

The Pyramid Companies Project

1 message

Gordon McClelland <gm28@cornell.edu>

Tue, May 5, 2020 at 12:04 PM

To: Kovalchik Kenneth <kovalchikk@togny.org>

Cc: Guilderland Coalition for Responsible Growth <guilderlandcrg@gmail.com>

Mr. Kovalchik,

I am writing in opposition to the current development proceeding at Crossgates Mall by The Pyramid Companies. I oppose the building of massive apartment complexes, additional office space and expansive retail on Rapp Road, the Mall Road and Western Ave., including a Costco retail facility with a 700-car parking lot with a gas station on what used to be a wonderful wooded lot until the illegal tree cutting on March 26, 2020.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement(DEIS) for this project does not adequately address the following environmental concerns:

1. The expansion by Pyramid to include a Costco with 18 gas pumps and a huge store must be stopped. It does not fit the stated purpose of the Transit-Oriented District and gas stations should not be built over known aquifers in environmentally sensitive areas.

2. A project this size will not help the traffic in Guilderland. To increase the development on these roads and expect traffic to go down on Western Avenue is pipe dream.

3. The traffic congestion is already horrible and dangerous in this area. More traffic will only make it more difficult to patronize local businesses in that area. It is almost impossible to make left hand turns from either direction in a safe manner. With the addition of transient, non-local traffic, there is an increased probability that there will be more accidents in the area because of the increased traffic. The current roadways are not built to handle such an influx of traffic on a daily basis and will only get worse around the holidays in the winter.

4. The Pine Bush borders the Crossgates expansion. There are at least 15 known Endangered Species that live in the Pine Bush. Their 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 PineBush but to the local ecosystem as well.

5. The quality of life in this town is changing drastically with the uncontrolled growth that is occurring. The building of hotels, expansion of Crossgates Mall, expansion of apartment Complexes and the building of new ones as well as a Costco is creating a city/urban area that should remain suburban.

There are already enough issues with Crossgates and the level of crime in the area. We do not need to encourage more issues by increasing higher density living and retail in a limited area. There are small residential neighborhoods that are being directly affected in many ways that are detrimental to the homeowners in the area.

We need to preserve the way of life that this suburban area has offered to the residents of this town.

6. The town's infrastructure has not had any major updates in quite some time. By allowing the projects that Pyramid wants will stress the water, sewer and road infrastructures. This town cannot continue to allow this unfettered growth without major concerns for the infrastructure of the entire town. In addition, Pyramid has already reneged on its promise to pay for police officers.

7.

The Core Vision for the Town of Guilderland includes a balance of business and residential components that are conducive to the suburban/rural way of life in this town. The growth that is occurring, specifically that of what the The Pyramid Companies want to do does not belong in a town like Guilderland. Huge Malls and big box stores are better situated in areas zoned Industrial or more densely populated areas that are for businesses. Over the past 20 years, we have watched urban and multi-dwelling (apartments) projects continue westward into Guilderland. This has increased traffic, noise and dirt for anyone who lives a block or two from Western Ave. Let's protect what we have and say no to any future corporate expansion in town.

Thank
you,
Gordon
McClelland
Resident/Town
of Guilderland