



*Educate.  
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**Sustainable Saratoga**  
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November 17, 2020

Mayor Meg Kelly  
Commissioner of Finance, Michele Madigan  
Commissioner of Accounts, John Franck  
Commissioner of Public Safety, Robin Dalton  
Commissioner of Public Works, Skip Scirocco

**RE: Phase II Planning for Flat Rock Center**

Dear Mayor and Commissioners:

As you know, Sustainable Saratoga has focused on the development of the City-owned High Rock parking lot since a parking structure for the City Center was proposed in 2012. Because this important parcel is of great interest to all the people of the city, from the beginning we have advocated for a comprehensive planning approach with an open public process for the entire parcel. With the completion of the parking structure, we would like to revisit the commitments made by the City Council regarding the next phase of the development of Flat Rock Center.

On November 20, 2018 the City Council adopted a resolution which, among other things, separated the development of the parcel into two phases. Phase I would include the design and development of the Downtown Connector segment of the Greenbelt Trail and the parking structure. In Phase II, the Council and the committee who developed the original Flat Rock Center concept would work to "increase and reconfigure the public park, green space and outparcels," and the Council would "schedule a special meeting to present the proposals to the public for input and consideration." Sustainable Saratoga offered suggestions and design elements that could be incorporated into the Phase II design, and we offered to participate in that planning process.

We know that City government finances have suffered as a result of the general economic downturn caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, and that the City Council has had to reduce expenses and staffing to meet the challenge. We assume that the Phase II planning process is not likely to begin in the near future. However, we hope that the Council will begin the process as soon as conditions allow, with substantial public participation, as promised in the November 2018 resolution. We continue to hope that the Flat Rock Center committee will be expanded to include members of the general public, who have demonstrated strong interest in the future of this publicly-owned land, as well as a member of our organization. In the meantime, we urge the Council not to approve any significant change in the use of the portion of the parcel south of the City Center parking structure until the Phase II process has been completed.

We look forward to the eventual creation of an exciting plan for Flat Rock Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Art Holmberg".

Art Holmberg  
Chair, Sustainable Saratoga

