



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

LOWER HUDSON GROUP

c/o George Klein
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December 19, 2011

Village of Pelham Board of Trustees
195 Sparks Avenue
Pelham, NY 10803

Re: Highbrook Highline

Dear Mayor Hotchkiss and Board of Trustees:

We are writing to express our support of a greenway in Pelham on the site of the NYW&B railway. The Sierra Club became aware of this project through a presentation by the Friends of the Highbrook Highline. Converting this abandoned 2 acre parcel into a usable place for the community is visionary, a proven "highest and best use" option in similar communities, and is consistent with our mission at the Sierra Club to "Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet."

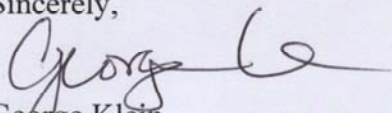
The combination of a field for unstructured play, a wooded path and an elevated arch offer diverse opportunities for people to interact with the outdoors. There is ample undisturbed ecosystem already in place to design and reuse as an educational resource. The land has the potential for use by people of all age groups. The historical aspect of the arch affords an additional connection to a place in time.

The Sierra Club has also endorsed a similar project in Mount Vernon, Kingsbridge Mound, on the same railway. Though the properties appear small in scale, they are large compared with the relative size of the municipalities. For Mount Vernon, 1.5 acres in a city of 4 square miles, the preservation of the last parcel of forest is significant. As is the case in Pelham, it is supported by neighbors as well.

We believe that partnering with other civic and volunteer groups in Pelham to effect this new use will result in a space that is well planned, valued, cared for and celebrated by the community.

We look forward to hearing about your land use decision in the future.

Sincerely,


George Klein
Chairman