

Mes excuses pour mon opinion en anglais. Je m'exprime mieux de ce façon.

I feel the it would be a mistake to open up the subject area to construction, considering how special it is to have wooded areas so close to us. The disappearance of these spaces denigrates people's health and well being. It is vital that this space be maintained as a forest. There will be those, and the developer will be among them, that argue for the construction so that money can be made. There are other ways to "make money" from the space, if that is an important enough issue. From an economic standpoint, it is entirely possible that the space can generate revenue and livelihoods for many people, if continued to be maintained as forest. It merely requires a bit of imagination on the part of the elected officials and planners, and a buy-in from the developer.

Another consideration regarding the dollar value of the space: any economic cost/benefit analyses, whether explicitly conducted, or simply informally considered in one's own mind, are certainly not valuing the forest's "good" or "utility" highly enough. I would be willing to bet that all parties involved in promoting the construction project, including the mayors and councillors, consider the forest's value as zero. This is a mistake.

Once the forest is gone, there is no way to make it up.

Please reconsider the zoning plan. Please "go back to the drawing board", and come up with a new plan that will involve compromise on the part of the developer, so that the forest may be preserved intact.

I am available to assist in any planning discussions.

Respectfully submitted.

Robert Deom

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