My wife and I are twenty plus year residents of the Town and Village. From this projects inception, there were three key goals that I believe were to have shaped it.

The first was to create a project that was family oriented and would support and strengthen our public school.

The second was to insure the project was built to standards that would positively impact the values of existing Town homes knowing that if the project’s originally proposed high standards were not maintained, it would negatively impact existing homes values.

The third was to create a project that would minimize the tax negativity inherent in projects of this size. No one expected the completed project to be tax positive, but all tax payers want to see the tax negativity minimized.

Where does that leave us today? Well we have a Town Board that has given its Planning Board unusual authority to decide basic issues pertaining to building standards and materials that normally would fall under the Board’s purview.

The Project manager, The Related Companies, now makes no bones about the fact it wants to sell this project to other builders and not build it out itself.

With this short term attitude in mind, Related is naturally interested in not only selling this project at a profit, but also making the underlying rules and regulations governing the project as loose as possible to appeal to a broader number of buyers.

We therefore have ongoing requests from Related for changes in the types of housing stock to be built, the order in which various types of housing is built, and the overall demographics of the project.

My question is why does this Board even give serious consideration to these requests as opposed to holding the developer to as much of the original agreement’s rules and regulations as possible. Do not be in the business of helping Related make this project more saleable by constantly dumbing down the materials Related now wants to use in construction, and the ever changing demographic make up of the housing stock? As a voter and a taxpayer, I feel the Board’s relationship with Related is far too accommodating.