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Subject: : Conservation

Topic: : East Brandywine / Struble Trail Access

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URL:

I have copied an e-mail I received from the "Friends of Struble Trail". To summerize, Chester County and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources have pledged money toward purchase of the property along the East Brandywine SR section. Chester County Commissioners have earmarked \$20 million for open space procurement; let them and the municipalities know that the Shryock property and its critical junction between the Struble Trail parkland and Marsh Creek State Park is land you want to see preserved! (The property last sold in 2005 for ~1.2 million dollars. Both Chester County and the State have each already pledged \$500,000.) Let your Chester County and the Township supervisors know that the Struble Trail and access to the East Brandywine is worth investing in. Please contact our legislators. Here are the details:

We have waited for the right time; NOW is the time to email or phone officials as they are deciding how to negotiate the purchase of the Shryock Property!

Sample letter and email addresses for your local township officials follow

Forward this to your local friends and neighbors!

Dear Friends,

Now is the time ... today, NOW is the time for your input. Our local officials must know we support them in their efforts to buy the entire Shryock property, and not make zoning concessions just to get the trail access open. The increased flooding potential is especially troubling, but the recreation and special habitat losses are important too.

It takes only a minute to email or call:

1) COUNTY COMMISSIONERS! Commissioners Cozzone and Farrell are newly elected, and they MUST see personally the number of Chester County citizens who are following the outcome of these negotiations!

2) YOUR TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS! Upper Uwchlan, East Brandywine, and Uwchlan all have jurisdiction for parcels of this property. These supervisors need to know that you, their specific residents (and not just 'people out there') support their desire to see this property saved from development. Downingtown Borough also has a significant stake in the outcome.

Please see below for a sample letter you can cut and paste; a personal letter is even better if you take the time. Following the letter are email addresses you can copy into your address line, including those for your township administrators. Forward this to your local friends and neighbors! So few people actually have/take time to write a letter that every single person who writes will be an important voice heard!

We organized in late August to reopen the Struble Trail at the Shryock Paper Mill. The actions of one (potential) developer range from inconveniencing the thousands of people who use the trail and its access to Marsh Creek to perpetrating the serious safety threat posed by impeding stewardship of the Marsh Creek Dam and its 535 acres of water (at 43,560 cubic feet per acre foot) upstream of Downingtown.

Friends of the Struble Trail helped unite fishermen, hikers, runners, birders, bikers and other diverse trail users into one voice that could be heard above developers and their lawyers who have the deep pockets to take advantage of Pennsylvania's organization into small municipalities. We have had successes ... it is through our efforts that Chester County and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources have pledged money toward purchase of this property, and I believe that our support has helped Upper Uwchlan Township Supervisors thus far resist the developer's demands to re-zone the property for higher density development and Uwchlan Township Supervisors to stand fast against the sewage capacity grab the owner has pursued.

Friends has been publicly patient as negotiations with the current owner continue. The website is receiving an enormous amount of mail, especially now that spring is here, wanting to know how to help this process. In this stage of the negotiations, the municipalities must know that we support them. Chester County Commissioners have earmarked \$20 million for open space procurement; let them and the municipalities know that the Shryock property and its critical junction between the Struble Trail parkland and Marsh Creek State Park is land you want to see preserved! (The property last sold in 2005 for ~1.2 million dollars. Both Chester County and the State have each already pledged \$500,000.)

Our voices together can help secure this property. F i n a l l y!

Sample Letter:

I support you in all efforts to secure the former Shryock paper mill property from development. The Struble Trail and its connection to Marsh Creek State Park is a very important issue for me. I have safety concerns for flooding and water quality downstream of Marsh Creek Dam. Whether we are birders or bikers or hikers or fishermen or runners, my neighbors and I appreciate the Struble Trail for its unique natural setting in the midst of Chester County development. I deeply appreciate its value to our township and our county. Please add my voice of support to save the paper mill property from development!

Thank you,

[Add your name and address! Officials want to know you live in their township and that they represent YOU personally.]

Copy & Paste:

County Commissioners:

...

[And, especially if you reside in the townships below, ADD:](#)

[Upper Uwchlan Township Supervisors: Catherine Tomlinson, Kevin Kerr, Guy Donatelli](#)

East Brandywine Township Supervisors: Jay Fischer, Hudson Voltz, David Kirkner

(Township Email Address)

Uwchlan Township Supervisors: Joseph E. Toner, Milton H. Bozarth, Frederick W. Gaines

(Township Secretary)

Downingtown Borough: Steven Sullins, Borough Manager & Secretary,

(Only Upper Uwchlan posts Supervisors' email addresses on the township website!)