

STATEMENT REGARDING REZONING IN THE HOLLOW

Boonton Main Street is a grassroots, non-profit volunteer organization committed to the revitalization of our town's commercial center through efforts of economic restructuring, design and promotion. We recently suggested to and participated with the Town of Boonton's Board of Aldermen in a visit and consultation with a team from New Jersey DOIT (Development Opportunities Interagency/Implementation Team), arranged through New Jersey Main Street.

As a result, Boonton Main Street's Board of Trustees would welcome the Board of Aldermen approving the rezoning of the 3.5 acres of industrially-zoned property in the Rockaway River Hollow, currently being proposed by Elite Properties as the site of a 148-units, two-building condominium. We believe that this project, properly designed and related sensitively to its surroundings, can be the initial positive stimulant to further town-center improvement and development.

While supporting the zoning change and the potential Elite project, we do so with the awareness that there are issues related to such development that impact adjacent property; i.e.:

- historic preservation of Morris Canal and Boonton Ironworks remnants,
- recreational development of the Rockaway River gorge and its natural resources,
- reclaiming "brownfields" from pollution,
- down-sizing or relocation of the recycling center,
- potential congestion through vehicular access to Main Street and its traffic flow.

These issues must be resolved through decisions reached by consultation, negotiation and agreement with the Town, Elite Properties, Morris County, and the State of New Jersey, along with assurances of their financial resources being applied in combination.

Boonton Main Street, Inc
Unanimously adopted, August 28, 2007

(This statement was supported in early October by a petition circulated within a three-day period by Main Street business owners and signed by 35 merchants, subsequently presented to the Board of Aldermen.)