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The Pyramid Corp. exerted its “right” to clear cut the “proposed” site for Costco on Western Ave at the entrance to Crossgates mall. This sight is currently under the SEQR process for approval of a potential future location for a Costco store. This action is clearly a violation of not altering the property in any way, stated in the rules for this process. In other words, it was done illegally. This was also done while the hearing for the residents of the town to appear at, was cancelled and strategy for open participation was not enabled. “Democracy”?

At this time of the global pandemic, another concern is the viability of these building projects, namely Rapp Rd/Costco/Crossgates. The economy is currently on a strong downturn and enabling building more of corporate commerce will cause even greater failure of the meager amount of small businesses in our town. Pyramid Corp. being able to expand via Costco with gas stations, apartments and office space seems extremely counterproductive. How viable is a mall/apartments/offices/large store with gas pumps, now in a time when social distancing is mandated? This pandemic is not going away overnight and these projects do not exemplify the focus of the future.

In this era of global warming, we do not need any more businesses encouraging the use of fossil fuels, run off of gasoline into the groundwater above an aquifer, increase of traffic, air pollutants, and further decimation of the Pine Bush its habitat, and the unique ecosystem this represents.

We should be building up a strong future structure for current small businesses during this trying time of economic stress. Crossgates/Pyramid corp. is an eager recipient of the tax breaks they get. Are the small businesses getting that same gift? As we are well aware, Crossgates contributes in volume to: Traffic Issues, Crime, Degradation of Pine Bush and all “green” areas, Air Pollution, etc. Lets work on that as a town.

The town of Guilderland is cancelling its public meetings and hearings due to the COVID 19 pandemic. This outcome emphasizes the current isolation we are all experiencing during this global issue. We as the citizens of this town are being expected to accept this conundrum with the “opportunity” to participate in town/corporate approval of building projects via phone/computer. This is assuming that the residents who wanted to participate have the opportunity and technical ability to do so. This practice may be “allowed”, but does not allow for verbal interchange between opposition and supporters. No questions can be asked in real time, evidence from experts cannot be responded to. Many residents are now struggling with the current crisis of the pandemic, trying to stay financially afloat and will not have the where-with-all to devote time to this. This is not an “opportunity”, it is enabling easy passage of these projects. If any of these were “vital” to the survival of Guilderland, this might make sense.

If Guilderland is that dependent on the Pyramid Corp. for our economic stability, then we have a very poor plan for economic vitality.

Allow the town and its residents to operate under our current form of government called “democracy” and speak out about these issues. Postpone these building projects and enable the process for these decisions to be made at a time that public hearings and meetings can be held once more.

This letter is stating strong opposition to any project relating to Crossgates/Pyramid Corporation in the town of Guilderland of which I am a resident. Assuming those in support of this project are residents.

Sincerely,

Susan A. Mosher

