

From: Crohrbach
To: [Carol Barone](#)
Cc: [Kathy Smith](#)
Subject: MacDonnell Heights Project
Date: Friday, November 03, 2017 11:41:19 AM

As adjacent landowners in the Town of LaGrange, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the MacDonnell Heights Town Center project. While we applaud the projected economic benefits, we have several areas of concern that should be addressed.

1. **Traffic** on the Rt 44 corridor has become a serious problem and has increased beyond the rates in the Transportation study. We often travel from Pleasant Valley to Poughkeepsie and experience substantial traffic now at almost any time of day. The nearby continuing Sleight Farm development on Overlook Rd in LaGrange and the proposed residential project at the site of the old Lewis Country Farms (at Overlook and Degarmo Roads) will make it even worse. Vehicles from these locations will be channeled north to Rt 44 and south to Rt 55. The Degarmo Rd/Rt 44 intersection is not designed to handle this traffic and remediation must be done before adding the projected traffic from this project.
2. **Wildlife impacts** should be reevaluated. Habitats are shrinking due to development, forcing both large and small animals and birds into smaller areas. We have 50+ acres of open space, preserved by conservation easements. Currently, herds of 30 to 40 deer can be observed on some evenings in these fields. Coyotes, foxes and other predators have increased correspondingly. While your project includes provision for protection of space for recreation and open land, there will still be pressures that push more wildlife into smaller and smaller spaces. These animals affect the safety of local residents, impact the crops on local farmland, and cause traffic accidents.
3. It is imperative that there be **regulation of the usage of the proposed open space** in this project that borders Wappinger Creek. Currently, dirt bikes, four-wheelers and other motorized vehicles make unrestrained and destructive usage of that area. We have had to place signs and video cameras on our property to deter these people from crossing the Creek and coming onto the Wappingers Greenway Trail, which is restricted to walking and running. Also, it is common to hear shooting from that area in what sounds like in informal shooting range.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Christian Rohrbach and Kathleen Smith
Overlook Rd, Poughkeepsie NY