

December 6, 2010

To: Trustees of Cayuga Heights:

Re: DEIS; Deer "Management" Plan

There has been repeated mention of a concern for biodiversity with great attention paid to songbirds and wildflowers. However, biodiversity is a concept that encompasses much more than just a handful of species. It addresses all species in an ecosystem, animal, plant, those that can sing and those that cannot.

I have previously brought to the attention of the trustees, research that shows reducing deer can lead to a reduction in reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates, members crucial to the health of any ecosystem. Yet the DEIS shows that no consideration has been given to these species.

Even if for the moment we just consider birds, research has shown that reducing deer can lead to a reduction in ground nesting birds. Other research has shown significant decreases in bark-foraging birds such as woodpeckers. Yet another study has shown decreases in species such as Blue Jays, Northern Cardinal, and Carolina Wren when deer are reduced.

The point is, as one researcher concluded: "*management actions taken to regulate deer densities could have the unintended effect of **reducing** local animal diversity.*"

It is also revealing that requests under the Freedom of Information Law for documentation of consideration of biodiversity in the approval of development projects, has returned zero results.

Therefore, if biodiversity is indeed a sincere concern for the trustees, I call on them to perform the necessary field studies to measure and quantify biodiversity in the village before proceeding with this environmentally impacting plan.

Eric Huang, Ithaca

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