



December 11, 2017

Barry A. Weinstein
Amherst Town Supervisor
Amherst Municipal Building
5583 Main Street
Williamsville, NY 14221

Dear Supervisor Weinstein:

Thank you for returning my call today, as well as sharing with me that you are nearing the end of your term and that Brian Kulpa will be your successor as of January 2, 2018. I look forward to the site selection process being finalized before your term is concluded. I value the collaboration between Hillside and the Supervisor's office moving forward.

In accordance with Section 41.34 of the Mental Hygiene Law, and in line with the general Notification of Intent discussed with you in previous weeks, please consider this letter as formal notification of the interest and intent of Hillside Children's Center to establish a community residential home in the Town of Amherst.

Our agency has located a potential site for the home at 132 Foxcroft Ln., Amherst 14221. It is a home located in a residential neighborhood. It will be a home for 4 individuals. Enclosed please find a Fact Sheet (Addendum A) outlining the specific nature, size and community support requirements of the proposed community home, as well as a brief description of the identified property and our geographic area of interest in the municipality. In addition, a copy of the most recent directory listing all Social Service programs in Erie County is available upon request.

Hillside Children's Center offers a spectrum of residential and day program services to people with developmental disabilities Western New York, including Erie County. One of our major service objectives is the establishment of community residential homes to enable developmentally disabled individuals to reside in communities close to family and friends. A community residential home provides opportunities for normal life experiences: housing, meals, companionship, and social events. Staff supervision, training in activities of daily living, and clinical supports are also provided.

Individuals residing in community residential home attend various vocational, day treatment/habilitation, and educational programs during the day as well as participate in evening and weekend recreational programs.

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Under the 41.34 statute, the municipality has forty (40) days after the receipt of this letter to respond in one of three ways:

1. Approve the site recommended by the sponsoring agency;
2. Suggest one or more suitable sites within its jurisdiction that could accommodate such a facility;
3. Object to the establishment of a facility of the kind described by the sponsoring agency because to do so would result in such concentration of community residential facilities for the mentally disabled in the municipality or in the area in proximity to the site selected, or a combination of such facilities with other community residences or similar facilities licensed by other agencies of state government that the nature and character of the areas within the municipality would be substantially altered.

If the municipality does not respond within forty days, Hillside Children's Center may proceed with the establishment of the proposed facility as per this notification.

If an alternate site suggested by the municipality meets the requirements of the program, the sponsoring agency will proceed to develop the alternate site without additional requirements.

We look forward to working closely and cooperatively with you and your constituents in the spirit of the law as we develop this home. We would be pleased to meet with you at your convenience to discuss our community residential program more thoroughly. Should you require any further information, please feel free to contact Renée Schumacher at (585) 654-1709.

Sincerely,

Renée Schumacher
Director, Developmental Disabilities Services

cc: County Executive, Mark C. Poloncarz
State Senate, Senator Ranzenhofer
State Assembly, Assemblyman Norris
County Mental Health Director, Michael R. Ranney, CRC-R, LMHC
Finger Lakes DRO, Dawn Filipski
Supervisor Brian Kulpa

Addendum A Fact Sheet

132 Foxcroft Lane

Requirements for Proposed Foxcroft Individualized Residential Alternative (Group Home)

This will be home for 4 individuals with developmental disabilities. Physical plant requirements include but are not limited to:

1. 4 bedrooms
2. Dining space for 8 people to eat family style. (There will be 3 to 4 staff on duty during waking hours)
3. Kitchen facilities to support the teaching and cooking of food preparation
4. Living space sufficient for 4 individuals to enjoy their preferred indoor activities. Two separate rooms/areas are needed.
5. Large backyard area for recreation
6. Space for staff office and records storage 144 sq feet