



HUNTERDON COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

Hunterdon County Administration Building #1
Route 12 County Complex, PO Box 2900
Flemington, New Jersey 08822-1200
John W. Kellogg, AICP/PP, Director

June 4, 2003

Tewksbury Township Planning Board
169 Old Turnpike Road
Califon, NJ 07830
Attn: Blake Johnstone, Chairman

Re: Fern Valley Subdivision

Dear Mr. Johnstone,

I am unable to attend tonight's Planning Board meeting due to illness but wanted to share some thoughts related to green development, a concept clearly reflected in the Fern Valley subdivision application.

The Hunterdon County Planning Department has been actively promoting green development over the past several months. Last fall, we formed a committee consisting of professionals involved in green development, the Hunterdon County League of Women Voters, the Hunterdon Economic Partnership and interested residents. The purpose of doing this was to educate ourselves about green development, including site design, building construction and the design process that green development projects follow and discuss how these ideas could best be shared with the public in Hunterdon County. To initiate this process, the Hunterdon County Planning Board, Hunterdon Economic Partnership and Hunterdon County League of Women Voters cosponsored a program on green development at Merck & Co., Inc in Whitehouse Station in May, 2003. Roughly 100 people attended. This fall, we plan to host a bus tour of several innovative development sites, including a green school site in Gladstone, NJ.

Green development practices are incorporated into the landscape and buildings to maximize ecological benefits, energy savings, use of renewable resources, and natural resource regeneration. Green development addresses environmental concerns at the beginning of the design process to ensure that they are given the serious attention they deserve. While there are examples of green development projects throughout the country, including New Jersey, green development has not as yet been widely practiced in Hunterdon County. The Fern Valley subdivision application embodies green design in a residential development site. If built, perhaps it will be able to serve as a demonstration project for the future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Caroline J.S. Armstrong
Assistant Director