

September 20th, 2020

Frank Demayo

Vincent McPhillips

Brain McPhillips

Dean Farrand

Dear Sirs,

Please consider this my public comment.

My name is Evan Beck and I'm the owner of a property on Swan Lake at 1357 Briscoe Road. My family has been living here seasonally since the late 60's. We love and cherish Swan Lake and the Catskills. Unfortunately our taxes have ballooned over the years to what we consider to be untenable levels. They've become a crushing burden that threatens our ability to continue to reside in Sullivan County.

It is thus with great concern that I read about new plans for a sewer system upgrade. While I'd be the first to support upgrades to the system at a reasonable cost I'm deeply distressed that the upgrade currently being considered at a potential cost of 20 million dollars would also green light more high density housing in the area. I already find municipal services to be severely lacking here despite the sky high taxes. The fact that there is no garbage pick up has been a source of bewilderment to me for decades. Adding high density housing in service to sewer upgrades will only further weigh on the limited municipal services we already receive.

In addition I have perused several documents and a proposal online but do not see a budget specifically enumerating how exactly the proposed funds would be used for the sewer project. How would I be able to determine if I'm in favor of the project if I'm not able to review specifics on how the money would be spent?

I've also spoken to several of my neighbors. Many of them are not aware of the proposed project and none of them that I've spoken to are in favor of an increase in high density housing. It is for this reason that I suggest we pause and expand the time available for public comments.

It is also in this spirit that I strongly urge you to consider a lower priced upgrade that does not have expanded residential development attached to it. As mentioned I'd also like to see an accounting of exactly how this money would be spent in the form of a budget. Lacking this information I do not see how I can make an informed decision as to the efficacy of this project and would not support it as it is currently and vaguely represented. At this time I fail to see how this project would benefit me as a homeowner. Thank your for your time.

Regards,

Evan Beck