

CHESTER RESIDENTS!

The Preservation Collective wants your opinion...

We can protect this asset on Kings Highway, across from Cold Springs Farm, or we can let it fall victim to another housing development

WHICH WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE?



* Computer generated rendition

49 More Houses

Increased impact on police, fire and highway services

Nearly 100 more children impacting school taxes

Increase in sewer needs

Increase in water use

Loss of Chester historical and scenic asset

Negative impact on Historic Sugar Loaf hamlet and Warwick Valley

OR



PASSIVE RECREATION FOR CHESTER

Scenic walking and exercise paths

Pavilion and picnic tables

Resource for youth groups, school trips,
community events and concerts

Historic markers and kiosks depicting the rich history and
significance of this land and surrounding area

Preservation of natural resources and wildlife habitats

ACTION:

**Do nothing and destroy this resource
forever**

ACTION:

**Ask Chester Town Board to save this land
from development**

According to Chester's Comprehensive Plan the town is lacking sufficient active and passive recreation. Based on build-out analysis, over 300 acres of additional recreational land is needed. Acquiring this land helps achieve that goal.

**JOIN THE PROACTIVE EFFORTS OF THE TOWN BOARD MEMBERS WHO SUPPORT OUR
MISSION TO CREATE A USEFUL AND BEAUTIFUL RECREATIONAL AREA AT THIS SITE**

Lend your voices to this cause and join us at this meeting. Help Chester protect this community resource!

Tuesday, January 13th, 2004 7:30pm at Chester Town Hall

For more information visit: **www.thepreservationcollective.com**

E-mail: info@thepreservationcollective.com Phone: 845-469-1608

Building CHESTER's Future by Protecting CHESTER's Past

WHY SHOULD WE SUPPORT SAVING LAND FROM DEVELOPMENT?

'Many Voters Agree to Raise Money for Green Space' by Jim Carlton (Wall Street Journal):

Voters in 16 states passed 84% of local and state initiatives, raising over \$1 billion to protect lands for parks and open space ... "people want to protect their quality of life by protecting things that are special to them like views, farmland, and places for children to play."

Chester Comprehensive Plan

The goals of our own plan mandate the preservation of the ridgelines, wetlands, floodplains, stream corridors and natural contours of the land, which form the scenic backdrop for most areas of the town. (page 6)

Consideration of agricultural uses, historic and cultural resources, coastal and natural resources and sensitive environmental areas. As a policy matter, the plan indicates that these resources should be addressed by the Planning Board and Town Board as individual properties are proposed for development. (page 10)

Orange County Department of Planning

Supports identifying priorities in scenic, historic, archeological and cultural resources for protection as well as other "special" or "sacred" places that are unique to the County.

WHY SAVE THIS PROPERTY ON KINGS HIGHWAY?

Building a Community Recreational Area

With only limited facilities currently available to Chesters residents, additional recreational needs could be created in one of the towns most historic areas. Recognizing one of the most scenic vistas in southern Orange County and preserving its history for future generations can be accomplished by acquiring this property.

The Scenic and Historical Significance*

Once populated by Indians of the Minisink tribe, of the great Algonquin nation, this land was inhabited long before the pioneer settlers reached Sugar Loaf. Indian burial grounds and the remains of an Indian village have been documented around Sugar Loaf Hamlet. The current Fury Brook Farm, located on the east side of Kings Highway, is one of the earliest homesteads built along the old Wawayanda Path and consists of several eighteenth century homes and barns. In the 1700's, two early settlers on this land were Hugh Dobbin and Nathaniel Knapp. Nathaniel Knapp, a friend to the Indians and a scout for George Washington, is famous in the area for his fierce fight with an enormous male bear which he slew with only his knife. In 1775, when the Revolutionary War took hold in this area, it was Hugh Dobbin who supplied hundreds of horses to the Continental army, horses that grazed on this land. While New York City was occupied by the British, the Wawayanda Path, now Kings Highway, became a vital thoroughfare to George Washington's headquarters in Newburgh and served to connect New England and New York to New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Due in part to their rich history, the neighboring farms of Cold Springs & Fury Brook are being considered for nomination and inclusion on the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

The Sugar Loaf Arts & Crafts Hamlet is an Orange County original and has had a distinguished reputation for over 250 years. Many artisans have lived and worked in the original barns and buildings, which date back to the 1700's.

Sugar Loaf is also known as the birthplace of Hambletonian (1848-1876), the Father of the American Trotting Horse.

* Historical information found in "Sugar Loaf New York 1700-1997, The Enduring Vision" by Richard Hull, "Along the Wawayanda Path, Old Greycourt to Chester to Sugar Loaf" by Donald Barrell, "A History of the Development of the Town of Chester in Celebration of its 150th year 1845-1995".