

Letter to the Editor
Suburban News
For January 15, 2008 publication

I am writing to first address a comment made by Wyckoff Township Committeeman, Joseph Fiorenzo, at the December 11, 2007 Township Committee meeting. Responding to resident Brian Scanlan, Mr. Fiorenzo made a remark speculating, "This is all about politics...you and the rest of the four or five people you bring here every night." (*December 11, 2007 Township Work Session Minutes*) Mr. Fiorenzo's insulting outburst was obviously meant for the residents, myself included, who were attending this public meeting.

I can only speak for myself, and not the other "people" at the meeting, and there were more than four or five, but I can assure you (Mr. Fiorenzo) that I was not "brought" to this meeting; I attended this meeting, as I do other Township and Planning Board meetings at my own free will, as a resident and tax payer of Wyckoff for the purpose of hearing first-hand what transpires at these meetings and at times, to let my voice be heard.

I encourage all residents to attend a Township and Planning Board meeting to see for themselves how our elected officials (and one newly appointed Committeeman, Rudy Boonstra) run our town. Condescending and rude remarks from our elected officials to residents abound at these meetings. No wonder the meetings are not televised.

Diane Sobin, who garnered over 1,000 write-in votes in the November election, proposed televising committee meetings and improving the township's web site. According to the October 30, 2007 *Bergen Record*, Mr. Boonstra stated, "there is room for improvement" but added "communication is not a primary function of the committee." He said, "Citizens already have ways of finding out what's going on in government." To what was Mr. Boonstra referring? National Government? Surely, he was not referring to our local Wyckoff government, as there is really no accurate way to know what topics are covered or decisions are made unless one attends an actual meeting. It seems odd to me that our Township Committee – elected *public* officials do not feel that communication is their "primary function".

Secondly, our elected officials constantly utter "there is no open space in Wyckoff" yet there is the CHCC open space, Maple Lake, Russell Farms, and of course the historical Ravine site. Oh, but wait, those are proposed – or already approved – for development. How many Wyckoff residents knew about how and why the Planning Board approved the redesigned Boulder Run size and façade? How many residents know there is a proposed 4-story development at CHCC that will tower over the Cedar Hill Shopping Center? I believe what our elected officials are really saying is, "There is no open space left in Wyckoff because we want to develop any open space that is left."

Lastly, I take offense to Mr. Jack Albert's *Letter to the Editor* of December 17, where he mockingly addresses the Friends of Wyckoff as the "fows" of Wyckoff. His statements are inaccurate and disrespectful. The Friends of Wyckoff is a non-partisan, non-profit citizens' organization dedicated to improving the environment and the quality of life in Wyckoff by, among other activities, supporting smart growth and the preservation of open space, the community character, and historical structures and sites. If anyone believes that is a "foe" to Wyckoff, I don't know what a "friend" is.

Linda Vreeland
Wyckoff