

February 12, 2015

«Last Name»

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The historic Pitney Farm in Mendham Township may be sold for development. Your support is needed to urge the Mendham Township Committee to rethink its plans.

The Pitney Farm has been here since 1722, and was an active farm until 1960 - once 740 acres. Pitney Farm is one of the few important pre-revolutionary places left in Morris County. There have been many important Pitneys - in wars (1st revolutionary battle on Long Island, Civil War, WWII), founding Atlantic City, founding Day Pitney law firm, Vice Chancellor of NJ Supreme court, and US Supreme Court Justice.

Over time Pitney land was sold to developers for housing or given for water rights. The remainder (12.5 acres) was purchased in 2009 by Mendham Township for possible town use - library, town office, police, community. 50% was purchased with County/Town Open Spaces funds, with the central portion purchased by Mendham Township using a bond. Its preservation is consistent with the 2006 town Master Plan to preserve the Township's unique historic character and distinctive sense of place.

Much study has been done regarding possible uses and how to support it. Two committees were formed by the town to examine cost of maintaining and using it for public purposes. Mrs. Pitney (11th generation) had lived there allowing for maintenance, until she died in 2013, leaving the main house vacant. Recently Mendham Township has become concerned with the cost of continuing to hold Pitney and/or invest in its development. The town now is looking at the feasibility of developing their portion with private housing.

Residents are only now becoming aware of its historic importance and need for preservation. Many letters have been written to the Observer Tribune newspaper and they have registered protests at town meetings. There is a Save Pitney Petition <https://www.change.org/p/pitney-farm-future> - currently 494 signatures as of 2/11/15.

Your support to urge the Mendham Township Committee to rethink its plans is requested. Please view the Pitney historical video which will give you a more detailed background of the property at: <https://vimeo.com/99553318> Password is "Pitney".

A concerned resident

David P.R. Bailin
10 Washington Valley Road (Mendham Township)
Morristown, NJ, 07960-3412
dprb@openix.com, 973 267 4283