



Kenneth Kovalchik &lt;kovalchikk@togny.org&gt;

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## Public Comment Rapp Road Residential/Western Avenue Mixed Use Redevelopment Projects

1 message

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**Susan VanDerWende** <susanvdw@nycap.rr.com>  
To: kovalchikk@togny.org

Fri, May 22, 2020 at 11:37 AM

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Attention: Kenneth Kovalchik, Town Planner [Kovalchikk@togny.org](mailto:Kovalchikk@togny.org)

I am strongly opposed to the projects: Costco, gas pumps and major apartments.

Having lived and been a taxpayer in Guilderland most of my life, I feel a special connection to "my town" and the Pine Bush Preserve. I grew up in a Westmere neighborhood and attended Guilderland schools. As an adult, I lived 10 years on Western Avenue and now 25 years on Marilyn Street. Preserving the character of this town that I know and love is what is most important to me. I believe we are losing quality of life to over-development. I am thinking that Laurel Bohl, being an advocate for responsible growth and restraint, was elected to the town board as a clear indication that voters agree. I want to be a town like Bethlehem, not like Colonie. I am struck by how much of the public comment (written and verbal) comes from people that do NOT live in Guilderland.

Having reviewed the DEIS, read applicable newspaper articles, read and listened to local and expert testimony in public comment May 13, I am deeply concerned about our town environment (water, air, land use, wildlife). I am appalled at the premature clear-cutting of the proposed site! I agree with one writer who likened Pyramid Crossgates to a spreading cancer. There are too many big box stores already in the area, way too many gas pumps and so much asphalt! The proposed apartments are too high, out of character, and detrimental to that neighborhood. Pre-pandemic... I've observed constant increasing town traffic at all times of the day especially in the Crossgates area. I hate to imagine any more!

Since the shutdown due to COVID-19, so much will change regarding common retail practice. At the very least we need to re-evaluate any expansion.

I am proud to live in a town that boasts the precious Pine Bush Preserve. I bring friends and visitors to this jewel, not to big box stores. Please protect what is special and say no to this development as too large!

Susan VanDerWende  
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