

1501 Siver Road
Guilderland, New York 12084

May 17, 2020

Kenneth Kovalchik, AICP
Town Planner
Guilderland Town Hall
5209 Western Turnpike
Guilderland, New York 12084

RAPP ROAD RESIDENTIAL/WESTERN AVENUE MIXED USE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Dear Mr. Kovalchik,

I am writing today to express my strong opposition to the proposed development of forty-six acres of the Albany Pine Bush by the Pyramid Corporation. As a lifelong resident of Guilderland I have seen detrimental changes to the town's surroundings. There are fewer open spaces where adults and children can enjoy the outdoors, more traffic, less interaction between neighbors and fewer small businesses.

It is inconceivable to think that the Town of Guilderland Planning Board allowed the illegal clearcutting of trees on the proposed development site before a SEQRA review was completed. Is the board not aware that the Pine Bush is a unique pine barren ecosystem containing over 78 wildlife species including the endangered Karner Blue Butterfly and the threatened Elfin Butterfly? Why would the town board sacrifice the sanctity of the Pine Bush for the monetary gain of a few very wealthy individuals?

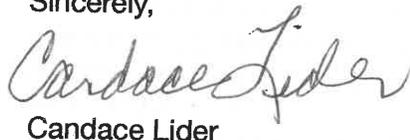
In 1984 proponents of Crossgates Mall (Pyramid Corporation) projected huge tax revenues for the Town of Guilderland. Since that time it has generated very little property tax revenue and has been given huge tax exemptions even as it expanded further into the Pine Bush. On the other hand my property taxes have steadily increased, in part, due to accommodations afforded to Crossgates Mall.

The Pine Bush habitat as well as the quality of life for Guilderland residents is threatened by the proposed development. The DEIS has not adequately addressed the great harm this project will do to the plants, animals and the citizens of Guilderland.

It is my hope that Pyramid Corporation expansion into the Pine Bush be rejected.

I look forward to your response,

Sincerely,



Candace Lider

Candace Lider