

To Supervisor Courtien and other Members of the Town Board:

The Pawling Nature Reserve Management Committee is composed of over 20 members. We help to maintain the biodiversity and appropriate use of the 1,000 acre Pawling Nature Reserve parcel owned by The Nature Conservancy. The Pawling Nature Reserve surrounds the Dover Knolls Development Site on the east side of route 22. I appeal to you to do all you can to help us maintain this sensitive habitat for present and future generations. It is very important to take the time to do the most diligent and thorough environmental assessment process that you call.

Please use the more thorough scoping documents of 2006, as this document better addresses the negative impact of the development. Of particular concern is the view shed from the Pawling Nature Reserve. The current plan shows housing on steep slopes east of route 22 and what could look like suburban sprawl on the lower elevations of the development. Accepting building on grades steeper than 15% would likely cause increased erosion problems and produce a greater number of view shed issues, as houses are placed on higher elevations. Please consider not allowing a greater than 15% grade for building.

The following practices would be helpful to wildlife. Some of them were discussed in the 2006 scoping documents:

- Provide wildlife corridors and safe crossings
- Have limited lighting and face this lighting down and away from the reserve.
- No connecting trails from the site should lead into the reserve to prevent ATV use and illegal hunting. (An ongoing problem)
- Clear hunting regulations within the community – there is no general public hunting in the reserve and a buffer no hunting zone can be established between the development site and the reserve.
- Native plantings which encourage wildlife would be preferable to non-native species
- Identification and protection of sensitive environmental and hydrological areas.
- Identification of threatened and endangered species on the site is necessary

Thank You,  
Mark Chipkin  
Chairman  
Pawling Nature Reserve Management Committee  
845-855-9155