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Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2015 9:56 AM  
To: Felicia Salvatore <fsalvatore@townofpoughkeepsie-ny.gov>  
Subject: Hudson River Psychiatric Center

Given the history of this property and grounds, the Town and community should consider supporting the idea of renovating the Main Administration Building (designed by Frederick Clarke Withers and registered as an Historic Landmark) and Great Lawn (designed by Vaux) as a MUSEUM.

The museum would be dedicated to the history of the Mid - Hudson Region. A museum is a much needed cultural resource. Not only would the museum become home to the art collections and historical artifacts of the local towns and families it would become a major destination for tourists.

The Hudson River Rail Trail would be linked to its front door - accessible to visitors from around the world. Central Park in NYC was designed in this type of landscape that connects landscaped/open areas and museums by way of looped pedestrian trails.

The proposed idea of a "boutique hotel" by current developers is limiting the use of this historic building and park property to a private, exclusive population which would cut off and isolate this property from the public.

The whole conceptual plan of the Hudson River Rail Trail is its vision to connect the area's magnificent valley landscapes, view sheds and significant preserved historic sites into an integral whole.

Restoring and transforming the Main Administration Building into the "Mid-Hudson Regional Museum" would be a great opportunity to increase tourism, as well. It would become a major destination along the rail trail.

The failure to grab this opportunity now would be a irrevocable loss to our region economically and culturally.

It would be wonderful to propose this idea at a public scoping session and see what type of support it would receive from the community.

Thank you,  
Kathleen Davis