

French-American School hearing tonight in White Plains

Written by Richard Liebson

Oct 23

lohud.com

WHITE PLAINS — The merits of a proposal by the French-American School of New York to build a campus for 1,200 students on the former Ridgeway Country Club property will once again be up for debate at the continuation of a public hearing during tonight’s special meeting of the Common Council.

FASNY is seeking a special permit to establish a \$60 million facility for students in nursery school through grade 12 and a staff of about 250 that would consolidate its Larchmont, Mamaroneck and Scarsdale schools onto one campus in White Plains. FASNY bought the 129-acre property for \$11 million last year. The school’s application calls for seven buildings, including the former golf course clubhouse, to be developed on 45 acres clustered along Ridgeway, where athletic fields, a greenhouse and parking would also be located.

The remaining 84 acres would be used for the highly-touted “Greens to Green Conservancy,” a nature preserve that school officials say would include trails and be open to the public for passive recreation at no cost to the city.

FASNY’s plan has been met with strong neighborhood opposition led by the Gedney Association, which says the proposal would lower the tax base and property values, overwhelm the residential area with traffic, exacerbate flooding and siphon city services.

The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. at City Hall.