



SAVE ITHAN COALITION
www.saveithan.org

April 9, 2007

Mr. Hank Mahoney
Radnor Township Board of Commissioners
Radnor Township
301 Iven Avenue
Wayne, PA 19087

Re: Save Ithan Coalition Position Paper and Report on the Ithan/ Radnorville Community
Visioning Session

Dear Mr. Mahoney,

We are writing out of great concern for the future of the Village of Ithan. The Save Ithan Coalition is a collection of Ithan residents, neighbors and concerned citizens of Radnor who came together to stave off an ill-conceived and undesirable redevelopment proposed for one of Ithan's properties. The Village of Ithan is a tremendous historic and cultural asset to our community. After all, it is where Radnor began! Ithan has a unique character and, at the same time, considerable environmental constraints. We believe it is imperative for the Township's consideration of redevelopment proposed in this area to recognize and respect the great value of the Village of Ithan to our community. We urge that a plan for Ithan should be adopted that is worthy of that value and captures its full potential while preserving its identity.

We appreciate that Township officials have signaled a desire for the development of an overlay district for the Village of Ithan, and have recently voiced a desire for the property owners to collaborate on their redevelopment plans. However, we are greatly concerned that the process that has been initiated fails to afford all community residents the opportunity to participate in defining the future of Ithan. The Comprehensive Plan envisioned that overlay districts would be established for all of Radnor's villages, to guide future development and redevelopment. Yet, the long drawn-out process to adopt the overlay district for Wayne has delayed progress with planning for the other areas. While the Township is belatedly addressing the need to establish an overlay for Ithan, in reaction to redevelopment proposals, this very important area deserves a community-wide dialogue, drawing on the same type of

broad-based input and creative thinking that gave rise to the Wayne Master Plan. We feel strongly that the Township should drive this process, and ensure that the overlay concept for Ithan represents the interests of the community-at-large.

In the spirit of seeking a positive alternative for the future for Ithan, the Coalition convened a vision workshop on March 18th, including Coalition members and other interested members of the community. The participants were asked to identify what it is about Ithan that they value and to imagine how those values could be encouraged and supported in an overall plan for the area. We have enclosed a copy of the “Report on the Ithan/Radnorville Community Visioning Session” for your consideration. We have also enclosed the Position Paper that we have prepared outlining our recommendations for handling aspects of the development process. We emphasize that our purpose is simply to initiate the broad community-wide dialogue that is warranted. And we look forward to playing a significant role in the planning process we urge the Township to undertake. We believe that the concepts contained within the enclosed documents can be an important beginning for discussions about planning for the future of the Village. We request that you include the Save Ithan Coalition and all Radnor residents in any future discussions and initiatives undertaken to address development/redevelopment of Ithan Village.

Sincerely,

Save Ithan Coalition

cc: Mr. Bill Spingler
Radnor Township Board of Commissioners
Radnor Township Planning Commission