

2016

Donald Reeb <donreeb@gmail.com>

9:49 AM (2 hours ago) to James, Doug, Ellen, Laura, Martha, Peter

The very powerful Columbia corp president and owner Joe Nicolla called yesterday--it owns(c the 11 homes and vacant lot on Loughlin--it is thinking of selling the properties to XXXX with the expectation that an apartment house of 170 units will be constructed in the sites. I am meeting with Joe at 3pm today at his office at 302 Washington Avenue ext.

Mike OBrien will be there--he is the Albany city council member I have worked with on Loughlin--he was also on the phone yesterday with Joe. Joe asked that the conversation be kept private (he asked at the end of the conversation--which by newspaper reporting thinking does not cover the previous conversation only what comes after that--but I am telling you 7 because I need advice--but I have no intention at this time of broadcasting it) Bill Goergen is a very supportive resident--architect retired---lives on Providence St.

Now--what to ask and what to oppose---storm water?---parking?---entry and exits from property?---height?---restricted to persons over age 55?---appearance?---number of buildings?---please add others along with any thing else that comes to mind. Is an aptmemnt house better than a dorm? Joe said that the apartment house would be unrelated to SunyPoly and Suny Albany--but if the cost of an aptmemnt is competitive with student apartments being construced on Washington Ave then what does that mean? So what will be the rent and how does it compare with private student dorm rents? Restaurant on site?---bar on site? Martha's husband Steve has offered to accompany me to the meeting--I do not like to attend these alone. I do not think that all of us should be there but one more--if anyone is available--would be welcome. Thanks.

Don

Doug and Carol

10:04 AM (2 hours ago)to me, James, Ellen, Laura, Martha, Peter

Don -

My concerns would be around the review process that will be followed in this case. It seems clear that something went awry with the original plan to build dorms and office space for SUNY Poly on this site, and now the people behind the original scheme are trying to unload the properties that they purchased.

The fact that an ill-advised scheme has gone off the rails should not result in a short circuiting of a proper review process for a major development project. Whomever it is that is considering taking ownership should be subject to whatever review would normally be required for any project they might propose. They should get no special treatment because they are helping the ill-advised speculators out of a jam.

This is the message I would want to Mike O'Brien - no special favors to the purchaser. The neighborhood needs to be fully involved in whatever is being considered, and there can be no fait accompli for the use of the property assuming the purchase goes through.

Ellen Manning

10:31 AM (2 hours ago) to me I would love to see some affordable senior housing nearby, but given the location and the parties involved that seems unlikely. Most likely, something along the lines of the Alexander, with a parking garage within the structure, is what Columbia has in mind.

All of the points you mentioned in your email are important. As Doug said, the review process is crucial, and this is just the beginning. As the property is located in the City of Albany we should certainly expect due diligence from the city planning department and other involved parties.

James White

11:55 AM (46 minutes ago)

to Doug, me, Ellen, Laura, Martha, Peter  
Don,

I must pick up my grandson around 2:30 today, so I am not available for this meeting.

Doug makes a valid point (while we don't know if they are looking to fast track), all legal/environmental reviews should take place.

My major concern is the proposed density - redevelopment of a property that had 11 homes and is now proposed to grow and handle 170 apartments.

(These are the numbers from your note above - I find these numbers shocking). This says to me that the building(s) will be large, would require parking for 250-400 cars and would be a detriment to the character of the adjacent neighborhood.

~~Green spec~~  
~~House~~  
~~the program~~