

Hargrave, Julie

From: Andrea Spilka <aspilkappl@optonline.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 7:58 PM
To: PB Info
Cc: 'Carrie M Gallagher'; 'Dale, Dorian'; aguiar@townofriverheadny.gov; eromaine@brookhavenny.gov; Pavacic, John; Hargrave, Julie; 'Janice Scherer'
Subject: FW: Coalition submission to PBC re Lewis Road allowed to make another change
Attachments: Coalition submission to PBC re Lewis Road allowed to make another change.docx

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Dear Carrie – attached and below are my public comments on behalf of the Southampton Town Civic Coalition regarding the Lewis Road PRD. I would appreciate having the Commission review them prior to the hearing.

Thank you so much!!

Stay well,

Andrea
(631)325-0072
(631)375-5451 cell

SOUTHAMPTON TOWN CIVIC COALITION

September 15,2020

The Honorable Carrie Meek Gallagher
Chairperson
New York State Pine Barrens Commission
624 Old Riverhead Road
Westhampton Beach, NY 11978

Re: Lewis Road PRD

Dear Chairperson Gallagher & Commissioners:

I was extremely disappointed to see that the special meeting on Lewis Road has been canceled and that the applicant plans to submit another set of revised plans at tomorrow's Commission meeting along with a request for an extension of the decision deadline. It appears that once again, there is a different procedural standard for Discovery Land and their proposed golf resort than for other developments.

Sadly, the Commission's review of the project is starting to parallel Southampton Town's, by allowing several revisions to the plan and now, allowing the applicant to

submit a new plan AFTER the action deadline. It appears that the level playing field the civics had hoped for has definitely tilted in favor a developer whose project has such significant environmental ramifications for our water quality, community character and even the noise level with increased air traffic at Gabreski. Not to mention, the undesirable precedent for all future applications.

From the very beginning, Discovery seemed to have been given the "white glove" treatment in Southampton Town. Their initial Hills PDD Pre-application for 81 homes and a golf course immediately morphed into 118 homes and a golf resort the day after their pre-application was approved. When 2 sitting Board members voted to deny the PDD (along with a now sitting third Board member who vowed to vote against it), the Southampton ZBA miraculously agreed to consider a golf resort as a subdivision amenity under the Town's Open Space law.

With their latest request, the applicant is now modifying their July 1 application which was substantially different than their June application which is already significantly different than what the Planning Board granted in October 2019, let alone the PDD that served as the basis for the FEIS submitted in September 2017. This has been an ever-evolving project in spite of the applicant's insistence with each submission that "all's fine" when obviously it was NOT fine. The failure of the Southampton Planning Board to properly assert lead agency status or to follow through on their consultants' recommendations on important environmental concerns undermines the need for increased scrutiny for the project in this sensitive location.

As stewards of the Pine Barren region, Commissioners are required to take a more regional approach to land use proposals. Looking at the cumulative impact of this project, not just individual sections of the CLUP, how can the Commission ever approve a water-intensive, dual use, golf resort in this already compromised Watershed and still fulfill its statutory mission?

On behalf of the Southampton Town Civic Coalition and its member organizations, I urge you to deny this Lewis Road application.

Thank you!

Andrea Spilka

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President
Southampton Town Civic Coalition

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