

Public Scoping Session

"Clovewood Proposed Development"

June 2, 2016

A citizen of Blooming Grove, I thank you for the opportunity to comment upon the proposed "Clovewood" development scoping document. For disclosure, I am a nonmunicipal member of the Moodna Watershed Intermunicipal Council, a founder and trustee of the Friends of Schunnemunk Mountain State Park, and a former member of the first Town CAC. However, I speak for myself alone.

My brief comments are confined to p. 5, the following paragraph:

Based on the EAF, the following environmental areas would not require detailed analysis for the Project in the EIS: Human Health (including hazardous wastes), Critical Environmental Area, Flooding, Open Space / Recreation and Geological Impacts. (italics added)

According to the document, "a significant portion of the Project Site is undeveloped." (p. 8) Approximately 544 acres of open space would remain (p. 3), as well as 22 acres of "reserved" land. "The development plan for the Project would leave more than three quarters of the Project Site as open space, including approximately 60 acres as parkland accessible for use by the public." (p. 1) Whether the latter is adequate, given the natural resources not yet described --- especially the migratory habits of rattlesnakes --- is questionable. Connection to Schunnemunk Mountain State Park is desirable for the recreation of all. For a long time, Hasidic men have hiked the mountain ridge; this seems like an appropriate time to make this potentially physically and social healthy connection real. This important area does require "detailed analysis."

In addition, once natural resources have been identified, Critical Environmental Area/s may be inevitable.

Sincerely, Kate S. Ahmadi, Ph. D.

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