

Friends of Clifton Park Open Space
P.O. Box 821
Clifton Park, New York 12065
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Letters to the Editor
Community News
Clifton Corporate Park
Clifton Park, New York 12065

Friends of Clifton Park Open Space (FCPOS) is continuing to work both with the Town of Clifton Park and independently to create a forum for the discussion of open space ideas. These ideas cannot become effective unless they have input and support across the community—from private citizens and from other organizations concerned about managing growth in the town.

Some ideas are as simple as asking the area Garden Clubs to identify roadside areas as potential wild flowers sites, then working with the town to keep them from being mowed down during the summer months. Presenting the town with beautification suggestions like planting perennials in medians and street dividers to minimize the effort necessary for maintenance. Business can be encouraged to move stands of trees from sites due for construction to other green areas in a development plot. This was a successful tactic implemented by the mall management during their recent expansion.

Too often, creating open space is interpreted to mean taking away someone's land. This is incorrect. The best protection of our open space areas in Clifton Park would be to maintain the integrity and viability of our farmers, particularly in the western part of town. FCPOS has instituted meetings between these parties as well as other large landholders and the Town Assessor and other official agencies involved in land management. Our members have been instrumental in bringing the ideas from these kinds of meetings to other forums for publicity and implementation.

Too often, creating open space is interpreted to be anti-business. This is also incorrect. Any town must maintain its commercial and financial future with successful development—both business and residential. Open Space Planning—with its emphasis on thoughtful planning—is meant to lay the groundwork to outline how development can best be accommodated along with other equally important factors like water resources, natural habitat, quality of life and recreational needs. It is all these things, taken together, which insure the success of our town.

Friends believes we can facilitate discussion on these topics to compliment what the town is trying to do with their Open Space Committee. To foster such discussions and improve communications, Friends has developed its web site at: <http://www.cpopenspace.org> and we urge you to visit us there.

Friends will also be holding a general meeting this Thursday, October 18th at 7:30 PM at the Shenendehowa United Methodist Church on Route 146 across from the school campus. You are invited to attend. Bring your ideas and your concerns and help us build a forum for turning ideas into working plan for the improvement of our town.

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