

A Public Informational Meeting regarding the Belmont Park Re-Development Project was held by the Village Board of Trustees and the Belmont Task Force for Community Leaders and residents on Wednesday, October 3, 2018 at 7:30 pm in the Recreation/Pool Building.

In attendance were: Mayor Dominick Longobardi, Deputy Mayor Kevin M. Fitzgerald, Trustees Lynn Pombonyo and Frank J. Chiara, Village Administrator Gerard M. Bambrick, Village Clerk Susan E. Walsh and Village Justice Douglas Hayden. Also attending were Belmont Task Force Members: Laura Ferone, Kevin Flood, Frank Gunther, Michael Longobardi, Stephen McAllister, Heather McClintock, Dennis McEnery, Marc Mullen, Christy Reisig, Bernadette Smith, Thomas Tweedy, and Douglas Vigo.

The purpose of this meeting, led by Deputy Mayor Kevin Fitzgerald, was to bring attention to the changes in the scope of the Belmont Park Re-Development Project by the Empire State Development Corp. There were approximately 150 interested residents in attendance.

Deputy Mayor Fitzgerald led the meeting with an in-depth power point presentation which may be found on the Village's website fpvillage.org outlining key concerns and potential impacts that Floral Park residents should be mindful of.

Concerns covered:

- ♦ The scope of the arena and hotel now includes 175 store mega mall (a/k/a scope-creep);
- ♦ Impacts on the Infrastructure – electric, water and sewage;
- ♦ Traffic – vehicular/truck congestion – will affect response time for emergency vehicles to calls and will require increase in staff – which means higher taxes;
- ♦ Quality of Life issues – heavy construction equipment causing pollution and noise for 28 months of construction;
- ♦ Unknown – what will NYRA's plans for expansion entail?

Mayor Longobardi reviewed the steps taken and the meetings that elected officials attended to make sure that Floral Park was represented. He added that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available during the 4th Quarter (which is now) and hopefully ESD will give Floral Park residents ample time to review and make comments.

Mayor Longobardi took questions from the audience – will the gates in the west end be controlled; LIRR station access at Belmont Park; use of the north lot in Belmont Park (behind Floral Park-Bellerose School); security, safety and health of citizens buffering the construction sites and the future renovations of the Belmont Racetrack; to name a few.

Deputy Mayor Fitzgerald urged everyone to please review the Draft Environmental Impact Statement when it becomes available, make your comments on the record, contact the elected officials listed on the back of the flyer handed out tonight, and to share this information with your neighbors and friends.

The meeting ended at 8:35 pm.

Susan E. Walsh
Village Clerk