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

1 message

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To: Kovalchikk@togny.org

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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 16 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 wetland reports. As of May 10, 2020, these reports still have not been provided to the public if they have indeed even been provided to the Town by Pyramid.
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.

These are times when we should protect un-developed lands, particularly near and in environmentally sensitive areas such as the pine bush. Allowing the proposed development as the economy collapses, large box stores go out of business, and the uncertainties of filling new apartment buildings, is very poor planning.

Thank You,

Jens Braun

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