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For Immediate Release

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State of New York Supreme Court Rules in favor of the Planning Board of The Town of New Paltz in regards to the Wilmorite/Park Point project.

Supervisor Zimet announces on behalf of the Town of New Paltz that State of New York Supreme Court Judge Melkonian has dismissed the Article 78 petition that Wilmorite/Park Point et al. brought against the Town Planning Board. His March 17, 2015 decision found that the Planning Board was obligated to consider the fiscal impact of the PILOT that Wilmorite sought for the project on the Town and other taxing jurisdictions, and that it did so properly, with an extensive record that supported its decision.. All other claims made in the Wilmorite petition were also dismissed.

“It is clear that the Court recognized the hard work that the Planning Board did to evaluate, in an objective and equitable manner, the impact that this PILOT would have had upon our community. The Planning Board did a conscientious job, and fulfilled the obligation of SEQRA to determine how the fiscal impact of the PILOT granted by the IDA would affect the New Paltz community. . The Planning Board found that the revenues coming to the Town and School District under the PILOT were insufficient to mitigate the significant impact that the Park Point project would cause to the essential community services that New Paltz provides to its residents and property owners. The court supported these findings and stated that the record clearly showed that the Planning Board took the required “hard look”, as required under SEQRA, at the fiscal impact of Park Point”, stated Supervisor Susan Zimet. “The Town Board thanks the members of the Planning Board, who are all unpaid volunteers, for their dedicated service to the Town.”

Mike Calimano, Chair of the Planning Board said “We were confident in the quality of our work and the conclusions we reached in our Findings statement. The Planning Board heard the applicant fairly and weighed all the information provided. We are pleased that Judge Melkonian’s decision supported the hard work of the Planning Board.”

George Lithco, attorney for the Planning Board, said “The decision shows that the Court gave the arguments of both parties careful consideration, found that the Planning Board acted properly in all respects, and upheld the Board’s findings and decision. The Town has good reason to appreciate the enormous amount of work that was done by this volunteer board to identify and address all of the environmental impacts that could result from this large project.

“This decision has reaffirmed the fact that a PILOT for student housing would harm the community in regards to our ability to deliver the necessary emergency services to keep our community safe,” stated the Supervisor Susan Zimet.

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