



Gedney Association

P.O. Box 134 • Gedney Station • White Plains, NY 10605

January 25, 2016

To All White Plains Residents,

Over the past month or so, you may have been approached through neighborhood canvassing, or at the train station, to sign a petition for a new park in White Plains. The organizing group is called White Plains Neighbors ACT, and their pitch goes something like this: "Would you rather have a park or hundreds of condos?" I want to take this opportunity to outline some of the details surrounding this issue.

- The project in question is the FASNY campus being proposed for the site of the former Ridgeway Country Club. That's not disclosed on the literature being distributed, and it's unclear why that fact would be hidden. It's my impression that a large number of signatures are being sought to influence the common council, so a controversial subject like FASNY is not part of the pitch.
- FASNY claims to have no involvement with or influence over ACT, however, several of the ACT organizers are members of FASNY's Board of Trustees.
- The property is zoned for single family homes, so FASNY is requesting a special permit to construct multiple buildings. The proposed campus is so large that it requires the closure of a road to accommodate it. As a tradeoff, FASNY has offered to have a conservatory on the site that they'll use for outdoor teaching, and residents will have access to it. This is what's being called a "park".
- At this point in time, the White Plains common council hasn't voted on the special permit which could allow for the FASNY campus and the adjacent conservatory. The only vote so far is that the common council turned down the road closure due to safety risks for the adjacent neighborhood. The fire department relies on this road for access from the local firehouse. Closure of this road would significantly increase their response time and could very likely cost lives.
- There's no plan on the table to build condos or anything else. The property is owned by FASNY, and until such time that they decide to sell it, no other site plans are up for consideration. And to a prior point, anything other than single family homes will require a special permit.
- The "park" being touted has no facilities other than a trail. There are no fields, play sets, or anything that resembles a traditional park. As a matter of fact, the land is bisected by a 3,000 ft. access road which will carry all of the cars and buses to the campus. FASNY

is providing a paltry 12 parking spaces and can close down access anytime it deems necessary.

In summary:

- There is no park being proposed – it's a conservatory without any park facilities.
- The city has not yet voted on the special permit for the FASNY campus and conservatory.
- The city turned down the road closure due to safety concerns.

All the very Best,
Rob Manger, Board Member
Gedney Association

[Attached is a letter](#) sent to the City of White Plains regarding the recent White Plains Neighbors ACT activities.