

To: Supervisor Lachterman and Members of the Town Board

From: Tree Conservation Advisory Commission

Re: Homeland Towers 62 Granite Springs Rd.

March 1, 2026

The Tree Conservation Advisory Commission contends that removing 88 trees to build a road through a forest will have significant impact on the environment and that the facility should not receive a negative declaration. The TCAC also concludes that a tree permit be denied until the following is provided for review.

Clearing a forest is different than building a road. Felling a tree can cause significant damage to surrounding trees. There are no plans provided on the methods and equipment being used to remove the trees. The removal of the 88 trees must be kept within the designated disturbed areas. How are the trees along the border of the proposed limits of disturbance being protected? The critical root zone of a 20" trunk ( DBH ) tree is 20'.

The TCAC sights chapter 270

STANDARDS OF APPROVAL 270 – 9

B. Natural vegetation shall be preserved and protected wherever possible

C (1) Tree shall be felled so that erosion is avoided. All tree - cutting debris shall be kept at least 20' from all public roads, right of ways, streams and wetlands.

C (2) Consideration shall be given to preserving protected trees and woodlands where feasible and practical.

The mitigation formula for contribution to the tree bank has not been submitted. The TCAC suggests not planting Spice Bush due to the new invasive Laurel disease that may infect this species. There are no maintenance and inspections for the mitigation plan included in the proposed plan. This draws attention to another part of Chapter 270 before this tree permit is granted.

270-13 INSPECTIONS AND MONITORING OF ACTIVITIES.

B. The approval authority may require that the activities undertaken pursuant to a permit be monitored and/or supervised by an arborist, including but not limited to the provision of written status reports at specific intervals with respect to the activities undertaken pursuant to the permit.

Respectfully, Keith Schepart and Tom Schmitt

