



Laura Cohen <lcohen100@gmail.com>

South Allen St. Park

Laura Cohen <lcohen100@gmail.com>

Tue, Nov 26, 2013 at 10:46 AM

To: Julie Elson <jelson510@earthlink.net>

Cc: Brad Glass <GlassB@ci.albany.ny.us>, Mark Larose <mlarose165@icloud.com>, Laura Cohen <lcohen100@gmail.com>

I have put in some phone calls this morning and found out a few things. All of this is new to me, maybe not to all of you. I request that all of you - and your neighbors - also call these people to express your concerns. We need many people to get involved. I can't do it alone.

Bob Van Amberg at the Mayor's office told me this: The City sold the South Allen Street land to James Googas. The city went to the state legislature during the last session to designate the land as "city parkland" - promising to establish an equal amount of parkland elsewhere - and the legislature agreed. So the wetland parcel was sold. All of our previously-expressed concerns - to Jim Sano and others - were ignored.

From what I can tell, the fact of the parcel as a wetland was not mentioned to the legislature. Van Amberg knew nothing about the land being a wetland. This goes along with my suspicions that the parties involved have tried to bypass the reality of the wetland.

Van Amberg suggested that I talk to Brad Burns, attorney with the Corporation Council, who put together the land sale. I put in a call to him. 434-5050. Seems like a moot point, though.

I spoke with Bill Lecuyer (434-5940) of Engineering. He was unaware that the project was moving forward. The only permitting his office would do would be for grading. Bill says that a project like this will start with Planning and he suggested I speak to Brad Glass - and Brad, I see that you are getting this message.

Bill recommended that we contact the Army Corps to alert them to this project. (I had already left a message.) The Army Corps will proactively get involved even if it hasn't been contacted first by the developer. THIS NEEDS TO HAPPEN!

I put in the call at the Army Corps to Andy Bangler, 266-6356. Please do the same! The last I heard, Albany County is in Andy's jurisdiction. Andy needs to look up the Multare record associated with the South Allen Street wetland to see how the Corps (before Andy's time) stopped Multare from improper fill near the wetland and made him do remediation. Emphasize that when the Corps examines this wetland, we are confident it will find it to be a Water of the United States - an integrated waterway and not isolated.

We should all be concerned about the destruction of this wetland waterway and the potential for flooding in our neighborhoods. Among other things, I don't know how any builder could get himself insured given the risks.

Laura

On Tue, Nov 26, 2013 at 9:01 AM, Julie Elson <jelson510@earthlink.net> wrote:

would you have the documents related to this project? Joe Igoe called in response to my inquiry and said the project was moving along - what are the next steps?

----- Original Message -----

Subject:South Allen St. Park

Date:Mon, 25 Nov 2013 16:40:38 -0500

From:Julie Elson <jelson510@earthlink.net>

To:Jigoe19932@aol.com

Dear Joe,

two constituents have inquired about recent removal of trash, picnic table and fences from the park area on South Allen. Do you have information about what is going on? and it would be great if you could attend our Dec 5 meeting!!

Julie Elson
New Scotland Woodlawn Neighborhood Association