June 15, 2014

School Board
Radnor Township School District
Wayne, PA 19087

Dear School Board members,

It was reported by the Township Manager to the Stormwater Management Advisory Committee this past week that the only concern the School Board has about the Township’s apparent plan to construct a detention basin on the North Wayne Park field is that of liability. It was not my understanding that this was the only concern of the School Board but to the extent it may be I wanted to share some additional thoughts.

I certainly recognize that if the Township were to construct the proposed basin on the field and the field were to remain in the ownership of the School District liability should be a very significant concern. But I would suggest that there are other important issues for the School District to consider and weigh.

There are values of this property to the children of the District which the School Board should recognize, value and protect. There are many School District children who play on this field outside of school hours — they play organized sports and pick up games, they enjoy it for light leisure and game playing with friends and family. Supporting outdoor play of School District children; ensuring they have safe and healthy places to play outside is a valid and valuable goal of the School District for the town’s children. The School District should want to protect this attribute of North Wayne Park for the students.

Finding replacement field space for the School District will be difficult to say the least — to give up this property gives up a likely irreplaceable asset for school students, sports and events that may not have even been thought of yet.

If the school were to sell, this is a very valuable asset in the center of Wayne that the District could sell for a significant amount of money to any number of buyers. If the School District were to be thinking about sale to the Township to resolve the liability concerns would the Township really be willing to pay the full fair market value for which the property could be sold to any other buyer interested in
this very prime location so near the center of Wayne?

I hope you will consider these issues as you ponder your decision regarding the North Wayne Park field.

Respectfully,

Maya K. van Rossum
the Delaware Riverkeeper