town of Guilderland

Dear Mr. Kovalchik,

The current Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed development by Pyramid (Crossgates) on Rapp Road, the Mall Road, and Western Avenue, should be rejected. This proposed development, which includes building 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 including a Costco (with a 700 car parking lot and an 18 pump gas station), should be rejected because the following are not adequately addressed:

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 the state-threatened frosted elfin butterfly, as well as 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.

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.

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.

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. Therefore, I urge you to reject the DEIS. Thank you for your time and attention.

Yours,,
Mark C. Maniak
Albany, NY