



Proposed Scope Crossgates Rapp Road Residential Project

1 message

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To: kovalchikk@togny.org

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Town of Guilderland Planning Board
Guilderland Town Hall
P.O. Box 339
[5209 Western Turnpike](#)
Guilderland, NY 12084

Contact: Kenneth Kovalchik
kovalchikk@togny.org

Dear Town of Guilderland Planning Board:

I am a long time resident of the Town of Guilderland and am quite interested in the protection of Pine Bush's unique environment and the endangered Karner Blue Butterfly. There is no disagreement that the Pine Bush is a valuable asset that should be protected but the continued infill development may impact the hard work of the Pine Bush Commission's efforts to manage and protect the Pine Bush.

The proposed Crossgate Rapp Road Residential Project should be considered in context with the broader area of protecting the Pine Bush. Crossgates Mall was developed with much opposition having replaced a horse farm, trails, wetlands and Pine Bush habitat. The Mall footprint alone has a major impact but it was soon followed by Crossgate Commons across Washington Avenue and two hotel projects. Also consider the later addition of taller buildings for expanded movie theaters quite close to the Butterfly Corral that was designed to preserve and protect a small piece of remaining. Since built later, multiple developments by Crossgate owners were not part of the overall environmental review of the mall. The segmented approach to development should not underscore what should be a broader consideration of the combined developments.

The years of work to protect, preserve and enhance the Pine Bush Habitat and its native species both flora and fauna, including large patches of Blue Lupine along Rapp Rd, particularly in the power line corridor, is remarkable. I have viewed and taken pictures of the plants in full bloom a couple of years ago. Karner Blues were quite active and could be seen from Rapp Road. The continued loss of open space Pine Bush Habitat with connection corridors by additional development will harm the effort to protect the Pine Bush. This specific corridor of Blue Lupine (rapp Road power line area) is critical to the survival of the Karner Blue butterfly and connects with the Butterfly Corral that was required as part of the original development. Additional development along Rapp Road may have a devastating impact of movement of the Karner Blue leaving isolated sections of Pine Bush Habitat that might not be enough for the species to survive.

My preference, though this is private property, is for aquisition to enhance and preserve these valuable connection. While this is not the focus of this project, please consider the permanent loss of more Pine Bush habitat. The Pine Bush not only is a unique environmental habitat that deserves protection, but also serves our community by providing recreation and enjoyment for nearby residents.

Also, I live in Mckownville and the continued development has increased both traffic and our water issues. The natural and altered drainage network seems to head eastward toward our neighborhood.

It is my hope that a thorough examination of the broader impact of the Pine Bush be considered in the Environmental review process. Not a segmented project by project approach which misses the full impact of infill development in this area of the Pine Bush, not just this project but all future projects as well. We have a wonderful unique ecosystem complete with a rare and endangered species, once lost it is forever.

Sincerely yours,

Bertil K Schou
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