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September 26, 2005

The Honorable Arlene Kemp  
Mayor Hopewell Township  
201 Washington Crossing – Pennington Rd  
Titusville, NJ 08560-1410

RE: Proposed 2005 General Development Plan for the BMS Hopewell Campus

Dear Mayor Kemp:

The Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association (the Watershed Association) is continuing our review of issues related to the proposed General Development Plan (GDP) for the Bristol Myers Squibb-Hopewell (BMS) facility and we appreciate this opportunity to provide additional comments on this proposal.

BMS has been a good neighbor to the Watershed Association over the years and their staff has been extremely helpful to us in assisting our review of the proposed GDP. The Watershed Association values our continued partnership with BMS, and recognizes that BMS supports a variety of important community programs in several communities in Mercer County including Hopewell, Lawrence and Plainsboro.

As an organization dedicated to preserving clean water and the environment, and as manager of the adjacent 830-acre Watershed Reserve and Buttinger Nature Center, however, we have a number of concerns about the potential impacts from the proposed GDP. Growth and development is happening everywhere in New Jersey, even at our doorstep, and it is essential that we work together to maintain and preserve the tranquil, rural and natural setting on and near our reserve.

We outlined our concerns with the proposed GDP and made a number of recommendations in a letter that we sent to you and members of the Planning Board on August 19 and in brief remarks before the board on August 23. Since that time, we have met several times with BMS officials in an effort to resolve our concerns.

The attached document describes our progress in addressing the 14 issues that we brought to your attention in August. While we are pleased to report progress on a number of these issues, there is no denying that the potential construction of an additional 1.8 million square feet of office and research space, and the addition of 4,000 employees will increase demands on clean water supplies, increase wastewater and storm water discharges to the Stony Brook, and increase traffic and noise. We continue to have several specific concerns. For example:

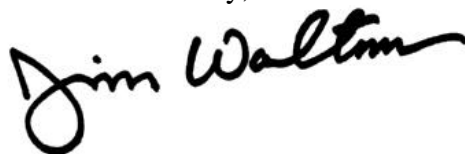
- The GDP proposes two new buildings within the 100-year floodplain of the Stony Brook and/or an associated buffer zone.
- The proposed GDP contains the option to use public water and sewer, a controversial proposal that could have direct and indirect negative effects on the region's environment. Hopewell Township should be explicit that if it approves the GDP, it is neither approving nor expressing any opinion on the option of using public water or sewer at BMS' Hopewell campus. Approval of the GDP should not be construed by anyone as tacit or even conditional approval by the Township for public utilities. Approval of the proposed GDP, if granted, should not prejudice any later decision on public utilities, should BMS later request approval for such services.
- While BMS deserves credit for excluding new development from the more than 200 acres of the Hopewell site that is currently farmed and approximately 100 acres that is currently maintained as additional open space, we continue to feel strongly that these areas should be permanently protected through a perpetual conservation easement.

We respectfully request that if Hopewell Township approves the proposed 2005 GDP, it do so only after ensuring that BMS has thoroughly addressed all relevant concerns that have been raised during the review process. Furthermore, we urge the Township to ensure that mechanisms to address such concerns be included as conditions in any amendments to the current Developer's Agreement that may be necessary if the proposed GDP is approved.

The Watershed Association is a non-profit membership organization dedicated to protecting clean water and the environment in the 265 square mile area of central New Jersey drained by the Stony Brook and the Millstone River. The 830-acre Watershed Reserve serves the community as a critical sanctuary for wildlife, as a refuge for passive recreation, as an outdoor ecological classroom for students and families, and as host to the independently operated Honey Brook Organic Farm. Our Buttinger Nature Center provides hands on environmental education experiences for thousands of children and adults each year. Our comments are provided in support of our mission and in furtherance of our stewardship responsibilities as managers of our reserve and nature center.

The Watershed Association is committed to working with the community and BMS towards a successful outcome of this review process. If you have any comments or wish to discuss these issues, please do not hesitate to contact me at 609-737-3735.

Sincerely,



Jim Waltman  
Executive Director

*Copies to:*

Karen Murphy, Chair Hopewell Twp Planning Board

Hopewell Twp Planning Board

Ted Stiles, Chair, Hopewell Twp Environmental Commission

Mayor James Loper, Pennington Borough

Donna Lewis, Mercer County Planning Dept.

Marybeth Koza, BMS

Dimitry Levitsky, BMS

Amy Lanterman, BMS

**Attachment A September 23, 2005 DRAFT**  
**Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association Comments on**  
**Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS) Proposed 2005 General Development Plan**

**BMS -GDP Background**

When BMS purchased the 433-acre site from Mobil in 1997, they also obtained a General Development Plan (GDP) for a 2.8 million square foot campus that was approved by Hopewell Township in 1990. That GDP remains valid until 2012. BMS is now seeking a new GDP with a vesting period of 20 years running from 2005 through 2025. If approved, BMS would have been granted a total of 28 years to construct additional buildings and infrastructure beginning in 1997.

In 2000, BMS secured an amendment to the Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) that provided for expansion of the on-campus wastewater flow. In 2001, BMS signed a Developer's Agreement with Hopewell Township for the amended WQMP. The Watershed Association and Hopewell Township applauded the commitments in that agreement for BMS to be a self-sustaining campus by relying on groundwater wells for its water supply, to treat wastewater via an on-site treatment facility, and to convey only 25,000 gallon per day to the Stony Brook Regional Sewage Authority.

BMS submitted conceptual revisions to the GDP in 2001, but withdrew the plans pending the evaluation of traffic impacts. The traffic study was completed in August 2005. In June 2005, BMS submitted a proposed GDP (similar to the 2001 plans) that includes a number of valuable smart growth initiatives and measures designed to pose fewer environmental impacts than the Mobil GDP. The Watershed Association commends BMS for a number of design improvements to the Mobil GDP. In particular, we commend BMS for its commitments to:

- Preserve over 200 acres of farmland and other open space that maintains wildlife habitat, rural character, and the view shed from Pennington-Rocky Hill Road;
- Maintain future growth within its loop road; and
- Rely on covered parking decks, which will minimize disturbances, impervious cover, storm water runoff and non-point source pollution, and increase pedestrian accessibility for its employees.

The Watershed Association continues to have concerns, however, that the addition of 1.8 million square feet of office and research space, and the addition of 4,000 employees will increase demands on clean water supplies, increase wastewater and stormwater discharges to the Stony Brook, and increase traffic and noise.

For example, the GDP proposed two new buildings within the 100-year floodplain of the Stony Brook and/or an associated buffer zone beyond the flood plain. The proposed GDP also contains the option to use public water and sewer, a controversial proposal that could have direct and indirect negative effects on the region's environment.

We expressed these concerns and a number of recommendations in an August 19 letter to the Hopewell Township Planning Board. Since then, we have been engaged in conversations with BMS to address our concerns and are committed to working with the community and BMS towards a successful outcome of this review process.

### ***Stakeholder Task Force and Developers Agreement***

In the Developers Agreement, BMS previously agreed to convene and participate on a Stakeholders Task Force to discuss upcoming construction, monitoring data, and relevant environmental issues. In a September 9, 2005 letter to the Watershed Association, BMS agreed again to participate on a Stakeholder Task Force with Hopewell and the Watershed Association. We appreciate this willingness to engage in this process.

The Watershed Association is committed to working with the Hopewell Township community and BMS to address these concerns. We are also committed to providing input to the drafting of amendments to the current Developers Agreement in the event that the proposed GDP is approved and such amendments are necessary. The Stakeholders Task Force could also provide input to the drafting of such amendments, if they are necessary.

#### ***1. Timelines & construction phases***

In our August 19 letter, the Watershed Association requested that BMS outline their need for an additional 20-year GDP at the BMS-Hopewell campus. A decision to approve an additional 20 years on top of the 15 years that has occurred already under the current 20-year GDP should not be taken lightly. If approved, 35 years would have been allowed for development of the site and BMS would effectively receive 28 years for the build-out of the site. We are not aware of any precedent for extending a GDP beyond an initial 20 years or provisions in the state's Municipal Land Use Law regarding such extensions.

Maintaining the current 2012 GDP timeframe would most likely result in less construction at the site and fewer demands on the community's infrastructure, roads and environmental resources, resulting in cost savings to the community.

The Watershed Association does recognize that the proposed GDP includes a number of important design improvements to the Mobil GDP. In particular, we commend BMS for its commitments to:

- Preserve over 200 acres of farmland and other open space that maintains wildlife habitat, rural character, and the view shed from Pennington-Rocky Hill Road;
- Maintain future growth within its perimeter loop road; and
- Rely on covered parking decks, which will minimize disturbances, impervious cover, storm water runoff and non-point source pollution, and increase pedestrian accessibility for its employees.

In our letter, we also urged the Township to require BMS to outline its proposed construction phases in order to better understand potential demands and impacts to local services, roads, infrastructure, township fiscal budgets, and to address community planning efforts such as affordable housing needs. BMS suggested that as each new building is proposed for construction, the specific details for infrastructure needs would be submitted as required by Hopewell Township.

**Recommendations:**

- ✓ We respectfully request that if Hopewell Township approves the proposed 2005 GDP, it do so only after ensuring that BMS has thoroughly addressed all relevant concerns that have been raised during the review process. Since BMS' current GDP does not expire until 2012, there is no apparent need to rush a decision. Furthermore, we urge the Township to ensure that mechanisms to address such concerns be included as conditions in any amendments to the current Developer's Agreement that may be necessary if the proposed GDP is approved.
  
- ✓ Both the Municipal Land Use Law (NJAC 40:55D-45.2.k) and the Hopewell Township Land Use Ordinance (Article VII 17-126.6.m) *require* the submittal of a timing schedule of the phased construction with the GDP application. Therefore, Hopewell Township should require BMS to submit a general projection of the timing schedule for construction in accordance with the ordinance. BMS has expressed willingness to the Association to consider this submittal.

**2. *Public Utilities and need for an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) and Community Impact Study (CIS)***

In the proposed GDP, BMS introduced the *option* of utilizing public water and sewer as part of their long-term strategic planning for their campus.

In August, the Watershed Association submitted comments and testified before the Planning Board that we are concerned that this option for public utilities could have significant impacts to the community and its environmental resources. We recommended that an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) and Community Impact Study (CIS) be completed and reviewed before the GDP is approved, in order to fully understand these impacts prior to making these decisions.

The BMS GDP Section 2 includes an assessment of the potential growth on the campus. The 1999/2000 studies completed by BMS for the Water Quality Management Plan also provided a thorough evaluation, based on the presumption that the BMS campus would remain self-reliant on ground water supplies and would treat and recycle its wastewater onsite. However, these plans did not evaluate the potential impacts to the community or the environment *if* public utilities were provided to the site.

The existing large lot zoning in Hopewell Township is based on the local dependence on private wells, septic systems, and nitrate dilution modeling. If public water or sewers were provided in the area, that zoning could be challenged, threatening greater demands on township services and infrastructure, reducing the rural character of the town, and impacting local natural resources. These are potential impacts to the Township community and the environment that need to be evaluated before any approval—however preliminary—is granted to BMS for public water or sewer.

The Hopewell Township Land Use Ordinance for General Development Plans (Article VII 17-126.6.h) *requires* the submittal of an environmental inventory and an evaluation of the probable impacts to environmental attributes of the site. An evaluation has not

been performed to evaluate the environmental and community impacts if public utilities were provided to the BMS campus.

Bringing public utilities to the BMS has not been fully evaluated; has not been demonstrated as needed; is not consistent with the former Developer's Agreement of 2001 or the Hopewell Township Master Plan; and has not undergone an objective Alternatives Analyses required by the state under Executive Order 109.

### **Recommendations**

- ✓ Hopewell Township should be explicit that if it approves the GDP, it is neither approving nor expressing any opinion on the potential future option of using public water or sewer at BMS' Hopewell campus. Approval of the GDP should not be construed by anyone as tacit or even conditional approval by the Township for public utilities. Approval of the proposed GDP, if granted, should not prejudice any later decision on public utilities, should BMS later request approval for such services.
- ✓ BMS documented that their campus can be sustainable at full build out relying on onsite water supply and wastewater treatment. Therefore, BMS should *identify what criteria or threshold it would rely upon to determine* when they may submit a water supply franchise application or application to use public sewer services.
- ✓ If BMS pursues the use of public sewers, they should be required to pre-treat their wastewater because of the potential impacts of discharging pharmaceuticals from their research into public sewers and waterways.

### **3. Stream Corridor Buffers**

As we discussed in our August 19 letter, one of the most significant means to protect clean and healthy streams is to ensure that the floodplain and the corridor along streams remain intact. Stream corridors provide vegetation and forest cover, which absorbs rainfall and minimizes runoff. The plant roots help minimize erosion of stream banks. Shade reduces water temperatures, which also improves dissolved oxygen in the water for aquatic life. These corridors also act to store floodwaters, provide wildlife habitats, and provide linkages to other open space areas. Hopewell Township recognized these important functions and adopted a Stream Corridor Ordinance in 2004, protecting the undisturbed 150-foot buffer along all stream corridors.

The D&R Canal Commission adopted regulations that prohibit construction within the area composed of the 100-year flood plain plus a 100-foot buffer from the Stony Brook and other tributaries of the D&R Canal.

BMS has stated their intention to comply with the Township's ordinance and the D&R Canal Commission stream corridor regulations, but has requested approvals for averaging to meet the buffer requirements. BMS recently provided more detailed mapping to the Watershed that indicates that proposed building E would be located entirely within the 100-year floodplain of Stony Brook, and proposed building F would encroach on the floodplain and its buffer.

In October 2004, *prior* to the Township’s review and input of the proposed GDP, the D&R Canal Commission (DRCC) approved the document’s proposal to place buildings E and F within the DRCC buffer area and 100-year floodplain. To compensate for the loss of floodplain buffers along the Stony Brook, BMS proposes to preserve an area of the other side of Stony Brook near the Curlis Lake development, which would provide very little protection for runoff and flood controls. The DRCC approved this “buffer averaging strategy” without any input from the Watershed Association.

**Recommendations**

- ✓ To reduce the risk of flood damage on site and downstream from their campus, it is in the best interest of BMS and the community to avoid building in floodplains. Therefore, BMS should not construct buildings E and F inside of the Stony Brook’s 100-year floodplain and the associated DRCC floodplain buffer. As stated earlier, the Watershed Association strongly believes that these stream corridors should be honored and protected. Hopewell Township should also ensure that their 150-foot buffers are protected.
  
- ✓ The Watershed Association recognizes that the storm water retention pond will act to settle out pollutants, and therefore averaging the buffer along the pond may not have significant negative effects. However, the Association strongly recommends that the regulated buffers be maintained along the Stony Brook without reducing or averaging.

**4. Preservation of Open Space and Farmland on the BMS Campus**

As we discussed in our August 19 letter, more than 200 acres on the BMS campus is currently farmed and an additional 100 acres is currently maintained as open space. To its BMS’ credit, these areas are not included in the plans for development. The Watershed Association and other groups have requested that BMS place these open lands in a conservation easement to ensure their protection in perpetuity.

**Recommendation:**

The proposed BMS GDP directs the additional growth to occur within the perimeter loop road, thereby protecting valuable open space. We understand that BMS receives a reduced tax assessment from Hopewell Township for maintaining these acres as open space and farmland; therefore, BMS should place that land in a perpetual conservation easement.

**5. Water supply demands**

During review of the GDP, the Association asked several questions to clarify the current water demands on the BMS campus, and the projected water demands at full build out. BMS clarified that the current water supply demands are 5 million gallons a month or 60 million gallons a year (5 MGM or 60 MGY), and water demand at full build out is projected for 90 MGY, which includes 18 MGY of surface water from the expansion of the pond.

BMS has provided documentation within the GDP, the 1999/2000 studies, and current monitoring data that suggest that the campus can be sustainable at full build out relying on groundwater supplies, without impacting local groundwater or surface water resources.

### **Recommendation**

- ✓ Based on our review of the existing data, the Association currently sees no evidence that the current demands are impacting local water resources. We are pleased that the township will consider having a hydrogeologist re-evaluate this current data. Continued monitoring of impacts to regional ground and surface water resources must be a condition of approval of the proposed GDP.

### **6. Wastewater treatment volumes**

During review of the GDP, the Association asked several questions to clarify the current wastewater treatment volumes, the projected wastewater treatment volumes and other related issues on the BMS campus. The Watershed Association was also unclear about what volumes were being discharged to the pond and to the Stony Brook.

BMS clarified that the campus is currently permitted to treat 172,400 gpd on site, and can request permit approvals from the NJDEP to treat up to 515,000 gpd on site, at full build out.

BMS explained that after treatment these volumes are discharged to either their water reclamation facilities or to the pond. BMS is currently performing studies to evaluate the flow that is discharged from the pond, over the weir and into the Stony Brook, and they will share this information when the studies are complete.

The Association has reviewed the wastewater treatment data and stream monitoring results, and based on available data, we currently see no evidence that existing discharges are significantly impacting local water resources.

### **Recommendation**

- ✓ The Watershed Association remains concerned about the potential impacts at full build out and a discharge of 515,000 gallons per day to the pond and stream; and therefore recommends that monitoring continue in accordance with the conditions outlined in the 2001 Developers Agreement.

### **7. Water quality monitoring**

During review of the GDP and monitoring reports, the Association asked several questions to clarify concerns about potential contaminants in the discharge. BMS provided additional water quality monitoring data and data trends since 2002 to ease the review.

BMS also summarized their actions undertaken to minimize impacts from sodium, phosphorous, and fecal coliform, as requested. Some of these measures include:

- Softening pond edges through plantings to deter Canada Geese;
- Hiring contractor (Geese Police) to prevent Canada Geese nesting;
- Studying Hopewell Campus sodium cycle;
- Decreasing fertilizer use;
- Developing an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program;
- Restoring intermittent stream and wetland corridors; and
- Regenerating ion exchange resins used in water softeners off site.

In regard to pharmaceuticals in the environment (PIE), BMS provided additional information that summarized their efforts to implement a number of best management practices (BMP) to ensure that its research and development (R&D) does not impact the environment. The Watershed Association supports the BMPs adopted by BMS.

### **Recommendation**

- ✓ The Association has reviewed the wastewater treatment data and stream monitoring results, the treatment capabilities and best management practices implemented at the site, and we currently see no evidence that existing discharges are significantly impacting local water resources. But as stated above, the Watershed Association remains concerned about the potential impacts at full build out and a discharge of 515,000 gallons per day to the pond and Stony Brook. Therefore, stream monitoring should continue under the terms of the Developers Agreement.
- ✓ *Biological Stream Monitoring* – In our August 19 letter, we urged BMS to initiate biological stream monitoring under the protocols used by the Department of Environmental Protection and the Watershed Association. BMS has agreed to evaluate the macroinvertebrate biological stream monitoring that we recommended. The Association believes that biological monitoring provides an essential evaluation of the long-term health of the stream and should be conducted in addition to monthly chemical monitoring.

### **8. Storm water Controls**

After our initial review of the proposed GDP, the Watershed Association requested additional information on BMS' Best Management Practices implemented on site to improve stormwater runoff controls. BMS has provided this information and explained in more detail how the pond expansion will comply with NJDEP detention regulations. BMS is working to address fecal coliform counts, which are elevated during the summer seasonal low flows, possibly from resident geese and other upstream sources. These levels did show improvements over time based on the 2002-2005 data.

### **Update**

- ✓ BMS is currently performing studies to evaluate the flow that is discharged from the pond, over the weir and into the Stony Brook, and they will share this information when the studies are complete.

## **9. Noise Abatement**

The Watershed Association pointed out in our August 19 letter that the current operations at the BMS Hopewell campus currently create a significant amount of noise that impacts the visitors' natural experience on the Watershed Reserve and nature center as well as BMS' residential neighbors. While BMS maintains that their noise levels are within state standards, it has acknowledge the concern. The GDP does not provide projections of the additional impacts that may occur with the addition of another 1.8 million square feet of development on the BMS campus.

### **Update**

- ✓ BMS has agreed to perform additional studies and to work with the Watershed to mitigate the existing noise concerns, and to ensure that new equipment maintains noise levels 10dB below state standards. We are grateful that BMS has made this offer and look forward to the noise being successfully abated.

## **10. Wildlife Inventory – Endangered Species**

The BMS campus brochures and GDP application reference sightings of a Northern Harrier, a state designated *endangered species*. However, BMS stated that “the sightings have not been verified by BMS experts” and formal notifications to the NJDEP Natural Heritage Database and Landscape Project will occur if future sightings are better documented.

The Watershed Association has reported the presence of NJ Threatened & Endangered species to the NJDEP Natural Heritage Database. These sightings include the Northern Harrier and the Pied-Billed Grebe, endangered species present on our reserve over the last ten years. We also reported the Cooper's Hawk, a threatened species, which has been sporadically reported on our reserve. Most species designated as threatened or endangered in NJ have become rare due to the loss, or fragmentation, or disturbance of their habitat. Reporting these sightings to the appropriate authorities is very important to protect their viability.

The reports to NJDEP are enclosed (Attachment C) along with a list of other important species on the Watershed reserve property. The Hopewell community is fortunate to provide habitat for these wonderful and fragile birds. The information provided here is intended to help decision makers better understand the need to protect local critical habitats, and to ensure that development projects are designed and implemented in an environmentally sensitive manner.

### **Update**

- ✓ The Watershed Association welcomes the opportunity to work with BMS, and to bring experts to their campus to confirm if a nesting site is present, and to work together to identify the necessary precautions and develop conservation plans to ensure that these birds and their habitats are not disturbed.

### ***11. Wetlands Designation***

In 2002 the NJDEP approved wetland designations on the BMS site as intermediate value wetlands requiring a 50 foot setback or transition buffer. This designation is good for 5 years or until 2007. However, threatened and endangered wetland species or their suitable habitats are present on the BMS site and on the Watershed reserve, which we believe should increase the designation to exceptional wetlands, requiring a 150 foot transition buffer.

The presence of threatened and endangered species is documented in this GDP application, in the NJDEP Landscape Project, and in documentation from our reserve, including the Cooper's Hawk, Pied-Billed Grebe, Northern Harrier, and suitable habitat for wood turtles. The wetland regulations do consider habitats on adjacent properties in their designation process.

#### **Recommendation:**

- ✓ Although, BMS is required by their current permit to provide only a 50-foot wetland buffer, we provide this information and urge BMS to ensure that safe buffers are provided between their proposed buildings and these critical wetland habitats. The 150-foot transitional areas required by NJDEP for exceptional wetlands provides that additional buffer to protect local critical habitats for threatened and endangered species, minimizes disturbances, and allows for a more environmentally sensitive design.

### ***12. Traffic Management***

At full build out, BMS will accommodate 6,000 employees, three times the current employment, creating a significant impact on local roads. Such an increase in traffic could affect visitors and staff at the Watershed Reserve, our Buttinger Nature Center, and the Honey Brook Organic Farm, which operates on our reserve. BMS projected that 30% or 1,800 employees would be utilizing Old Mill Road, which crosses the Stony Brook on a historic mill bridge.

BMS participated in the Hopewell Valley Traffic Management Coalition Report to address current and projected traffic conditions on various roads. The report, released in August 2005, provides a number of recommendations for new road infrastructure and signals.

In regard to Old Mill Road, the report recommended widening the intersection with Pennington-Rocky Hill Rd (Intersection #32) to accommodate right hand turns and a left turning lane. The report did not discuss the historic nature of the Stony Brook bridge or the need for engineering and structural studies.

Upon review of the August 2005 Hopewell Valley Traffic Management Coalition Report, it is clear that the report only addresses traffic delays and potential improvements to intersections. The report does not address the impact of 1,800 cars on Old Mill Road and whether the bridge can service this volume, without modifications.

This historic bridge also provides significant linkage to Rosedale Park, the County Equestrian Center, and is a critical connection for the Lawrence-Hopewell Trail. It is unclear whether the roadway and bridge can service the traffic demand from BMS employees, and serve the public access to these parklands, in a safe and aesthetic manner.

**Recommendation:**

- ✓ Hopewell Township should require BMS to continue to work with the Hopewell Valley Traffic Management Coalition, the Hopewell Township Historic Society, Mercer County, the Lawrence-Hopewell Trail Coalition, and the Watershed Association to ensure that the appropriate studies are conducted and that improvements necessary to handle projected increases in traffic are provided for before site approval is granted for additional construction at the BMS facility.
- ✓ Necessary studies should be completed to ensure the preservation of the Old Mill bridge and its structural stability, and to ensure that the other public uses will not be affected by the increase in traffic demand on this bridge. BMS has expressed to the Association a willingness to consider this issue.

**13. Landscaping**

In 2000, a parking garage was constructed on the BMS facility near the Four Seasons Trail on the Watershed Reserve, which detracts from the natural beauty for our visitors and students hiking this trail. Additional buildings of 4-5 stories are also planned for construction near this trail in the future.

**Update:**

- ✓ BMS has agreed to work with the Watershed Association to add landscaping to minimize the view and impacts of the parking facilities and buildings on our visitors using the trail. The Association is appreciative of this offer to work with BMS to address this issue.

**14. LEED and River-Friendly Certifications**

Limited details of the building construction are outlined in the GDP, but BMS has stated their intention to build “green” and sustainable facilities. BMS has adopted LEED certification into their Global Engineering Standards for new construction as a goal, when practicable.

**Update:**

- ✓ The Watershed Association appreciates these commitments from BMS, and continues to work with BMS on attaining a Watershed River-Friendly certification for the Hopewell campus.

The Watershed Association is committed to work with the Hopewell Township community and BMS to address these concerns and work together on the successful outcome of this review process. If you have any questions regarding these comments and recommendations please contact Jim Waltman at the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association at 609-737-3735.