

Susan Mutti 62 Highbrook Avenue Pelham New York 10803

July 25, 2011

Board of Trustees, Village of Pelham,

As a member of the NYW&B committee, I am writing to express my preference on how the entire NYW&B parcel should be utilized. While serving on the committee for the past year, I have been exposed to an enormous amount of research and data. This 1.9 acre linear parcel comprises 22% of Pelham Village's open space. A green space would enhance the quality of life for many residents of our community. A neighborhood, consensus driven, passive green space would be an asset to our community.

I believe that this is the Village's position as well when you examine the Greenway Compact Community Legislation that the Village passed in 2008. A "strategy for preserving scenic, natural, historic, cultural and recreational resources." Greenway criterion includes natural and cultural resource protection; public access; and heritage and environmental education.

Additionally, the Village's Comprehensive Plan, also completed in 2008, states to "preserve and protect existing historic and cultural resources," "better utilize the Village's active and passive recreational resources," "Village should seek to provide a specialized and diversified shopping experience in a vibrant, relatively dense downtown, while maintaining the lower density of its residential districts," "The Village's neighborhoods - Chester Park, Pelville, Pelhamwood and Pelham Heights - all have special architectural and topographical features and should be preserved," This research was a large expense for the Village, \$60,000.

These are two examples of the guiding principles the Village applies when making decisions. I have found no other examples that apply to this project. I have not found any examples that support building up to 7 houses and removing the historic bridge.

There have been numerous efforts over the last 20 years to create a conservation area within this parcel. Generations of children remember playing in this space. Let's work together to return this space to the community. Every major project in our town has been completed with the assistance of a not for profit. Projects like the Library, Pelham Art Center, Children's Center, Julianne's Playground, Weyman Park, and the Lanterns have all been accomplished this way. The Friends of the Highbrook Highline is prepared to write grants and fundraise to create a new Village amenity.

Respectfully,

Susan Mutti