

# The Warwick Advertiser

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UPDATED: AUGUST 5, 2010

Warwick Advertiser > News

## Development plans for Watchtower property proceeding on schedule

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PUBLISHED: AUGUST 5, 2010

Warwick - The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society is on schedule to provide the Town of Warwick this fall with plans to develop the 253-acre site of the former International Nickel Company off Long Meadow Road in Warwick.

"We're trying to produce something that is going to blend in with the natural setting," said Richard Devine, spokesperson for a religious order known more commonly as Jehovah's Witnesses, in a telephone interview from his office in Brooklyn.

"We did hire (Perkins Eastman) to give us an architectural theme and our board hasn't finished their review of it," he added. "I understand it's very nice."

Perkins Eastman has won awards for its architectural designs, which include the TKTS Booth in Times Square and the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh.

Watchtower officials expect to submit their plans by fall, Devine said. He added that the archeological review, the investigation for protected bat species, trees, wetlands, soil as well as traffic studies are already done.

"As expected, in our traffic study we didn't see a big impact on peak traffic periods," said Devine, who attributed the finding to the modern day live/work campus model used by Witnesses.

He also said the environmental studies the town commissioned are nearing completion. Ninety percent of the property will be left in its natural state.

If the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society proposal goes through, it will have a minimal carbon footprint, added Warwick Town Supervisor Michael Sweeton, and "use all kinds of recycled materials with a vast amount of open space to remain."

Sweeton said he expects that Witnesses visiting the campus will stay in bed and breakfasts and hotels, eat in restaurants and shop, bringing tourism dollars with them to Warwick.

Nonetheless, "architecture is so subjective," said Devine. "Let's see what everybody thinks when it's released."