

*Comments presented by Bill Lorensen at the Clifton Park Planning Board Meeting, December 13, 2005*

Chairman Bulger, Members of the Planning Board and Mr. Kemper,

I am Bill Lorensen and reside with my wife Terri at 14 Hearthside Drive in northern Clifton Park. I thank you for this opportunity to briefly address the Board during this open comment period of the Planning Board meeting.

I will keep my remarks short. Terri and I are both life long residents of the area: I grew up in Lansingburgh and Terri was raised in Latham. After graduating from RPI, I worked for 10 years at the Watervliet Arsenal as a Research Mathematician and have worked the last 28 years at GE Research as a Graphics Engineer. We have resided at 14 Hearthside Drive since November 1970. We are the original owners of our 4 bedroom Van Patten ranch.

Terri and I are here tonight to voice our opposition to the proposed 18 lot Longkill subdivision by Kain Development. You should all have copies of three letters that we have sent: one dated October 3, another dated November 28 and a third letter dated December 12 to John Connell, Army Corp of Engineers.

Terri and I have major concerns about the development of these 18 acres. Our letters describe the impact that this subdivision will have on our lifestyle, home and neighborhood. Our major concern is the severe water problems we have coped with over the past 35 years living on Hearthside Drive. These problems are caused by a high water table, extensive wet areas and wetlands within the Longkill forest.

I am not an authority on wetlands, especially concerning the technical definition of wetlands used by the US Army Corps of Engineers. But, as our letter dated November 2005 illustrates, the United States Geological Survey shows extensive wetlands that exist within the proposed subdivision and the adjacent forest in the Town of Ballston. The USGS wetlands are consistent with our experience having lived next to this area for 35 years. The limited, isolated wetlands presented by the builder are not consistent with our experience.

Terri and I feel that this subdivision will have significant adverse impacts on the environment, our home and our neighbors' homes. We ask that the Planning Board, acting as the Lead Agency, make a positive declaration and require Kain Development to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement. This impartial analysis will show the significant adverse environmental impacts of the proposed subdivision and examine how these impacts can be avoided or minimized. This Environmental Quality Review will also weigh our quality of life concerns versus the commercial interests of the developer.

The Clifton Park Planning Board is the only advocate that we have to protect our property and lifestyle. Chairman Bulger, we look to your Planning Board to provide objective and fair recommendations for responsible development in Clifton Park.

Finally, we request the Planning Board to include these comments and the contents of our three letters in the public minutes of this meeting. We hope that future homeowners in Clifton Park will be able to freely access our information on the Internet. We feel that this information will help them make informed decisions about their future residences. We have provided a CDROM with soft copy of our comments and the three letters.