ment coverage with Halfmoon.

acknowledged the competition for the selves.

they've either borrowed the county' Town officials in both municipalities hired a contractor or rented one then

Proposed Longkill Road development riles FOLK

Grassroots group comes prepared to present its case

By GLENN GRIFFITH

Community News

CLIFTON PARK - Residents surrounding a proposed Longkill Road housing subdivision Tuesday asked that the Planning Board prepare an environmental impact statement forward.

Kain Development Group, LLC wants to build 18 homes on an 18.75 acre parcel known to many in the area as the Longkill woods. The parcel is on from Parkside Drive.

The development's rear yards will

Residents living near the parcel drainage problems. have formed a grass roots support bers of the newly formed group came fied as an isolated wetland. to the public hearing armed with and their attorney.

Nearly every speaker sported one of S. Baker.

doubt the project requires an environ- give it no comfort.

mental impact statement. He recomlaration on the state environmental quality review act (SEQRA) immediimpact statement.

"By doing this," he said, "it puts the the town." applicant on notice, provides order, how to develop this property in an environmentally sensitive manner consistent with all applicable laws."

with the proposal including an illegally approved variance for an access road. before allowing the project to move The variance had placed it adjacent to the habitat of a state threatened species of butterfly, the Frosted Elfin. "The need for the variance in the first place, and the resulting move to place it next to the wildlife habitat alone the east side of Longkill Road across necessitates and environmental impact statement," Baker said.

He pointed to the project's plan to be separated from those on Hearthside truck in loads of soil for back fill as cre-Drive to the west by a treed buffer ating more uncertainties in an area already containing many existing

Baker said a small pond on the site group called FOLK, Friends of has been neglected in the planning by Longkill, to protest the design. Mem- everyone because it has been classi-

"Such a classification," he said. power point presentations, petitions, "does not void the board of its responsibilities under SEQRA."

The attorney told the board its policy the group's green FOLK buttons on of relying on the state Environmental their lapel, including attorney Jeffrey Conservation Department's general hours at a time. permitting practices for acceptable Baker told the board there is no storm water drainage design should

"Encon," Baker said, "puts applimended the board pass a negative dec- cant's on the honor system. They assume they've done what they are required to do. Ninety-nine percent of ately and commit to creating the the time they don't review the plans. That duty is an obligation that falls on

He scolded the board and the Planand gives information. This is the right ning Department for making it difficult thing to do as we try and figure out for residents to get access to information to prepare for the public hearing.

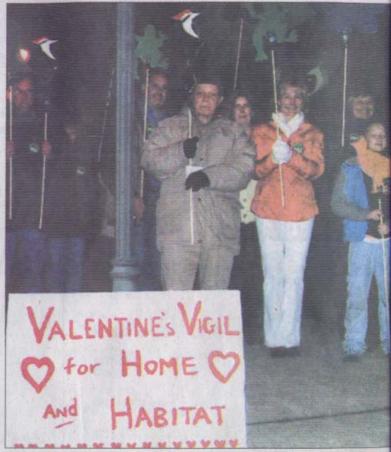
"We need access to Planning Department files," he said. "They need Baker cited a number of problems to be readily available. When we were finally given access to the files we were told we could not copy anything. I needn't remind anyone that any document submitted to the town by a third party is a public document."

The 18 others who spoke were residents from the roads surrounding the parcel. Most voiced concern with the potential for water problems to their

Gail and Tony Wassenaar live next to the project's proposed access road on Longkill Road. The two have put more than \$10,000 into keeping their basement dry. Gail Wassenaar described the drainage situation she and her husband face daily.

"We have a primary sump pump that goes on every minute and 47 seconds 24 hours a day," she said. "We have a back-up pump, a stand-by generator in case of power outages, and a battery operated back-up pump because you

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can't run generators more than eight Members of FOLK (Friends of Longkill) gathered at the Clifton Park Plan ning Board meeting to voice their opposition to further development in the Longkill Road area. The neighbors cite environmental concerns as the reason development should not be allowed.

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Drainage concerns

Continued from I

I have holes in my basement walls to drain the water into some tubing to a pail before it's pumped out. This is what we do to keep our basement dry now."

Wassenaar read part of the town's comprehensive plan aloud to the board and questioned whether approving the subdivision conformed with the plan's recommendations.

Bill Lorensen, Hearthside Drive presented a personal power point presentation that compared engineering theory to the realty seen from his back vard. He supported the request for the environmental impact statement and suggested Kain Development post a long term bond as a sign of support for their engineering design's drainage system.

One supporter of the housing project was Bill Mackesey the park district chairman to the Longkill Park District. Mackesey said he backed the plan and looked forward to the trails it will add to the town and the connections it will make to Malta.

The board took no action at the conclusion of the comments with regard to the requests for an environmental impact statement or SEQRA action. The public hearing was adjourned and remains open.

Planning Board chairman Steve Bulger promised a point by point answer to each comment with input from Kain

Development