

Dear Editor,

In the 40 years my family and I have lived in Franklin Lakes, we have seen our community prosper and grow. We have also seen building on land that might have better been left undeveloped. Many of the former owners might have preferred to leave that land as open space had they been given the opportunity to do so.

We do know there are still properties in the town whose owners want the alternative of an Open Space Trust Fund. They believe it could give them the chance to leave their land for park or recreation purposes.

Studies indicate that property values increase with the presence of open space. The cost of preserving and protecting what has made Franklin Lakes an exceptional place to live and nurture families can be bought with a minimal cost for each homeowner. Once gone, this land can never be recovered.

On this issue, I am reminded of the controversy in the 1950s when a small group of people argued for a zoning change establishing minimum one-acre lots for homes. Opponents argued then that the borough could not afford the loss of ratables that more housing would produce.

I doubt that anyone living in our lovely town today would question that the right decision was made on that important issue.

On Election Day, Nov. 7, I urge our citizens to have the same foresight regarding the question of establishing an Open Space Trust Fund.

Carole Holden

Franklin Lakes, Sept. 6

The writer is a member of Friends of Franklin Lakes Open Space.