



Friends of Clifton Park Open Space, P.O. Box 821, Clifton Park, New York 12065

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Friends of Clifton Park Open Space
P.O. Box 821
Clifton Park, New York 12065
March 24, 2006

Letters to the Editor
Community News
Clifton Corporate Park
Clifton Park, New York 12065

Subject: Congratulations on Hiring of Open Space Coordinator

The Friends of Clifton Park Open Space would like to commend the Town in its selection of Jennifer Viggiani as the Town's new Open Space Coordinator. We heartily endorse this decision, not only to fill this job as a full time position, but also to bring a person of her caliber into the slot.

As we have often stated, we believe that finally filling this position is an important step. Clifton Park is probably the only town in New York State to have a full-time, paid, professional Open Space Coordinator. It is an important step in a continuing process. The Town's formulation and adoption of the Open Space Plan was conducted in a thorough and thoughtful manner with both professional direction and substantial public input. The continued implementation of that Plan with this hiring step is another important mark for the Town and its citizenry.

An Open Space Coordinator on staff opens great possibilities for our town. The uniqueness of this position allows the town to follow the views so often expressed in past surveys to pursue a measured policy for the preservation and acquisition of large blocks of open space still available in the town. To our great fortune, Ms. Viggiani has been involved in the town's Open Space process and is already familiar with the town's territory and character. This prior exposure will facilitate her ability to identify and seek open space opportunities across the town.

As reported in recent news articles, the Town's newly adopted zoning tools which allow for Purchase of Development Rights and Clustering have been activated by some developers before the Planning Board. The \$30,000 per lot has been readily requested by builders in exchange for greater density. These experiences confirm not only the ability of the town to raise money for open space purchases, but also the importance of incorporating active open space considerations into the Planning Board approval process.

We applaud the Town's selection of such a qualified individual as Jennifer Viggiani who we are confident that, with the Town's direction, can hit the ground running and make a significant contribution to the studied growth of our Town for the benefit of all.

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