March 11, 2013

Updates: FASNY and Ridgeway Garden Center

Dear Neighbor-

Spring is in the air and we have some news to report...

FASNY - The French American School has submitted its draft FEIS (Final Environmental Impact Statement) to the City. The next step is for the Common Council to determine if the draft FEIS is complete. As with the DEIS (Draft Environmental Impact Statement) submitted and reviewed in 2012, the determination of completeness is not equivalent to approval. The draft FEIS is FASNY's attempt to respond to all of the comments to its DEIS including the comments from the public and those from the various city boards and departments. There is no time requirement or limit for the City's completeness evaluation; it could take several weeks but is not likely to take longer than two months.

Once the draft FEIS is deemed complete by the Council, it will be substantively reviewed. The City will eventually establish a final version of the FEIS. Although FASNY has prepared the draft FEIS, the Common Council is responsible for the adequacy and accuracy of the FEIS. The FEIS consists of (i) the DEIS including any necessary revisions and supplements, (ii) copies or a summary of the substantive comments received and their sources and (iii) the Council's response to the comments.

Once the FEIS is finalized, the SEQR (State Environmental Quality Review) process requires that the Common Council must prepare its own written Findings Statement. The Findings certify that the requirements of SEQR have been met. A positive Findings Statement means that the FASNY application for a special permit is approvable after consideration of the FEIS. A positive Findings Statement also demonstrates that the proposed development would avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts presented in the FEIS and weighs and balances them with social, economic and other essential considerations. If the special permit application is not approvable, a negative Findings Statement documenting the reasons for the denial will be prepared. The Council will adopt either a positive or negative Findings Statement.

We will keep you posted.

On a related note, if you find that the winter weather has been unkind to your "Stop FASNY" signs or you wish to add a sign to you lawn, please let us know. There are new signs available for display.

Ridgeway Garden Center - Many of our neighbors have noticed an increase and change in the activities at the Ridgeway Garden Center (formerly known as Green Lawn Garden Center). The new activities include (but are not limited to) many large trucks making deliveries at early hours and restricting traffic flow on Ridgeway. Although many of the details remain unclear, we have learned that a "Stop Work" order has been issued in connection with a change in grade and the introduction of new materials

near the western boundary of the garden center's property. We are attempting to find out more from the City and will be let you know as soon as possible.

Thank you.

-Terence

Terence Guerriere

President, Gedney Association

Gedney Association Board Members:

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