



Attn: Kenneth Kovalchik (kovalchikk@togny.org)
Town of Guilderland Planning Board
P.O. Box 339, 5209 Western Turnpike
Guilderland, NY

Sept. 6, 2019

To Whom It May Concern;

I am writing regarding the proposed Rapp Road Residential Development and Additional Lands site (ca. 20 acres in size, also known as "Site 1" or "Site 57") adjacent to the western end of the Crossgate Mall parking lot. I understand that a scoping document is to be prepared prior to an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and I have several suggestions for those documents that I am submitting here, prior to the stated deadline of September 17.

Because the site in question lies on soils that are typical of the Albany Pine Bush, it currently has potential for restoration to classic pine bush habitat that would be lost if the site is developed as proposed. The following information would therefore be appropriate for inclusion in an EIS:

1. Detailed soil map of the site in the context of nearby Albany Pine Bush lands, showing the presence and distribution of typical pine bush soils such as the sandy Colonie, Elnora, Stafford, and Granby units.
2. Detailed map of the depth to the surface of the water table, in order to document the potential for restoring wetland habitats that might have been filled in while the site was occupied by former owners.
3. A detailed history of land use on the site, including dates and area covered by buildings, fields, livestock pens, and the like, as well as information about the likely condition of the site prior to development, in particular the likelihood that classic pitch pine and scrub oak habitat was present before the site was developed.
4. A detailed map and/or aerial photos of the vegetation which makes it clear that a sizeable portion of the site remains free of forest canopy, particularly a large weedy field in the central portion of the site next to Rapp Road and that could presumably be restored to open lupine habitat with little difficulty.
5. Careful evaluation of potential for restoration of the site to pitch pine - scrub oak or lupine habitat.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours;



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