

**From:** [Handler, Carolyn B](#)  
**To:** [harlemherald@optonline.net](mailto:harlemherald@optonline.net)  
**Sent:** Monday, May 05, 2008 3:39 PM  
**Subject:** Coalition For the Responsible Development of Dover

I would like to respond to Mr. Muroski's recent letter to the Harlem Valley Herald. As President of the Coalition for the Responsible Growth of Dover (CRGD) and a resident of Dover for close to 20 years, I can reassure Mr. Muroski and others who question our group's motives, that CRGD's primary objective is to ensure that we have a plan for the development of the Harlem Valley Psychiatric Center which we can all be proud of, and to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that the project proceeds in the most responsible manner possible.

A number of us in the community grew concerned after recent actions taken by our newly elected Town Board seemed to indicate a willingness to hastily move the Dover Knolls project forward in ways that would appear to benefit the developer over the long term interests of Dover residents and our neighbors. We decided to form a group to more actively monitor the site plan approval process after the Town Board voted to (i) remove site plan review for the Dover Knolls project from the Dover Planning Board and (ii) add the Dykeman parcel into the MC Overlay District without proper notice to the public. Before deciding to commence legal action, a member of the group notified the Board in writing of the procedural defects with the Town's decision regarding the Dykeman Parcel and encouraged the Board to take immediate corrective action. The Board never responded to this correspondence and now appears to be casting itself as the victim by blaming CRGD. Faced with a statutory deadline for seeking legal redress, CRGD hired a land use attorney, Jeffrey Baker, of the law firm of Young, Sommer to assist us in the process. We continue to hope that the Board acknowledges and remedies its error, thereby saving the expense of legal fees in defense of this action.

Our most immediate concern is assuring as much participation as is possible in the upcoming scoping sessions for the Dover Knolls Project to be held on Wednesday, May 7 at 6:30 PM and Saturday, May 10th at 9:00 AM at the Dover High School Auditorium. Details can be found on the Dover Town Board website. (<http://www.townofdover.us/>). We urge as many of you as possible to attend and submit comments. Some points we feel are important to make include:

Point 1. As resubmitted, the proposed amended scope is watered down from its original form. Given that the project would put nearly 1,400 units on 937 acres and that the proposed proposal is likely to cause more substantial, adverse impacts than the project for which the original scope was written, it is critical that the scope be restored to its original form.

Point 2. The proposed project must be consistent with the Dover Master Plan and the provisions within the MC Overlay District portion of the Zoning Law. At present, it is not.

Point 3. The developer should not be permitted to create super-suburban sprawl in direct contravention of existing local laws.

Point 4. The scoping process is only effective when there is an application that indicates what is actually going to be built and where it will be built. The details are critical to any thoughtful consideration of the proposal.

Point 5. In any detailed phasing, the developer should be called upon to develop the HVPC Campus first, and only then move onto development of the Dykeman Parcel.

CRGD is sponsored by The Open Space Institute, Inc., a nonprofit public charity, which makes contributions to CRGD tax deductible as permitted by law. Those interested in supporting us can make checks payable to "Open Space Institute, Inc./CRGD."

In the near future, we anticipate getting a website up and running which will provide information about the project, offer links to educational sources and indicate ways to participate in the process. Until we get the website up, you can reach us at:

CRGD PO Box 544 Dover Plains, NY 12522

We welcome your support and are interested in hearing what concerns you have.

Sincerely, Carolyn B. Handler