



*Advocate.
Educate.
Act.*

Sustainable Saratoga
PO Box 454
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

info@sustainablesaratoga.org
www.sustainablesaratoga.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 1, 2014

Saratoga Springs, NY – Sustainable Saratoga is urging its supporters and concerned citizens to voice their concern against proposed changes in the Saratoga Springs Comprehensive Plan that would allow expanded development in the City's greenbelt. The issue is on the Saratoga Springs City Council's agenda this Tuesday, December 2nd.

Commissioner of Public Safety Chris Mathiesen proposed a resolution against Planned Unit Developments (PUDs) in the Conservation Development District (or greenbelt). PUDs are customized zones that allow additional uses and higher building density than that allowed by zoning. Currently, PUDs are allowed in the city, but not in the greenbelt.

"We commend Commissioner Mathiesen for stepping in to protect and preserve the greenbelt by presenting a resolution that supports the City in the Country concept and rejects PUDs in the greenbelt," said Harry Moran, Chair of Sustainable Saratoga, a local non-profit with more than 1,000 supporters that promotes sustainable practices and the protection of natural resources. "The community has spoken loudly and clearly that it does not want to open the door to dense development in the Conservation Development District. We hope that the entire City Council is hearing their voices and will support Commissioner Mathiesen's resolution."

After eighteen months of meetings and three votes that upheld the current policy regarding development in the rural areas in Saratoga Springs, the Comprehensive Plan Committee reversed its position and voted 7 to 6 to allow PUDs in the area known as the greenbelt. This historic vote by the Comprehensive Plan Committee paves the way for commercial and high-density development outside the urban core and has the potential to dramatically change the direction of the City's development.

Sustainable Saratoga has been a staunch supporter of the current vision of the City, which focuses on a strong urban core surrounded by a conservation development district, otherwise known as the greenbelt.

Contact: Harry Moran, Chair
harry@sustainablesaratoga.org
518-620-6139

##

About Sustainable Saratoga: Sustainable Saratoga is a not-for-profit organization that promotes sustainable practices and the protection of natural resources, through education, advocacy and action, for the benefit of current and future generations in the Saratoga Springs area. Since 2008, Sustainable Saratoga has been a leader in promoting awareness of environmental issues and what we as a local community can do to minimize our ecological impact while maintaining a high quality of life. For more information, visit <http://www.sustainablesaratoga.org/>.