



Gedney Association

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

September 27, 2012

First Session of FASNY Public Hearing - Report / Second Session October 17

Dear Neighbors-

I apologize for the delay of this email but family obligations and my "other job" demanded more of my time than usual this past week.

FASNY Environmental Impact Public Hearing:

First Session Was Well Attended - The first session of the public hearing on the environmental review of the proposed development of the former Ridgeway CC by the French-American School of New York was held at City Hall on Wednesday, September 19 and it was a packed house! The crowd seemed to be equally divided between White Plains residents opposing the planned development of the FASNY property and members of the FASNY community showing their support for their school. For those who were able to attend in person, thank you very much! Many of you were not able to sit in the council chambers and were relegated to the hallways on the first and second floors. However, it was an impressive showing especially since many of our neighbors were unable to attend last week and will be attending the second session next month, October 17.

A Brief Recap - For those who were unable to attend or watch it on television or the internet (or went to sleep at a reasonable

hour), let me provide a brief recap of the highlights of the evening:

- FASNY presented the basics of their plan to build a three building educational complex along Ridgeway Street on both sides of Hathaway Lane advancing along Ridgeway to the intersection of Ridgeway and Fairway Drive and stretching behind the homes on Murchison Place and Hotel Drive and across Gedney Esplanade. A significant part of the presentation discussed a proposed conservancy on the portions of the property not to be developed with buildings, parking lots, internal roadways and athletic facilities.

- I spoke attempting to emphasize that FASNY's educational mission was not at issue. Instead, I reminded the council of FASNY's role as a developer of a large complex of buildings that will bring significant negative environmental impacts to the neighborhoods nearest to the proposed project and significant negative economic impacts to the city as a whole. I also stated that because of the size and scope of the DEIS documentation to be reviewed, the Gedney Association would be presenting the bulk of its speakers at the October 17 session.

- Although there were many excellent speakers in opposition to the project, the highly effective group presentation of Donn Sand, Steve Gould and Howard Hawkins concerning traffic, Bob Stackpole's revealing discussion of the existing easements for storm water drainage affecting the property, Pat Lee's revelation of contamination of part of the wetland by the debris from an abandoned tennis court and Ellen Lee's cogent declaration of just 23 feet of separation of the FASNY planned parking lot from the back of her property were particularly memorable. EcoNeighbors member Yvonne Gumowitz' powerful expose of the financial and other connections between FASNY trustees and advisors to the 16 environmental groups which had recently declared their support for the conservancy was perhaps the highlight of the evening.

- We were also pleased to add Carhart Neighborhood

Association to the growing list neighborhood associations who have declared their opposition to the FASNY project. Carhart's co-president, Claudia Murphy spoke passionately as a community leader and a small business owner.

· The overwhelming bulk of the speakers in support of FASNY's project were either FASNY parents or representatives of the some of the aforementioned environmental groups. The speakers generally emphasized the school's laudable educational mission, the perceived need for a conservancy in White Plains or the benefits of adding a French cultural institution to the community of White Plains. There were a few supporters who were White Plains residents and did not have any likely connection to the school.

What is next? - Please plan to attend the second and final session of the public hearing on Wednesday, October 17 at 7PM at City Hall. Please plan to arrive early in order to get a seat. Consider sharing your opinion at the hearing by speaking. You need not speak long or as an expert. If you would like some guidance about what you might say, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Annual Meeting, Annual Dues and a Request for Donations -

The Annual meeting of the Gedney Association will be held Wednesday, November 14 at Ridgeway Elementary School. A mailing was recently sent to Gedney residents which included a request for donations in addition to the annual dues. Our efforts to oppose FASNY's proposed project do have a cost. We have hired consultants for traffic, noise/air pollution and hydrology. We have also hired an attorney to help advise us. Please consider making a donation by check or via PayPal/credit card through our website <http://www.gedneyfarms.net/> .

Thank you in advance for you generosity.

We will keep you informed and we hope to see you on

October 17!

- Terence

Terence Guerriere

President, Gedney Association

Gedney Association Board Members:

John Sheehan, Vice President

Midge Sanchez, Secretary

Evelyne Klein, Treasurer

Yvonne Gumowitz, Information Officer

Ellen Del Vecchio-Lee

Guy D'Antona

Anna Fagan

Garry Klein

Elsie Lahrmann

Barbara Schwarz

Robert Stackpole