

Catoctin Meadows Homeowners Association
P.O. Box 1164
Purcellville, VA 20134-1164



October 27, 2006

Mr. Greg Wagner, Vice Mayor
Town of Purcellville
130 E. Main Street
Purcellville, VA 20132

Dear Mr. Wagner:

This letter is in reference to an email you wrote to the Parks and Rec Committee, which was forwarded to me. (See attached.) Why is the town pursuing the park land issue at a time when so many other issues seem to be a higher priority?

The email clearly indicates that this is a priority and there is an urgency in the town's efforts to acquire these lands. I must ask, to what purpose?

The lands are already wildlife space. The town has previously expressed a desire to allow LVHS students to operate on this land, and in the email it is clear that the town has two goals, both of which seem to be very high priority:

1. To get better easements, sidewalks, paths, benches, and signage through the lands, and
2. To spin off a separate 501c3 corporate entity to manage the land so the town is sheltered from liability.

Our homeowners have a problem with both of these points. The first point is that adding trails (paved or otherwise), benches, and signs will only diminish the wildlife value of the land, driving off the small woodland creatures and increasing the traffic of humans through the land, thus diminishing its ecological value.

Further, Old Dominion Valley has discussed with us that the trails through their common land have been misused by underage drinkers and vandals. We have no desire for an increase in that kind of traffic in our neighborhood.

The second point, establishing the 501c3 corporate entity, is very undesirable, especially since it appears the town is trying to shelter themselves from conflict of interest claims, and it gives homeowners absolutely no recourse with an elected official should that entity decide to do something with the land which is not agreeable to the homeowners.

Regarding student access, the question remains: Why can they not contact us directly to have access to the land? Why does the town feel the need to be involved in this? We have never turned down access requests to our land from any organization (for example, Boy Scout cleanup projects). Provided these parties contact us beforehand, we will provide them free access to the land. So the question remains, what is to be gained from the town or a 501c3 entity owning this land? Nothing, I say, unless the town has other motives which are not obvious.

Our HOA is of a similar mindset to the homeowners of Old Dominion Valley on this issue, and we would like to see the town drop this issue now and get back to the business of running the town. If the town wants to maintain a park space through Catoctin Meadows, they have only to do nothing. Our homeowners will ensure that the land remains unspoiled parkland for years to come without the town's involvement.

I respectfully ask you to drop any acquisition of the Catoctin Meadows private land from the agendas of the Parks and Rec Committee. Please feel free to contact me further on this issue, should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Scott E. Harris
President
Catoctin Meadows Homeowners Association

Cc: Mayor Lazaro
Blue Ridge Leader
Loudoun Times Mirror

Encl: copy of forwarded email, dated 10/25/2006