

To our neighbors on Howard Road, Hinchey Road and Lettington Avenue,

You may have already heard that the Town of Gates is planning the construction of a new Department of Public Works/Highway Garage on about 110 acres of land which the Dolomite Group Inc. recently donated to the Town.

The property is located south of the railroad tracks, east of the backyards of homes on Howard Road, north of the backyards of homes on Hinchey Road and west of the backyards of homes on Lettington Avenue.

The property has been vacant, wooded and in a natural state for at least 100 years when it was last farmed by the Bonnett family. The Dolomite Group has been actively engaged in quarry operations on the north side of the railroad tracks since the 1920s. In about the 1960s, there were plans for the quarry to expand to the south side of the tracks, but the company was not permitted to do so.

There are two access driveways into the property from Hinchey Road (one is opposite Loderdale Road and the other is about a quarter-mile west of that) and two access driveways into the property off Howard Road (near the corner of Lansing Circle North & South).

In 1966, Dolomite offered to donate some of their land off Howard Road for the headquarters of the then-newly-formed Gates Volunteer Ambulance Service, but neighbors objected due to noise and traffic, and the offer of the land was withdrawn.

Now that we know that the Town is planning a Department of Public Works/Highway Garage on this land, many of us are concerned about noise, truck traffic, and the impacts to the environment—and to our families and our homes—of a major industrial-type facility literally in our backyards.

Last fall, some of us experienced a terrible situation of odors and a mess when the Town used some of the land adjacent to our backyards for piles of leaves and debris.

In addition, this land directly borders the historic Hinchey Homestead at 634 Hinchey Road. The homestead is the only dwelling in Gates which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. How can the Town consider having such a large industrial highway facility with 24-hour truck operations near this site—and right near the backyards of our homes—with the certain disruption to our neighborhood in so many ways?

Please contact our Town Board members to ask that they carefully consider the location of the Department of Public Works/Highway Garage and that they avoid the residential properties of homes on Howard Road, Hinchey Road and Lettington Avenue. The Town has about 110 acres. Why is this major construction project under consideration so near our backyards?

Also, please consider attending the meetings of the Town Board to voice your opinions, or send letters or emails to the board members to express your views.