



Gedney Association

P.O. Box 134 • Gedney Station • White Plains, NY 10605

September 18, 2013

FASNY FEIS Accepted – Next Steps...

Dear Neighbors—

Monday night the Common Council voted to accept the FASNY FEIS (Final Environmental Impact Statement) as complete and move the SEQR (State Environmental Quality Review) process to the next stage. The vote was 5-2 with Council Members Lecuona and Krolian voting not to accept.

Although we don't feel the FEIS is complete because of the introduction of alternative entrances from North Street and Bryant Avenue without adequate review, please don't lose heart. In fact, there is good reason to be encouraged by some of the Council Members' votes and remarks. All of the Council members including the Mayor made comments that indicate that they remain open to the possibility that FASNY's plans do not sufficiently mitigate the numerous and substantial adverse environmental impacts to the property and to the community. And, please remember, in the SEQR process, acceptance of an FEIS is a relatively low threshold of acceptance. Generically, acceptance is perceived as tantamount to approval. **Acceptance of the FEIS as complete does not, in any way, indicate approval of the special permit to construct FASNY's planned campus.**

Next steps:

Attend the School Board Meeting on Monday, September 23 at 7:30 PM at Education House, 5 Homeside Lane

- The proposed North Street entrance to the FASNY property requires that the entrance to the High School and parking nearby be moved and reconstructed. Anyone familiar with the entrance would quickly tell you this is not a good idea.
- The School Board must approve of these changes before the FASNY plans can be approved.
- The School Board will be listening to the FASNY presentation and will be allowing comment from the public. Please come to voice your

- opinion and to support your friends and neighbors.
- We will be making a request that the meeting be moved to a larger venue to accommodate a larger crowd. We will keep you posted.

The next stage, the adoption of Environmental Findings Statement, is the most important stage of the SEQR process. We will be working diligently with our team of experts (Legal, Traffic, Hydrology and Air/Noise Pollution) to introduce the appropriate Findings to the Council for their consideration and adoption. The vote to adopt the Findings Statement is not yet set and will likely be in mid-October.

What is an Environmental Findings Statement? (you may ask...)

An environmental findings statement is a written document, prepared following acceptance of a FEIS, which declares that all SEQR requirements for making decisions on an action have been met. The findings statement identifies the social and economic, as well as environmental considerations that have been weighed in making a decision to approve or disapprove an action. A positive findings statement means that, after consideration of the FEIS, the project or action can be approved, and the action chosen is the one that minimizes or avoids environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable. For an action which can be approved, the Council's findings statement must articulate the balancing of adverse environmental impacts against the needs for, and benefits of, the action.

If the action cannot be approved based on the analyses in the FEIS, a negative findings statement must be prepared documenting the reasons for the denial. The Council must not approve any part of an action, if it cannot support positive findings and demonstrate, consistent with social, economic and other essential considerations from among the reasonable alternatives, that the action:

1. minimizes or avoids adverse environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable, and,
2. incorporates into the decision those mitigation measures identified in the SEQR process as practicable

Finally, on the legal front, we have been consulting with our legal counsel to determine our options and the best course of action. We have some time to make a decision and need not rush into anything.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Council meeting on Monday night and for all your letters, emails and support. Much work has been done but much more awaits us.

See you at the School Board meeting on Monday evening!

*Terence Guerriere,
President, Gedney Association*