

Seven Peaks and Commerce Park at Wurtsboro Airport
THEY'RE BACK...!!!
by Paula Medley

On January 8, following a three year hiatus, Seven Peaks subdivision and Commerce Park were on the Mamakating Planning Board's agenda as updates presented by developer Shalom Lamm.

Seven Peaks, now without a hotel-resort, is further along in the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) process, currently readying a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), which entails written comments, but no hearing. The FEIS was authorized by the planning board three years ago despite vigorous lobbying by the BKAA and others for a supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) since the initial DEIS was woefully inadequate. Notably, the Town planning board, lead agency for this development's environmental review, is responsible for the FEIS, which is actually written by project sponsors.

Commerce Park is formulating a DEIS, which involves a public hearing and written remarks.

Read my accompanying opinion piece from the Shawangunk Journal to familiarize yourself with both proposals. To understand BKAA opposition, examine the appended maps and our experts' statements. The latter constitute the BKAA's response to a two-part Journal interview with Shalom Lamm, not printed due to size constraints. Retain this material as it will facilitate your future advocacy.

Having our consultants reacquaint themselves with pertinent information, draft letters, and design maps incurred significant charges that are nonetheless essential to a proactive strategy. Recent engineering bills total \$1614, while ecological fees amount to \$760. These costs, along with several more still to be paid, will rapidly deplete our Legal Fund's \$5,000 balance. Likewise, upcoming experts' analyses of Seven Peaks FEIS and Commerce Park's DEIS will necessitate thousands of dollars and demand immediate legal account transfusions to continue successful petitioning of our cause. To contribute, please send checks to the BKAA, P.O. Box 1121, Wurtsboro, NY, 12790 and write "legal fund" in the memo line. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

After experiencing an extensive interlude from "heavy duty" lobbying, it is time to "hunker down" and recall the charge from our Mission Statement: "Since our founding in 1972, our mission has been to protect the Basha Kill wetlands and surrounding area from ecological degradation, to promote education and respect for the environment in general and to preserve the beauty of the area."

Any questions? Call Paula Medley at (845)754-0743 or email info@thebashakill