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Pyramid Cos. at the Costco Site

1 message

Gordon McClelland <gm28@cornell.edu>

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To: Peter Barber <barberp@togny.org>, "centir@togny.org" <centir@togny.org>, "slavickp@togny.org" <slavickp@togny.org>, "pastorep@togny.org" <pastorep@togny.org>, "bohll@togny.org" <bohll@togny.org>, Kovalchik Kenneth <kovalchikk@togny.org>

I am writing today regarding the current Crossgates expansion project that will, if approved, bring a Costco facility to Guilderland.

This project is currently under a State Environmental Quality Review and there are a number of concerns, environmental as well as impacts raised by residents of the local Westmere neighborhood.

The very purpose of a SEQR is to address any environmental concerns before the project is approved and built.

Last Thursday, March 26th, the owner of the property, Pyramid Cos., began clear cutting trees and vegetation on the proposed site.

The State Environmental Review Act specifically states that no site, while under review for environmental issues, shall be altered in any way until completion of the SEQR.

What is most disturbing is that a notice of intent to cut trees on the site was sent by Pyramid Cos. to the Town and Town staff posted the notice on the Town website on March 26th. Clear cutting began approximately 6:30am but the notice of intent was not posted until approximately 10:17am that morning.

That the Town Planner would not know that clear cutting a site while it is under SEQR is inconceivable. Of what value is an environmental law such as SEQR if the current administration in the Town of Guilderland fails to enforce the law? Absent an enormous emergency, of which we have no evidence, one can conclude only negligence. What else could it be?

All of this activity comes under the purview of the Town Planning Board which should now be removed as the Lead Agency for the project.

There have now arisen a number of contentious issues regarding this project. I am writing to bring some of them to your attention and ask that you take action to correct the situation.

Respectfully yours,

Gordon McClelland

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