
New Scotland Woodlawn NA traffic discussion October 4

Jim Sano <jsano15@aol.com>
To: jelson510@earthlink.net
Cc: lcohen100@gmail.com

Sat, Sep 8, 2012 at 2:41 AM

Julie,

I am fine in arranging a separate meeting for the neighbors, which has been the case when we have had development proposals of this magnitude. I just thought the NA would be a good place to begin the discussion since it falls inside NS/Woodlawn boundaries, but that is your call as NA President. I spoke to Bill Trudeau today on something unrelated and he believes he will be able to attend October 4 and will formally reply shortly.

As for improvements to closer playgrounds, means money from the sale of the two parcels by NYS statute must go towards improvements to existing parks or towards the purchase of new parkland, what some Common Council members wanted was to make sure that these funds went towards playgrounds in close proximity to this park.

As for looming development from Goodman there is nothing pending at all, I have not heard anything new since we last had a meeting two summers ago and he currently has no new plans. Any future development of that area as suggested by some at that meeting should be multi phased and involve re-development of the entire area including the apartments. But as I previously said there is nothing pending outside of Mr. Goodman still looking for investors to redevelop the former drugstore.

I am happy to see the church on Cortland being used again and have not heard of any issues involving parking, if you have received any comments/complaints involving parking at the church please forward them so that maybe we can assist in reducing the problem.

As for the new construction at the corner of Dale Place and South Allen, give me a call and we can walk that area and you can point out to me what exactly is deficient and we can have buildings and codes examine the structure for violations.

As for Mr. Googas project coming out of the blue, I agree, he has talked about developing this area for at least three years to myself and Mr. Igoe but nothing beyond talk and did not warrant any mention until he finally had a proposal for development which he now has brought forth and I wanted to make sure that I informed those affected as soon as possible.

Jim Sano
jsano15@aol.com

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

From: Julie Elson <jelson510@earthlink.net>
To: Jim Sano <jsano15@aol.com>
Cc: lcohen100 <lcohen100@gmail.com>
Sent: Fri, Sep 7, 2012 10:06 pm
Subject: Re: New Scotland Woodlawn NA traffic discussion October 4

Jim, I think that it would make more sense to arrange a separate meeting with the neighbors, such as Laura, who actually live near the proposed project than asking Mr. Googas to present at the October 4 neighborhood association meeting - since we don't draw many attendees from that area and it is not as commonly a traveled street - ooh compared to New Scotland!!!

also, what do you mean by a improvements to closer playgrounds, closer to whom?

South Allen is certainly in a state of flux: the vacant buildings at the corner of New Scotland and the looming development by Goodman, Onderdonk!!, the poor structural state of the old garden apartments, the shoddy construction and sorry condition of the newest construction on South Allen - at the corner of Dale Place, the rebirth of the church on the corner of Cortland which needs more parking space and now this - out of the blue.

On 09/07/2012 09:23 PM, Jim Sano wrote:

Laura,

I am unaware of any issues with wetlands on this site or any previous development for the area in question. I am not advocating for or against this project at this time. I have had many discussions with Mr. Googas over the last so many years and there were countless false starts to get to where this project was even a viable presentation. I am eliciting the NA to gauge what public opinion would be and to include them in the early discussions regarding this project so if it is to go forward that most if not all the neighbors concerns are addressed. I am also trying to be fair to Mr. Googas and provide him a public forum to present his proposal and to listen to neighbors concerns/comments and respond. I have copied Mr. Googas on this email, to facilitate dialogue between yourself and Mr. Googas. I would be happy to sit down with both of you as well to review this proposed project. I would be very interested to see what material you have in regard to wetlands for this area and see if it is applicable for the proposed site of this project.

Jim Sano
jsano15@aol.com

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

From: Laura Cohen <lcohen100@gmail.com>
To: jsano15 <jsano15@aol.com>
Cc: Julie Elson <jelson510@earthlink.net>
Sent: Fri, Sep 7, 2012 6:57 pm
Subject: Re: New Scotland Woodlawn NA traffic discussion October 4

Hi Jim,

What is this plan for building apartments on the ravine on the back part of Onderdonk? According to the Army Corps of Engineers, this ravine contains a federally protected wetland that can't be disturbed. I'm shocked that someone apparently been allowed to come up with initial plans to destroy it - unless there is something I don't understand.

You may remember that Jeff Multare attempted to build houses across from my house on Onderdonk, but the Army Corps stopped him because he was disturbing this same wetland. I worked closely with the Army Corps at that time so I know what I'm talking about. The Corps was quite insistent that this wetland not be disturbed and Multare was fined several times to make him stop developing his property. The so-called vacant land on South Allen is much closer to the protected wetland than Multare's property.

In addition, that "small park" is actively used by the neighborhood. I can hear the kids playing there from my house all summer. It's been there for many years. I've met adults who speak fondly of using it. Does the neighborhood know that someone is hoping to close it for personal profit?

Finally, why allow someone to destroy what is one of the last bits of forever wild in Albany?

Please explain. Thanks.

But please be advised that I'll be contacting the Army Corps about this. Has James Googas filed any papers yet? Would you please give me contact info on him?

Laura Cohen

cc: Julie

On Fri, Sep 7, 2012 at 6:20 PM, Julie Elson <jelson510@earthlink.net> wrote:

your thoughts on this proposed development and have you ever heard of James Googas?

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

Subject:Re: New Scotland Woodlawn NA traffic discussion October 4

Date:Fri, 7 Sep 2012 09:23:53 -0400 (EDT)

From:Jim Sano <jsano15@aol.com>

To:jelson510@earthlink.net

Julie,

I would also like to invite Mr. James Googas to explain a project that he is interested in doing on South Allen Street on the vacant land by the little pocket park. It involves many things including closing that small park and using the money from the sale of that land at closer playgrounds for improvements. It also involves permanently closing Dale Place from ever being a street. He very much wants to explain what he wants to do with his senior apartments he is planning on this 17 lot parcel that mostly is the ravine on the backside of Onderdonk. Call me if you want to chat about this or meet with Mr. Googas ahead of time. I do not believe the project abuts your property.

Jim Sano

jsano15@aol.com

577-6158(c)

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

From: Julie Elson <jelson510@earthlink.net>

To: wtrudeau <wtrudeau@albany-ny.org>; Jim Sano <Jsano15@aol.com>

Sent: Thu, Sep 6, 2012 1:42 pm

Subject: New Scotland Woodlawn NA traffic discussion October 4

Mr. Trudeau, I would like to invite you to discuss traffic control for the New Scotland corridor and adjacent streets. Our meeting is October 4, 7pm at the First Congregational Church on the corner of Quail and Woodlawn. I can forward to a compilation of some of the concerns and suggestions of the residents of the New Scotland Woodlawn neighborhood.

Julie Elson

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

Subject:Re: New Scotland Woodlawn NA comments on New Scotland traffic

Date:Tue, 4 Sep 2012 12:25:12 -0400 (EDT)

From:Jim Sano <jsano15@aol.com>

To:jelson510@earthlink.net

To all, I could not agree with the comments more, I have asked Chief Krokoff to send Bill Trudeau traffic safety engineer and/or other worthy representatives to formulate a long term schedule for steady enforcement along this corridor in conjunction with a public service campaign to educate folks of the dangers of running red lights and illegal right on red turns. Just a few minor corrections APD traffic engineering has been and currently is till working on a traffic study for this corridor, there are pending upgrades at many of the intersections along New Scotland Ave and complete signal replacement for South Allen, South Main and Manning intersections as part of the St. Peters expansion project(their expense) those improvements should be ready to occur shortly. When I most recently inquired about these upgrades I was told they were in the final planning stages and would soon be constructed. Hopefully we can get someone to come in and give all a timetable and updated status for improvements and to address our concerns.

Jim Sano

jsano15@aol.com

