August, 15, 2014

Re: Laurel Springs Open Space Acquisition

Dear Camden County Freeholders:

The South Jersey Land & Water Trust supports the preservation of the 3-acre tract (Block 61, Lot 1; Block 62, Lot 5) located in Laurel Springs, NJ as passive Open Space. The Trust has worked with the family over the past several years to aid them in the preservation process. The Trust will continue to serve as advisors on management issues and volunteer coordination.

This tract of land is located in a densely populated area and serves as trail, access to water views and is a significant wooded place for local residents. In addition, the Walt Whitman Arts Center will take ownership and maintain the property. Walt Whitman summered here in the late 1800s, and walked Laurel Lake’s banks daily; he called it "the prettiest lake in Europe or America," and drew inspiration here for Specimen Days and Leaves of Grass.

The Trust hopes this precious Open Space is saved from development. The borough of Laurel Springs has endorsed its future use as a park in Resolution #122-2010.

Please, contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Christine Nolan
Executive Director
(856) 881-2269
cnolan@sjlandwater.org

Copied:
Camden County Parks Division
Camden County Open Space Director Jack Sworaski
Walt Whitman Arts Center
c/o Elizabeth Hanson Kuehner Trust
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