



LAKE • GEORGE
WATERKEEPER®

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June 3, 2009

Hon. Robert Blais, Mayor
Village of Lake George
Old Post Road
Lake George, NY 12845

Re: Village Planning Board Decisions

Dear Mayor Blais:

This letter regards a recent decision by the Village Planning Board to revise conditions placed on an application which would have provided water quality improvements to runoff from a nearly completely impervious lot in close proximity to Lake George.

First, I would like to recognize the Board's responsibility for application review, their dedication and hours of service in the best interest of the community. Second, it is not this office's intent to create more attention to the unfortunate circumstances which developed around this application. I feel this particular application, revision of Duffy's Convenience Store change of use, is an example of how the planning process should work to allow applicants to achieve their goals while utilizing the opportunity to improve the community.

I was in attendance at the December 17, 2008 Planning Board meeting when the Planning Board discussed the Duffys' application and held a public hearing. Many aspects of this application were discussed including building design, exterior facilities, parking, the extent of paving, permeability and stormwater. In regards to stormwater, one Board member asked about a stormwater plan and the applicant stated there was no intention of making stormwater management improvements. Doug Frost informed the Board that a stormwater plan was not required for the project; however, members of the Board expressed genuine concern for improving runoff and comments from the public in attendance (and not from this author) encouraged the incorporation of stormwater management even if it was not a requirement. After this discussion, it was agreed to install two drywells which would reduce stormwater runoff from the property and this was placed in the approving motion. In addition, there was a commitment for the installation of a small permeable landscaped area which would improve stormwater runoff through additional areas for infiltration.

It was disappointing and troubling to hear of the decision by the Village Planning Board at their recent Planning Board meeting to alter the conditions in the approving motion to reduce the



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stormwater management proposed for the project. This was troubling for a couple of reasons:

- This item was not on the agenda and therefore the public was not aware action would be taken on this project. These proposed changes would have been a concern to those who review the Planning Board agendas for projects which may impact the water quality of Lake George, including our office.
- Given the public comments and concern at the original public hearing, it would have been reasonable to reopen the public hearing for the proposed changes.

The Lake George Waterkeeper has recognized the significance of your actions on the protection of Lake George and its water quality while maintaining a balance with economic needs of the community. Unfortunately, decisions by the Planning Board as the one discussed does not maintain that same level of balance and protection for Lake George.

As always, thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with the Village of Lake George in defending the natural resources of Lake George and its watershed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Navitsky". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christopher Navitsky, PE
Lake George Waterkeeper

cc: Mr. Robert Mastrantoni, Chairman
Village of Lake George Planning Board