

MASTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN DEEMED COMPLETE FOR SILO RIDGE RESORT COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEARING SET FOR LATER THIS MONTH

Silo Ridge Moving Into Final Phase of Application Process for Resort Community in Amenia

Amenia, NY, April 3, 2009 – The proposed Silo Ridge Resort Community moved closer to ground breaking on their expansion project last Thursday when the Town of Amenia Planning Board deemed their Master Development Plan (MDP) and Special Use Permit application complete, and referred it on to the public and other agencies for review. The board voted unanimously to deem the document complete, and set the required public hearing for Thursday, April 30th, 2009 at 7:00 pm at the Amenia Town Hall.

"Having the Master Development Plan and Special Use Permit application deemed complete by the Planning Board is another important step in keeping the project moving forward to groundbreaking," said Mike Dignacco, vice president of construction for Millbrook Ventures, the company developing the Silo Ridge Resort Community. "We have a few more steps to go in the approval and permitting process and expect to be able to break ground by next spring. We're proud of the resort vision and the benefits it will bring to the town and region. Our consultants, along with the Planning Board and their consultants have balanced the relevant environmental impacts with the social and economic impacts to create a wonderful sustainable community that is elevated to some of the highest standards in New York State and in the country."

The MDP, part of the Special Use Permit process, includes specific details about the resort's proposed expansion, including topics such as planning considerations, architectural elevations and character, landscape character, sustainable features such as open space and natural resource management plans, and infrastructure. The MDP also reflects the mitigation measures approved in the Findings Statement.

"This is an exciting time for Amenia and the residents here and in the surrounding communities," said Bill Flood, chairman, Town of Amenia Planning Board. "Timing couldn't be better for the applicant's rigorous review process to be nearing completion, and for this project to break ground. Construction will be a welcome boom to the local economy; particularly in these difficult economic times."

The New York State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) process was completed earlier this year with the acceptance of the Findings Statement in January. The FEIS was unanimously accepted by the Town of Amenia Planning Board at its September 16th, 2008 meeting. The proposed resort community includes 338 residential units including single-family homes, townhomes and condominiums, a 300-unit hotel, spa, restaurants, and a redesigned golf course and clubhouse. The project boasts a world-renowned design team that includes Robert A.M. Stern Architects, Ernie Els Design, Looney Ricks Kiss and Audubon International.

A copy of the MDP will be available for public review at both the Amenia Public Library and the Amenia Town Hall and via a link from the Town of Amenia website. The next step in the approval process will be the final phase that includes Site Plan and Subdivision Approval, and agency permitting.

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