

Hon. Rosario Presti Jr., Mayor  
277 Old Nyack Turnpike  
Village of Chestnut Ridge, New York (10977)  
Via email: Village Clerk at [fmandel@chestnutridgevillage.org](mailto:fmandel@chestnutridgevillage.org)

DR. Project No.: 11490-001  
May 11, 2022

**Re: VILLAGE BOARD WORKSHOP AGENDA MAY 11, 2022  
RESOLUTION NO. 2022-100 TO ACCEPT FGEIS FOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN  
VILLAGE OF CHESTNUT RIDGE, ROCKLAND COUNTY, NEW YORK**

We are submitting this letter on behalf of Citizens United to Protect Our Neighborhoods of Chestnut Ridge (“CUPON CNR”), who has retained our firm to review several ongoing planning actions in the Village of Chestnut Ridge (“Village”).

This letter is intended to raise concerns with the action under discussion on this evening’s agenda - Resolution No. 2022-100 to Accept the Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement (FGEIS) for the Village’s Comprehensive Plan and corresponding Local Law A (v. 6). The agenda further indicates that the resolution would direct the Village Clerk to make the FGEIS available for public via the village website in advance of a Public Hearing on the FGEIS scheduled for May 19, 2022.

As the Board is aware, the actions under consideration this evening are part of the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) process. This is a proscribed process with specific steps and mandatory public review and comment periods. These steps include:

1. Classifying the Action **[completed]**
2. Completing the Correct Environmental Assessment Form **[completed]**
3. Coordinate the Review **[completed]**
4. Determine Significance **[completed]**
5. Scope the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) **[completed]**
6. Preparation of the Draft EIS **[completed]**
7. Determine the Adequacy of the Draft EIS for Public Review (Accept or Return for Revision)
8. Publish Notice than and EIS is Accepted for Public Review
9. Public Comment
10. Decide Whether to Hold a Public Hearing
11. Preparation of the Final EIS
12. SEQR Findings

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) outlines and describes these steps on its website: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6189.html>

The Village Website posted a DGEIS dated March 9, 2022, which does not include the “date of acceptance” (Step 7) of the DGEIS, nor the date of the “public hearing” (Step 10), nor the “deadline for written public comments” (Step 9).

The language of the public notice for the April 28, 2022 Public Hearing was “to consider the draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS)”. There is no indication given in the notice that the March 9<sup>th</sup> version of

the DGEIS has been accepted as “complete” or when the deadline for written public comments on the DGEIS is to pass.

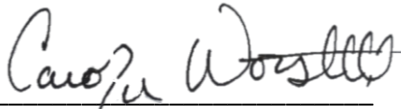
**Based upon the language of the agenda for this evening’s meeting it appears that the Board has skipped several steps in the SEQR process, including public notice that the DGEIS is “accepted” and available for public review, and a mandatory 30-day public comment period on the DGEIS.**

Furthermore, the FGEIS which is currently posted to the Village’s website does not meet the basic requirements of an FGEIS which must include the draft EIS, and any necessary revisions and supplements; copies or a summary of the substantive comments received on the DGEIS and their sources; and the lead agency’s response to the comments.

**On behalf of CUPON CNR, we request that the Village Board not adopt Resolution No. 2022-100 at this evening’s Workshop. There has been inadequate notice to the general public that the DGEIS has been accepted as “complete” and that a public comment period commenced.**

**Working with the Village Board in good faith, we request that the DGEIS be clearly accepted as complete by the Board with adequate notice of a public hearing scheduled so that the public can provide comment on the DGEIS and the deadline for written public comment clearly determined.** Only then should an FGEIS be prepared and accepted by the Board.

Very Truly Yours



Carolyn Worstel, PP, AICP  
Senior Planner

cc: Steven N. Mogel, Esq.

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