

APPENDIX R-2

NYSOPRHP LETTER

October 4, 2019



Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ERIK KULLESEID
Commissioner

October 4, 2019

Mr. Craig Turner
Principal Planner - Dept of Planning & Environment
Town of Huntington - Town Hall
100 Main Street
Huntington, NY 11743

Re: DEC
Indian Hills Golf Course
Town of Huntington, Suffolk County, NY
17PR00525

Dear Mr. Turner:

In a letter dated June 24, 2019, the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) stated our opinion that the proposed residential development (see attached site plans) of portions of the Indian Hills Golf Course (IHGC) would have no impact on archaeological and/or historic resources listed in or eligible for the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places (S/NRHP). Additional information regarding cultural resources on the IHGC has recently been provided to OPRHP. As a result, OPRHP is rescinding our 6/24/19 no impact recommendation and is asking for clarification regarding the project's potential ground disturbances.

Due to the presence of previously recorded Native American archaeological sites on and in the vicinity of the IHGC, OPRHP recommended an archaeological survey within the areas of the proposed development. As a result of the surveys, a total of three Native American archaeological sites were identified: OPRHP Sites 10304.001236, 10304.001237, and 10304.001238. OPRHP recommended additional archaeological investigation of the three sites. Based on the results of the additional investigations, OPRHP concluded that the three sites are not eligible for listing in the S/NRHP. This was part of the basis for OPRHP's recommendation that the project would have no impact on historic cultural resources.

The initial archaeological survey report for the project (Report No. 18SR56574) noted the presence of a previously recorded Native American archaeological site on the IHGC, but not within the footprint of the proposed development. The site was recorded in the New York State Museum's (NYSM) archaeological site files, assigned the name "Indian Hill," and designated NYSM 707. There is limited information in the NYSM archaeological site files regarding Site 707. No archaeological testing was conducted at or in the vicinity of NYSM 707 in advance of the proposed development, because the site plans indicated no proposed ground disturbance at or near the location.

Division for Historic Preservation

P.O. Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189 • (518) 237-8643 • parks.ny.gov

OPRHP has recently received notarized affidavits and written statements from local residents attesting to the fact that human remains were identified in the mid-twentieth century on the IHGC. OPRHP has reviewed the affidavits and statements and finds them credible. It is OPRHP's opinion that the location described in the affidavits/statements corresponds with the location of NYSM Site 707 and that the identified human remains are likely Native American. The affidavits/statements also suggest the possibility that there may still be buried human remains at the location, despite soil disturbance resulting from the construction of the IHGC. OPRHP has updated its archaeological site files to indicate that this is the location of Native American burials and that there is a potential for additional human remains.

OPRHP requests clarification regarding all proposed ground disturbances associated with the project. Specifically, we would like to know if there will be any ground disturbance, even minor ground disturbances, in the vicinity of the Native American burials. Due to the culturally sensitive nature of the location and OPRHP's desire to keep it confidential, I am not including information on the location of the burials. I will contact you separately to describe the specific location.

If further correspondence is required regarding this project, please refer to the OPRHP Project Review (PR) number noted above. If you have any questions, I can be reached at 518-268-2186.

Sincerely,



Tim Lloyd, Ph.D., RPA
Scientist - Archaeology
timothy.lloyd@parks.ny.gov

via e-mail only

cc: Charles Vandrei (DEC)
David Witt (DEC)
Scott Robin (Nelson, Pope & Voorhis)
Chief Harry Wallace (Unkechaug Nation)

