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Former Wambold Road residents happy with changes

03/26/2007

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As former residents of Wambold Road, we would like to take this opportunity to respond to the recent article "Homes vacated for Route 309 Connector," in the Feb. 19 Reporter.

First off, we and four other residents couldn't be happier to be out of what we considered "unlivable" conditions that continued to worsen by the day.

How anyone would want to live on a road with the amount of noise, trash and traffic that now exists is beyond comprehension.

Moving the road 50 feet into Mr. Kriebel's property would not have made a bit of difference. It would have had to go through his front door in order for it to have been far enough away.

So he is not to blame.

We couldn't hold a conversation in our living room with the front door open.

Nor could we easily get out of our driveway or get our mail without the fear of getting hit by a passing automobile or tractor-trailer.

PennDOT committed no crime by giving us the quality of life we as tax-paying citizens deserve.

We, as well as at least one other household, proactively pursued contact with people at PennDOT's District 6 Right-of-Way office for about two years prior to the news of acquisitions, so it came as no surprise to us.

Had some other residents made this same effort with the correct individuals at PennDOT or at least the other residents of the neighborhood, they might have better prepared themselves for the news of the total takes that were going to take place in the late spring of 2006.



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What the article failed to mention is that every resident of Wambold Road attended a meeting back in August 2002 to hear PennDOT's original plan, which included taking frontal property and putting a berm in front of our homes which was (thankfully) rejected.

A total acquisition was of all homes was suggested to which most, if not all, supported. Each resident was asked at a later PennDOT meeting to submit a vote if they still supported a total takeover. Those who did not attend the meeting were sent a letter to cast their vote.

We had been told at the time by a PennDOT rep four households totally supported a buyout and two others were on the fence but would eventually accept.

The relocation people we dealt with at the PennDOT office were the utmost professionals in every sense of the word.

They were very kind and courteous to our emotions and respectful to our lives and homes.

Most importantly, they treated us very fairly throughout every aspect of the relocation and we couldn't be happier with their prompt handling of the situation from start to finish.

They more than amply compensated the residents with their purchase price offer and we in turn made choices to do with the compensation as we wished by purchasing the homes that best fit our needs.

Those Wambold Road homes were worthless and no one in their right mind would have purchased any one of them for anywhere near the amount Penn DOT gave to each of us.

PennDOT's District 6 Right-of-Way office's goal from the time they entered into our homes was "to make us whole."

At this time, happily settled into our new home, we and other former residents of Wambold Road can confidently say, "our lives are whole again."

Mark and Kelley Werkheiser were former residents of Wambold Road, Towamencin.

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