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## Hempstead board becomes lead agency in Nassau's Hub plan

By David Winzelberg

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Charles Wang, Scott Rechler, Matthew Frank and other representatives of the Lighthouse Development Group sat in the front row as the Hempstead Town Board declared itself the lead agency Tuesday in the redevelopment of Nassau Coliseum and the surrounding 150 acres in Uniondale.

The action by the board is the first step in the SEQR process for the ambitious mixed-use project, which would transform acres of blacktop into an entertainment/residential/hotel/office park, highlighted by a brand new 19,500-seat indoor arena to replace the aging Coliseum.

The sparsely attended board meeting was the first opportunity for the general public to comment on the Lighthouse plan, and several came forward to lend their support. For example, a woman from East Rockaway, who supported the plan, told the board that Long Island needs a center and a place for young people to live.

Hempstead Supervisor Kate Murray said the board is moving quickly on the application.

"We have assured that the Town of Hempstead stands willing and able to move the project along," Murray said.

Wang was impressed with the town's progress on the proposal.

"Its never as fast as I want it to go, but this is tremendous," Wang said.

Rechler said if all goes well with the environmental impact statements, construction could begin sometime next year.

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