



October 2006

Dear Members and Friends,

Your Task Force and Green Sanctuary Committee in the past few weeks have been wrestling over a pending change in the footprint location of our new building.

Our architect discovered while walking the property with our earthmoving contractor that the contour lines drawn on the site map are not accurate and the old gravel pit site is much larger than originally understood. To locate our building as we had planned would have placed it partially over the gravel pit and made it necessary to use expensive and potentially less stable engineered fill. By moving west 50-60 feet we can use the pit as a place to put the earth we remove to prepare for the building. Doing this will save substantial cost in site preparation. The removed earth will partially fill the gravel pit and prepare contours for parking and driveways.

Sounds like a no-brainer? It is until you consider what we are losing. By moving the building west we lose the vernal ponds and encroach on an area of our property we had earmarked to leave undisturbed.

We recognize that this is no trivial change. Vernal ponds support several species of frogs whose survival depend on ponds which dry up at the end of summer or early fall, because this kills predators which consume their larvae.

We see this dilemma as a challenge and embrace this opportunity. Steve Erban, the Green Sanctuary Committee and the Task Force met and came up with the idea to try to save the northern half of the western pond and excavate north of that so that plant life could migrate into the new area. Steve is also willing to carefully remove vernal pond soil and relocate it and any critters that are living within it. Long term success for this is uncertain.

The Task Force aesthetics subcommittee has a Natural Sanctuary sub-group which Erik Hahn chairs. He and the Green Sanctuary Committee will oversee this process to assure our entire property is what we want it to be. By intentional design, we will over time create an environment that supports various life forms, enhances natural growth, offers educational opportunities and provides meditative space.

One further note, in the next few weeks the site is going to change drastically. It is going to look really bad before it looks better. Please be patient.