

Whitemarsh Township Residents Association

P.O. Box 154
Lafayette Hill, Pennsylvania 19444-0154
www.WTRA.org

August 16, 2001

The Board of Supervisors of Whitemarsh Township
c/o Whitemarsh Township Administrative Building
616 Germantown Pike
Lafayette Hill, PA 19444-1498

Re: Proposed Ordinances For BOS Consideration

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

I want to first thank those of you who were able to attend the Planning Commission meeting on August 14, 2001 and I am sure that you were pleased to see so many citizens turn out on a night in late August to express their concerns about the current state of development and their commitment to preserve open space in our Township. We understand that Mr. Rimel and Mr. Kramer could not attend the meeting and we would be pleased to provide them with a briefing should they want one.

The feedback we have received on the meeting has been quite positive and we have been encouraged by members of the Planning Commission, our members and the members of other public interest and community groups to bring some of the issues presented at the meeting before the Board of Supervisors. In an effort to respond to this call for action, we hereby petition the BOS to place the proposed initiatives listed below on the agenda for either of the two BOS meetings in September or the first half of October so that they can be formally considered. These are issues that clearly fall within the purview of the Board of Supervisors.

As you know, the WTRA did considerable research and has provided model regulations and legislation and other background information in order to facilitate the implementation process. Furthermore, our discussions with county officials and groups, including the Natural Lands Trust, lead us to believe that consultants may not be necessary since draft legislation has been provided and the expertise required to draft new legislation is already available to the Township.

Since each member of the BOS has received a copy of the Policy Brief and the attachments, I will simply list those initiatives we would like you to consider. We would like each of these items to be considered individually by the BOS at the meeting we have requested.

1. Create an Open Space Fund.
2. Hire a consultant to explore the various strategies for funding the Open Space Fund.
3. Establish an Open Space and Smart Growth Task Force.
4. Establish Environmental Advisory Council.
5. Enact a Natural Resource Inventory Ordinance.
6. Enact an Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance.
7. Enact an Open Space Preservation ordinance similar to those adopted by Lower Merion and Pennsbury Townships.

We are committed to working with you and your colleagues to ensure that this action plan is adopted by Whitemarsh Township. We stand ready to provide the BOS, Larry Gregan and Nels Sandberg with any additional information that may be needed to help facilitate the process. I look forward to hearing from you shortly. Should you have any questions don't hesitate to contact me at (215) 545-7595.

Very truly yours,

James G. McGann, Ph.D.
President
WTRA

cc: Paul Meyer, Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania
Steve Kaufman, Miquon Area Preservation Society
Ann Hutchinson, and Monica Drewniany, Natural Lands Trust
Bob Wurtz, Whitemarsh Valley Farms Community Association
Anne Gardner, Whitemarsh Valley Farms Community Association
Nels Sandberg, Montgomery County Planning Commission
Tony Maginnis, Whitemarsh Country Club
John Shoher and Dave Froehlich, Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association
Jack Jennings, Philadelphia Cricket Club
Jack Gallagher, Sunnybrook Country Club