



TOWN OF NISKAYUNA

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TOWN COUNCIL

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Supervisor

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*For Immediate Release
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NISKAYUNA TOWN BOARD TO VOTE ON WITHDRAWING APPEAL IN STANFORD HOME CASE

Regular Meeting Agenda Includes Resolution to Withdraw Appeal

Resolution 2008-32, if approved by the Niskayuna Town Board on Tuesday, January 29th, would direct the Town Attorney to take whatever action is necessary to withdraw the appeal submitted on the Town's behalf in the Stanford Home court case. An approval of this resolution would mean that the Town of Niskayuna would no longer be a party in this pending court action, and the Town would not participate in the oral arguments that are to be scheduled during the February term of the Court.

Last year, the Friends of Stanford Home instituted an action in Supreme Court of the County of Schenectady against the Town of Niskayuna and the developer, Highbridge Development Br. LLC., seeking a declaration that the special use permit granted for the Stanford Crossing project be declared invalid, that the negative declaration for the project be declared invalid and that a preliminary and permanent injunction be granted. Justice Sise, in September of 2007, rendered a decision in favor of the plaintiffs, Friends of Stanford Home. As a result, members of the Town Board voted last year to appeal Justice Sise's decision to the Appellate Division.

"I am delighted to offer this resolution next Tuesday," said Councilwoman Liz Orzel Kasper who is the prime sponsor of the resolution. "From the outset, I have felt very strongly that a complete environmental impact study should have been done. This is a project that will impact our Town forever. You can never go back after this historic site is replaced by asphalt and concrete. I truly feel that the present Town Board, with two new members, will act in the best interest of the town. The residents of our town have spoken and it is time we listen," continued Councilwoman Kasper.

“The community has expressed widespread concern with this development project and the lack of an environmental impact study, which was recommended by the Town Planning Board and is common for projects of this magnitude” said Julie McDonnell, a newly elected member of the Town Board. “It is our job, as elected officials, to listen to residents and address their concerns. I hope that our action to withdraw the Town as a party to this appeal will provide an opportunity for more community input and a thorough review of every aspect of this project, including preservation of the historic Stanford Home” stated Councilwoman McDonnell.

Niskayuna Town Supervisor, Joe Landry, is co-sponsoring this resolution. “I believe that the Stanford Crossings Project will have a significant impact upon this community and its residents, and it should have received appropriate review and public input at all stages of the development process. The prior Town Board’s determination that this Project will not have a significant effect on the environment, and that a negative declaration be filed is not consistent with my belief, especially since the Planning Board recommended a full environmental impact study,” said Supervisor Landry.