

January 22, 2002

Ms. Ann Younglove, Chairman
Whitemarsh Township Board of Supervisors
616 Germantown Pike
Lafayette Hill, PA 19444

Dear Ms. Younglove:

I would like to take a moment to commend the progress that has been made by all the parties involved in planning for the Hill at Whitemarsh Development. As you know, this development will be taking place on a part of what could be the most important parcel of open space left in southeastern Montgomery County. It is critically important that whatever development takes place on this property be done as part of a comprehensive plan with an eye towards preserving as much open space as possible.

My understanding is that recent planning for this development has, indeed, helped advance the cause of open space. The new plan relocates and clusters the development at a more suitable location on the site and creates a retirement community that is more respectful of the open space in which it sits. Furthermore, I understand that agreements have been signed with Mr. Dixon that create an opportunity to preserve a significant portion of Erdenheim Farm as permanent open space. In addition, the creation of the Whitemarsh Foundation is good news, as it will have as its primary mission the preservation of Erdenheim Farm and other open space within the area. Of course, much work remains but the mechanisms that are being set in place are encouraging.

The promoters of this project are to be commended for their openness to the community and their willingness to make compromises that will not only result in more open space but a much better retirement community.

I know you and your colleagues will give this development the highest level of careful consideration. The importance of this beautiful open space cannot be overstated. I am encouraged by the progress made in recent months and I believe a solution is being supposed that allows for smart growth while protecting the priceless asset of open space in the Wissahickon Valley. I stand ready to assist with the remaining challenges ahead.

Sincerely,

Paul W. Meyer

PWM:pls

cc: Whitemarsh Township Residents Association
The Hill at Whitemarsh