



Dear friends,

Those of you who have been following the unfolding saga in which the Lower Merion School District has called out Stoneleigh: A Natural Garden as a possible site for a middle school or playing fields **know that the fight is not over.**

The District's announcement last week of a tentative agreement to purchase the former Clothier estate (Clairemont) as a site for a new middle school does not mean that Stoneleigh is off the table.

The District conditioned its purchase of the Clothier estate on three things:

- that Lower Merion Township retain the Class 2 historic classification of the Clothier estate;
- that zoning considerations to allow a school are approved by Lower Merion Township; and
- that playing fields be identified elsewhere in the township.

A small first step occurred last week when a township committee voted to retain the Class 2 status for Clairemont.

While we are encouraged that the District and the Township have started to work together, there are still major hurdles. Here's what the District wrote in an email to the community last Thursday:

"If adequate field space can be found within the township, that would enable the District to step away from consideration of all or any of Stoneleigh."

Unless the District changes its position, **Stoneleigh is still at risk.**

We—and the many thousands of people who support Stoneleigh—cannot rest until the District publicly commits to taking Stoneleigh—all of Stoneleigh—off the table. For good.

The good news is that we have an opportunity TODAY to make it more difficult to take preserved land like Stoneleigh by eminent domain. State House Bill 2468 would

require court approval before any entity can seize a property preserved with a conservation easement.

That bill passed through the House Local Government committee on a unanimous vote last week. **The bipartisan bill is now headed to the floor of the House and *could get a final vote within the next day or two.***

Please call or [email your Representative right away](#) to ask them to vote for HB2468 and to oppose amendments that might weaken the bill.

Phone calls may be more impactful and **only take a moment.** ([Here's how to find your Representative's phone number.](#))

We also need to keep reminding the School Board that we are united in protecting every blade of grass, every tree, and every flower at Stoneleigh.

We hope that you will continue to reach out to the School Board with your messages of support for Stoneleigh. And you will encourage friends to do the same. If you haven't already, [please join the 29,000 who've signed the online petition.](#)

Many of you have said you'd like to contribute to a Save Stoneleigh defense fund. The best way to support Stoneleigh is to support Natural Lands through membership. [Join or rejoin us here.](#)

Thank you!

Sincerely,



Molly K. Morrison
President

