

Neighbors fight 18-lot subdivision

People living on Longkill Road tell Clifton Park Planning Board site is environmentally sensitive

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CLIFTON PARK -- Longkill Road residents opposed to a proposed 18-lot subdivision demonstrated recently at a Planning Board meeting. The activists held lit signs showing the wildlife that inhabits the 19 wooded acres west of Longkill Road, including birds, frogs and butterflies.

"We had concerns of the devastation to the land itself," said Gayle Wassenaar, a spokeswoman for Friends of the Longkill, or FOLK.

"Our driveway will become the entrance road," added Wassenaar, who lives at 85 Longkill Road. "We are literally right in it."

FOLK also gave a 357-signature petition against the development to the Planning Board. The New Jersey-based developer, Kain Development Group LLC, proposes an 18-lot plan adjacent to the Country Knolls-Longkill neighborhood.

Clifton Park Planning Director Jason Kemper said the board took no action at its last meeting and will hold another public hearing. Ground water and storm water management issues need to be addressed when the developer resubmits plans, Kemper said.

FOLK contends the property, which includes wetlands, is environmentally sensitive, and wants town officials to do an environmental impact study. Removing the woods from the area would create drainage problems, threaten water retention and destroy wildlife habitats, a recent FOLK news release claimed.

The woodlands are used for recreation by residents.

The town, with a population of 36,977, has seven other subdivision applications in the planning stage, all with more than 10 lots.

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