

TO: Camden County Freeholders
Camden County Parks Division; CCOS Director Jack Sworaski
& Walt Whitman Arts Center
c/o Elizabeth Hanson Kuehner Trust
201 Cedar Ave
Somerdale, NJ 08083

Re: Passive Open Space Preservation via WWAC stewardship of Block 61, Lot 1;
Block 62, Lot 5; Laurel Springs, NJ.

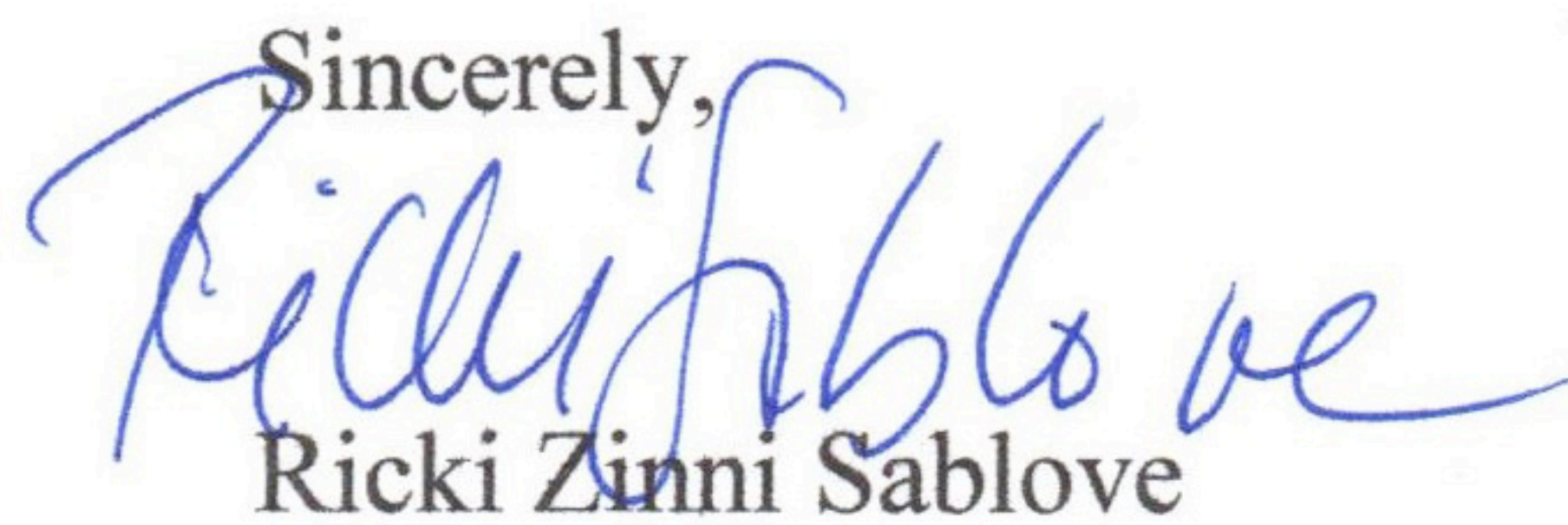
Dear Fellow Citizens of Southern New Jersey:

As a lifelong resident of Camden County, I take great pride in the uniqueness and beauty of our region, and feel a responsibility to do whatever I can to ensure the maintenance of the precious open space that remains in our densely-developed towns. And as an alumna of Rutgers University in Camden, I feel a special connection to the work of the Walt Whitman Arts Center (WWAC). That is why I respectfully urge you to support the preservation of Block 61, Lot 1, and Block 62, Lot 5 in Laurel Springs, New Jersey, which would be held under the stewardship of the WWAC. It is hard to imagine a more appropriate or capable guardian of these three as-yet unspoiled acres.

As you know, open space for the sustenance of wildlife is vital to the wellbeing of our ecosystems as well as to our own enjoyment. It is frightening to contemplate the idea that every bit of land around us can be valuable only as an economic commodity. In fact, the kind of development that could result from the loss of this acreage could be counterproductive: a more congested Laurel Springs would be less attractive to human residents as well as the species of animals who presently call it home.

With the WWAC's diligence, Laurel Springs could become a model for other towns in New Jersey and elsewhere. So let us support this effort. It is the least we can do to ensure the survival of Walt Whitman's beloved leaves of grass.

Sincerely,



Ricki Zinni Sablove
Adjunct Professor of Art History
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