

June 16, 2020

Mr. John Pavacic  
Executive Director  
Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission  
624 Old Riverhead Road  
Westhampton Beach, NY 11978

John:

What in Sam Hill is going on? "The Hills" submits documents to the Commission in support of their project, days before the deadline. It seems to be providing information on a Pine Barrens development that is entirely different from what was provided to the Southampton Town Board and the Southampton Planning Board. This is an outrage. The applicant has been consistently changing its project, without providing supporting information.

Add to this, I discover on the Commission's website today, there is a proposed review of the revised project without any time to prepare a reaction. There is no way that the Commission could respond to this massive input. I know, because the environmental community is trying to do so. The applicant's submission is absolutely incompatible with its past submissions, violates New York State's Environmental Quality Review Act and the applicant is obviously trying to obtain the Commission's approval of a project that is utterly inconsistent with the Pine Barrens Protection Act. What is now proposed is significantly different from what has been previously proposed. The Commission requires the time to review it.

Staff and the environmental community deserve appropriate time to review the applicant's massive new application for a project different from the earlier submission. This is the biggest and baddest proposal ever presented to the Commission. The current application differs significantly from the previous proposal. So, the current project should be disapproved by the Commission, since what is now presented is not what has been previously proposed by the applicant.

The Commission seems to be responding to a demand for consideration of a new project on the day before the Pine Barrens Commission is set to meet. Neither the staff nor the community can respond to the massive claims of the applicant in such a short time. We have no scheduled adequate location for a hearing, no opportunity for staff to respond to the alternatives being advanced by the applicant and no real opportunity for the community to point out the shortcomings of the new application.

John, the applicant's project is inconsistent with the Pine Barrens Protection Act. It is violative of state environmental law. It has been properly reviewed neither by the Commission nor the community and still moves ahead with little or no public input.

Add to this, notion that the Commission should respond to the applicant's June 3rd submission, 24 hours before the Commission's June 17th meeting, suggests the greatest shortcoming in review of a project in the history of the Pine Barrens Protection Act.

This must be fixed at once, or we will take this matter directly to Governor Cuomo. I'm furious. This is inexcusable. Please call me, at once.

Sincerely,

Richard Amper, Executive Director

cc: Pine Barrens Commissioners

John Milazzo

Julie Hargrave

Senator Kenneth P. Lavallo

New York State Comptroller

Assembly Member Steven Englebright