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AMAZON PROJECT DEALT ANOTHER BLOW BY GRAND ISLAND TOWN OFFICIALS

July 24, 2020 Grand Island, N.Y.— In its 7/23/20 regularly scheduled meeting the Grand Island Conservation Advisory Board (CAB) voted unanimously (9-0) to pass two motions in their recommendations to the Town Board. The first motion passed was to recommend a positive declaration on SEQRA that would necessitate a complete environmental impact study for the project. The second recommendation was to deny the zoning request from M1 (light industrial) to PDD (Planned Development District). The nine members cited multiple reasons for approving these motions, centering on its lack of alignment with the town's Comprehensive Plan and threats to the natural environment. While TC Buffalo claims the warehouse will have no significant environmental impact, CAB members found that the scope of the proposed project adjacent to a state park, hiking trails, streams and neighborhood homes "would have obvious significant negative impacts". The CAB specifically described negative impacts upon air quality, noise levels, light pollution, and threats to flora and fauna. Board members also stated the proposed 100' height of the final facility is counter to the town's restrictions laid out in its 2018 comprehensive plan.

CAB's chairperson Jeffrey Green made the motion stating "due to the enormous environmental impacts Project Olive would have upon Grand Island, including noise pollution, air pollution, light pollution, traffic congestion, disruption of water flow, removal and destruction of flora and fauna, the relocation of the stream corridor, the Conservation Advisory Board recommends that the Town Board, as lead agency under NY State SEQR law, give Project Olive a positive declaration. This means a Type I action that requires a complete environmental impact statement (EIS) to account for its impact."

Grand Island's Planning Board on 7/13/20 issued the same recommendation not to promote Project Olive to the Town Council on 7/13/20 and stopped further discussion of the site plan. Although a 6/15/20 letter submitted by one member of the Long Range Planning Board stated the project does align with the comprehensive plan, it is not yet clear that the advisory board took a vote and the letter may not constitute a formal recommendation to the Town Council.

Coalition for Responsible Economic Development for Grand Island (CRED4GI)'s spokesperson Cathy Rayhill responded to the CAB's unanimous decision stating, "Alongside the Planning Board's vote not to approve the project based upon misalignment with the town's character, the Conservation Advisory Board lays out substantive reasons for the Town Council to conduct a complete, independent, environmental impact study of the site, which has not been undertaken to date. The developer's claims about minimal environmental impacts are based on a 30 year old SEQRA study." A CAB member noted that so far all parties have relied solely on information provided by the developer.

Starting at 1:04:15

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eigPMDIjIHU>