

September 12, 2012

Dear Fellow Neighbor:

We are writing to you today to urge you to join us in supporting the French-American School of New York's proposal to turn the former Ridgeway Country Club into a School and nature Conservancy.

Ridgeway Country Club and its golf course was a wonderful amenity for our neighborhood. It prevented overdevelopment and provided open space that contributed to the tranquility and beauty of our neighborhood. We were sad to see the country club fail. But it did fail and, with country clubs in trouble throughout Westchester, it is unrealistic to think that it will be a golf club again. Therefore, we need to weigh the alternatives, and in this context, we believe the FASNY plan is superior to any realistic alternative.

We have studied the FASNY literature, spoken to their representatives, and attended their open houses where we had a chance to talk to their consultants. In weighing the likely alternatives for the property, we believe that the FASNY plan is superior to the likely alternatives. We believe that the best route forward is to ensure that as the plan is further developed, the value to our neighborhood is maximized. As part of that effort, it is critical that we hold our City Council to codifying the promises made in the plan and ensuring that they are delivered now and in perpetuity.

We believe that schools make good neighbors. As it is, there are schools all around us. Many of our neighbors have been drawn to this area by those schools, and more continue to be.

It is difficult to predict what would become of the property if the FASNY plan were not to proceed. One possibility is that it would be minimally maintained and become an eyesore. Another possibility is that a portion of it would be developed into single family homes, with the developer required to maintain a large portion as undeveloped open space. Either way, we don't believe it would have a positive impact on our neighborhood or the value of our homes. In the first case, the former golf course would be an unattractive property with an uncertain future. In the second case, a developer would be adding to the housing stock. Neither outcome is likely to have a positive impact on the value of our homes.

We have many concerns about the proposed development that include traffic, neighborhood access to the site and its amenities, the quality of the open space, site drainage, and the proximity of ball fields to homes to name a few. We intend to work with FASNY and with the Common Council to see that each of these issues, and any new issues that may arise, is addressed and that FASNY is held to honoring all of the commitments that they make in order to get their plan approved.

Currently the plan is before the White Plains Common Council for consideration. If you agree that the FASNY plan offers us the best option, please join us in signing FASNY's online petition at www.greentogreen.org/petition. If you still have questions about the plan you can visit their website at www.greentogreens.org where you can find renderings of the Conservancy and school, fact sheet, endorsements, their Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and much more.

We also ask you to come to the Public Hearing on the DEIS scheduled for September 19th at City Hall. We will be there to learn more about the plan and to make sure that the FASNY development provides the maximum benefit to our neighborhood.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to seeing you on the 19th.

Sincerely,

Herbert & Dr. Susan S. Adler
4 Greene Lane

Evan Birks & Elizabeth Kurth
5 Richbell Road

Peter & Joi Baum
14 Southdale Road

Chris Longo
19 Sherman Avenue

Debbie & Andrew Brennan
18 Ridgeway Circle

Helaine & Hugh Marshall
17 Murchison Place

Sunny Jo & Dana Comfort
37 Heatherbloom Road

Gregory R. & Maria T. Massa
21 Hathaway Lane

Joel & Harriet Field
9 Gedney Esplanade

John & Julie McCormick
327 Ridgeway

Jonathan & Karen Goldstick
2 Gabriel Court

James Sagner
12 Wyndham Close

Somer Hatano
38 Gedney Park Drive

Clarence Strowbridge
7 Richbell Road

Sarah, Stephanie & Jillian Hettinger
92 Robinhood Road

Debra & David Weiner
28 Oxford Road