

Bedford Audubon Society

serving the community since 1913

June 30, 2009

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TOWN CLERKS OFFICE
TOWN OF DOVER

Supervisor Ryan Courtien
126 Duncan Hill Road
Dover Plains, NY 12522

RE: Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Dover Knolls development

Dear Mr. Courtien,

As a former town Supervisor, I thank you for the time and commitment that you give to public service.

The Bedford Audubon Society, with over 2,000 members stretching from Putnam County all the way down to central Westchester New York, thanks you for the opportunity to comment on the Dover Knolls development.

We hope that any development that you approve will protect your great natural resource and treasure, the Great Swamp. The Great Swamp, as you know, was identified as an Audubon Important Bird Area due to its high quality wetlands that support not only a wide variety of birds, but also other important plants and wildlife that benefit the citizens of Dover Plains and New York State. To have rare birds such as Northern Goshawk and Cerulean Warbler, to name just a few, indicates how unique and important this area is.

We have found in the Town of Lewisboro, to site one example I am familiar with, that protecting 150 feet of buffer land around wetlands and watercourses does protect people's water and wildlife habitat without an undue burden on citizens. We have also found that clustering development not only results in *higher property values*, but also provides amenities for citizens such as hiking trails, scenic viewsheds and biodiversity protection.

These are just two methods that allow for the protection of our natural resources while residential and commercial development are allowed to take place and we encourage you to please carefully consider them in the Dover Knolls development.

If Bedford Audubon can be of any assistance in conducting bird surveys, wetland restoration plantings, native plantings and/or meadow management practices, please let us know and we will be happy to assist in any way that we can.

Once again, thank you for your dedication to public service.

Sincerely,



James F. Nordgren
Executive Director
Bedford Audubon Society