

Schodack Supervisor's Report for June 2018

In a continuing effort to keep residents informed and aware of my activities I submit to them this summary of my activities for June of 2018. As always, more news and updates can be found on the Town's website or its social media pages by searching for Town of Schodack on Facebook or Twitter.

Over the past few months I have heard from many of you regarding the distribution center project proposed for a parcel of land located on Route 9 south of the 9&20 split. I appreciate all the input, supportive comments and concerns I've heard related to the project and your patience as we received more information regarding it.

As many of you must now be aware, at the June 18th meeting of the Planning Board we learned that the tenant of the project would be Amazon. While the identity of the tenant isn't the determining factor regarding how the Planning Board will make its decision, the news that it is Amazon provides us a better idea how this building will operate and the types of goods they will be handling. As I write this (June 19th), there are still some issues and reports that the Planning Board will need before it can make a decision. However, given the information that has come to light regarding this project and the proposed tenant being Amazon, I felt it prudent to give an update on the remaining process and some of the considerations that are being taken as we go forward.

First, I, along with many of our residents and local and state officials, share a level of excitement over the learning that Amazon was the intended tenant. As evident from the multitude of proposals from around the country in an attempt to secure the second Amazon headquarters, municipalities understand and desire the investment and economic activity Amazon would bring to their communities. While this is not the second headquarters, the interest in our Town by Amazon speaks to the strength of our Town's location and access to major markets. The work that is currently being done by our Rensselaer County IDA and the Empire State Development Corporation showed a shared desire by our County and State leadership to see projects of this type locate in our area.

While I did not envision our town being home to such project, the reality is when weighing the economic impact, the increase to our tax base, expansion to our infrastructure and addition of 800+ full-time employees as well as the additional workers employed during construction, I was forced to re-examine what I thought I knew and what the possibilities were for our Town. While I understand and appreciate the concerns that residents have raised regarding this proposal, I feel that the opportunities this project presents for our town as a whole are too numerous to discount. I respect the independence that the Planning Board must be given in regards to the performing of the duties it has been entrusted with. To that regard I have been hesitant to voice support for or against the project. However at this point I feel residents deserve to know I am supportive of this project going forward.

This does not mean this project is a done deal. While the public hearing is closed on the matter in the coming weeks the developer will be addressing issues raised by our Town Engineer and a State DOT study regarding traffic patterns will be submitted to the Planning Board. Once these issues and reports are addressed, then the Planning Board will move forward with a vote regarding the project. Please visit the Town's website to see when and at which meetings these matters will be addressed.

Throughout the course of this process there have been numerous documents, reports, studies, blueprints and rendered images submitted to our Planning Department. These are available for public

view during normal business hours at the Town Hall on the third floor. I encourage anyone who would like to see them to do so. We have strived to share any information we received with our residents and will continue to do so.

I would like to thank Our Towne for allowing me extra space this month to share this report with you. If you have any comments or concerns I welcome them and can be reached at (518)477-7918. Also as I mentioned earlier please check the Town's website for Planning Board meeting dates and agendas regarding the project, as well as following the Town on Facebook or Twitter by searching for Town of Schodack.