

June 25, 2007

Dear Editor,

The article, "Hillsdale neighbors fight development" (June 24) highlights that Bergen County residents have had enough and there is help. Thankfully, the report offers hope to civic groups like Friends of Wyckoff and Save the Ravine Alliance in persevering against the seemingly impossible odds of a builder and a builder friendly planning board. The incremental damage created by developing the last slices of open space are costing residents more than the cost of acquiring land for open space. Wyckoff residents passed a Municipal open space tax in 2006 and in addition are bearing the cost of fighting developments on land that is not suitable for building. They recognize and are willing to contribute time and money to fight development because they know that the costs to the community are higher in the long run. The DEP reports and decisions will be critical in the current Deep Voll ravine/Barrister application, but we have been forced to spend thousands of dollars in legal fees to even have the issues brought to the Planning Board meeting in the public eye. We trust that our township officials will ultimately recognize that the tipping point has been reached, and will support their constituents in preserving an oasis in Wyckoff and Bergen County for community use as a nature preserve.

Sincerely,

Diane Sobin