

June 25, 2007

To the Editor:

I have attended several of the Wyckoff Planning Board hearings on the Deep Voll Ravine/Barrister Home application for a nine home subdivision. Finally, the testimony of the expert witnesses for the citizens had the opportunity to present their findings to a standing room only crowd. The findings support what is already evident – the property is unsuitable for subdivision and development. Wyckoff Township residents are burdened by flooding and water accumulation that create costly repairs to our homes – the Wyckoff hidden tax to taxpayers. Why create more potential problems? The evidence presented by the engineer representing the citizens was not covered in prior meetings, and the issues are ones that our Planning Board and the builder should think about very carefully. The environmental issues of runoff into the waterway and instability created by digging nine foundations should not be shrugged off as not being under our jurisdiction.

The long, drawn out hearings, with hours of circular questioning, have cost the citizens plenty. Well over \$25,000 has been raised by school children and families because they know that the property is unsuitable for development – and once lost will be gone forever. If developed, the additional costs of school and community services will be our tax burden immediately. The fact that the plans have had to be redrawn in multiple convoluted ways is proof enough that the property is unsuitable for massive excavation required for multi-home construction in proximity to the ravine itself. The builder, in fact, has a track record building houses that have water and sewerage problems. What use of the property will most benefit Wyckoff? A passive nature preserve for use by our children and the entire community. The ravine and surrounding acreage is a true oasis in Wyckoff and it should be preserved for the Wyckoff community.

Sincerely,

Larry Sobin  
Wyckoff