



Kenneth Kovalchik <kovalchikk@togny.org>

Additional Comments - Proposed Crossgates Rapp Rd Residential Development, Town of Guilderland

1 message

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To: "Ken Kovalchik (kovalchikk@togny.org)" <kovalchikk@togny.org>

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Ken,

On 4/22/19, the Department received the applicant's Response to Comments letter, which provided written responses to comments submitted during Lead Agency coordination (letter dated 3/8/19). The following provides additional comments on the Crossgates Rapp Road Residential Development Project:

1. The Department retrieved from the Town of Guilderland's website what is assumed to be the current project site plan, dated 7/2/19. Preliminary review of the plan indicates that the site plan still does not show the current boundaries of the portion of the Crossgates - Karner blue butterfly (Kbb) Management Area that exists within the project site. The Department requests that the site plan be revised to properly depict the Crossgates - Kbb Management Area. Once the site plan is revised, we request two full sized paper copies for our review. Based on a preliminary review of the 7/2/19 plan, it appears that the area proposed to be left undeveloped will provide a substantial buffer to the Crossgates - Kbb Management Area.
2. The applicant's Response to Comments letter received on 4/22/19 did not address staff's comments relating to the possibility of restoring previously developed (paved) areas and adding to the Management Area's natural buffer. The Department requests that potential restoration be thoroughly explored in the project's alternatives analysis. The Department also request a site plan that shows final proposed changes, if any, to the western portion of the Crossgates Mall parking lot to accommodate traffic from the proposed development.
3. The meaning of "effectively maintained" when referring to existing berms along western boundary of the project site has not been clearly explained, nor has a site and/or grading plan of this area been provided. The Department requests that this information be provided.
4. The Department has not yet received a copy of the ecological study of the property performed by B. Laing Associates. It was not included in the package sent to us by the Town of Guilderland during Lead Agency coordination. Department staff will review and comment on this report once it is received.
5. Based on the Department's preliminary review of an electronic copy of the site plan dated 7/2/19, the applicant still plans to plant white pine, which is not a desirable species in the Albany Pine Bush area. The Department requests that the applicant instead consider planting native pine bush species. Consultation with Albany Pine Bush staff to obtain a list of recommended species is recommended.

6. The proposal by Crossgates to convey the three parcels on the east side of Rapp Road is beneficial. The opportunities provided by transfer of these parcels are likely to provide much greater benefit for Kbb management efforts than what may be lost as a result of this project's development. It should be noted, however, that one of the parcels is already partially encumbered as part of the defined Kbb Management Area.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Trish Gabriel

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