

From: Jean Marie
To: [Carol Barone](#)
Subject: MacDonnell Heights Project
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I was devastated to learn that the town is still entertaining the MacDonnell Heights project. This project is going to come at huge costs that I think many are overlooking- the loss of a landmark and the sense of peace in such a hectic time.

According to an article dated April 2, 1989, from the Poughkeepsie Journal, Frank Brothers Farm was the last dairy farm in the Town of Poughkeepsie. That alone should show some significance of its importance. I know Poughkeepsie is better known for IBM and that kind of industry, but farming played a huge part in this town's history.

It was purchased by immigrant brothers in 1929, which shows how Poughkeepsie was a melting pot. Think about how we still have many cultural clubs today to reflect that, like Germania of Poughkeepsie, which has been around since 1850. Those immigrants came over from Europe, striving for the American Dream, and they succeeded. The hope & the promise that Poughkeepsie brought people should not be forgotten.

It may be argued that the Frank Brothers had not purchased the farm "long enough" ago to be considered "historic", but they bought it from the Barnes Estate, who had it in their family for 102 years. Again, I can only imagine that was a big part of Poughkeepsie's history.

When you think about driving on 44, you think of the landmarks, such as Adams, DeLaval, and Frank Brothers Farm. It is such an icon that it would surely be missed, not just by residents and out of towners who just happened to be driving by, but for the people in the Lutheran Care Center. Last year, I was up there visiting a rehab patient, and their physical therapy room overlooks the fields & the barns. It's a calm and peaceful escape, which is something those patients need while they are in there. In addition, it gives them the joy of remembrance of what life was like back in the day, instead of a loud environment, full of bright lights and congestion. I can't imagine the "city" you will be creating in their front yard will help their healing process. It is the TOWN of Poughkeepsie, not the city.

It already is a crime that children, especially ones growing up in cities, like New York City, never experience what it is like to even see a farm. With all of the empty plazas and open land, I think it would be a shame to lose an icon or even a possible learning tool to remember Poughkeepsie's history.

It would be very unrealistic for me to believe that nothing is going to happen on either side of 44 but the scale needs to really be reevaluated. If something still has to be built, Mr. Kirchoff would be better off building fewer small homes in the already open field, opposite the barns. There are already plenty of empty businesses so there is no need to build anymore commercial buildings. Let's try and fill those empty businesses first. If the town can't intrigue people to have their business in the current locations, how can you be so sure it's going to be successful on these lots?

In addition, aesthetically, it would be a bigger draw for possible tenants to leave the farm as is because a lot of people are trying to escape the city to enjoy the country. What is more calm, peaceful, and country than a farm? If we wanted to live in a city, which is basically what you are creating, we would have already moved to one. With the drawings as the way they are, I think it's extremely disrespectful to those families who are currently living in the area to subject them to their new neighbors "looking" into their

home and invading their privacy. If you are going to build something, give them a little space. There is no need to build that close to any of those homes.

I know it is Mr. Kirchoff's livelihood to construct buildings but I believe it would create a longer and better legacy for preserving a piece of history than destroying it.

Please think long and hard about these consequences that might have been overlooked before demolishing a piece of Poughkeepsie's history and the peacefulness of country living that once gone, can never come back.

Sincerely,

A heartbroken towns person

Jean Marie

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