



PINELANDS PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

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Waterford Township - Ordinance #2011-19 PUBLIC HEARING - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2011 @ 9:30 am

Local Review Officer

In the 2009, the Pinelands Commission did an “Evaluation of the Local Review Officer Program” there were 3 positives and 16 negatives with this program.

The Local Review Officer (LRO) in Waterford has only done a total of 69 single family dwellings in the nine years that the Local Review Officer program has been in place.

The LRO program has not been expand to commercial development in any Pinelands Municipality. So why expand the LRO program to this big commercial development project? How has Waterford Township demonstrated that it is capable of implementing this LRO project effectively?

No threatened and endangered species survey

The 2008 Landscaping data comes up with Timber rattle snake, Eastern box turtle and Great Blue Heron on the site. The version 1.0 comes up with Timber rattle snake. I also spoke with Peter Winkler at NJ DEP landscaping and he said if I sent him a map of the area he would take a look to see if the new data coming out in the beginning part of next year has a more or less designation. His reply “*I looked up the property and it continues to be valued in Landscape.*”

Plants. . .

- ***There is no reliable way to try to determine, in any given situation, whether or not any given protected plant population exists on a site, except by examination of the site by an expert, on foot, at the right time of year.***

It is probably a safe bet that the majority of protected plant populations in the Pinelands occur within small confines, some are confined to one square foot. Others are confined to a few square feet. Additionally, a significant number of protected plant populations have not been documented at all.

- Existing data possessed by the Commission is incomplete.

- Existing data that may be available from the New Jersey Natural Heritage Program is incomplete.
- Aerial photos cannot provide evidence that no protected plant populations are on a site, unless the photos show there is no plant habitat on the site at all.

So how is the Commission ensuring that this project meets the standards of 7:50-6?

A reduction in oversight by the Commission is bound to trigger more violations, for which, as we all know, there is no reliable remedy.

Theresa Lettman
Director of Monitoring Programs

