Need Date of Meeting

The Town of Oyster Bay’s Planning Advisory Board held a meeting on date to review the Syosset Park Amazon Warehouse’s application at the intersection of Robbins Lane and Miller Place in Syosset.

Amazon brought witnesses and experts involved in the project to address issues brought up by residents and the Board, including the traffic and environmental impacts.

Jeffery Forchelli, a partner in Forchelli Deegan Terrana LLP, explained the details using an aerial photo in which VHB (what is VHB stand for), the civil engineering consultant firm, superimposed the proposed design. It can be found on the Town of Oyster Bay’s website provide link. The image provides the approximate distances the warehouse will be from residences and schools.(anything else?)

Terri Elkowitz, Senior Vice President at VHB, was the first witness to speak. Elkowitz has been working with the property owner (provide name of property owner) of 305 Robbins Lane since she was the lead consultant on the Syosset park multi-use project (describe the project). This project was brought before the Board a few years ago (when) and eventually got shut down(what happened, it didn't get approved or did the developer give up). The residence opposed this project because of the potential disturbance to the town landfill (why), the addition of school-aged children, and increase in traffic

“I can tell you, based upon the expanded environment assessment that was prepared by my firm, that this application either eliminates or significantly reduces the concerns that were expressed by the community on the prior application,” Elkowitz told the Board.

She referred to a chart that compares the prior Syosset Park application and the proposed delivery station. The table can also be found on the Town’s website (where?)

She assured the Board that peak traffic times would not be affected and there would be minimal environmental impact and disturbance.

Brad Griggs, Senior manager on their economic development team, called into the meeting. He walked the Board through a “day in the life” of operations at the Amazon delivery station. Throughout, Griggs referenced a color-coded map that is available to view on the Town’s website. He explained the routes vans would take to enter and exit the property and the times of which they will do so, as well as which side of the building they will go to for pick-up.(should you explain this further?)

Griggs also brought up Amazon Flex, a delivery service where people sign up to be an Amazon driver and use their personal vehicle to deliver packages, a similar concept to Uber and Lyft. He said that there would be approximately 75 Flex drivers at this location and will utilize one side of the building (which side?).

He answered questions posed by Chairman Angelo Stanco and Board members Anthony DiLeonardo, Louis Warner, and Clifford Chabina. (what were the nature of the questions).

The vans will fill up their gas tanks offsite, preferably on their way back to the warehouse at the end of the day, so the vans are full for the next day’s driver. Garbage pick-up will be done by a private carter about once a day or based on the carter’s schedule. There will be a 45-minute drive time for deliveries, which can vary in distance based on which part of the Island they are delivering. It won’t be an exact circle around the site.?

Barry Cohen, the environmental counsel (or consultant) for the applicant, spoke on the environmental condition of the site, which had been investigated for over three decades.

“The state agencies involved have determined on two occasions now that the site does not pose a risk to human health or the environment,” Cohen said. “The property can be developed in a matter that is safe to current and future neighboring property owners, as well as the site workers involved in the construction activity, and the future employees and users of the property.” (did they specify which State agencies?)

Issues due to transportation were addressed by Patrick Lenehan, director of transportation at VHB’s Long Island office. A traffic impact study was done to evaluate potential impact of transportation of the proposed Amazon site. The Town’s Department of Environmental Resources, the Town’s professional traffic engineer review consultant, the Nassau County Department of Public Works, and the New York State Department of Transportation reviewed the study. The study incorporated existing and future traffic conditions.

Lenehan assured this site will not generate a significant amount of traffic during peak periods, being that the vans will be leaving the site late in the morning between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. and will be returning in the later evening sometime between 8 p.m. and 9 p.m.

“Based on our detailed study, it is my professional opinion that the approval and operation of the site as proposed will not result in any significant negative impacts on traffic conditions,” Lenehan told the Board.

The next Planning Advisory Board meeting will be on January 20 at 7 p.m at (specify location)