

# THE EDELSTEINS FAEGENBURG + BROWN

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April 23, 2021

Frank deMayo, Town Supervisor  
Town of Liberty  
120 North Main St, Liberty, NY 12754

Re: Town of Liberty's Proposed Water Plant Upgrade (which more properly should be entitled;  
Proposed new multifamily developments in Swan Lake)

Dear Mr. deMayo,

As you know I am an owner and seasonal resident of Swan Lake. My parents met more than 50 years ago at the Presidential Estates hotel and for the past ten years I have been the President of the Catskill Clean Water Fund, a charity dedicated to combatting an invasive water chestnut plant in the lake and preserving its' beauty. We have raised in excess of \$100,000 from local residents and businesses, 100% of which has been used to preserve the lake.

The revised proposal to upgrade the sewer system will have a dramatic and unalterable effect on Swan Lake. While it is my understanding that the sewer system needs to be upgraded from a review of the documentation which can be found on the town of liberty website (<https://www.townofliberty.org>); what is being proposed, and perhaps will be approved without most of Swan Lake's residents even being aware, is that the proposal will almost double the Swan Lake summer population by simultaneously approving high density unit developments along Route 55 and Stanton Corners Road. It is apparent to me that the revised proposal, which requires increasing residential development, enabling developers to add hundreds of new dwellings, will be catastrophic to the rural character of the area as it will nearly double the summer population, comes along with it. Nothing that I have seen with regard to the process undertaken to evaluate the impact of the new system on the character of the area gives me reason to believe that once implemented further concern will be given to the new developments and their impact on the area. Of course, as you are aware, once development begins, it is almost impossible to corral and control the impact it has. Thus it seem that the entirety of the upgrade proposal was simply to permit and encourage the additional development at the expense of the very few property owners whose sole enjoyment is directly related to the low population and natural beauty of Swan Lake which now will be permanently altered.

As I'm sure we would all agree, it is the natural beauty of the area, the low density (particularly now in the current climate) and of course the uniquely pristine lake, which makes the area special. However, in addition to increasing the population, perhaps by twice as much in summer months, our tax rate, which appears to be amongst the highest per acre in the entire state,

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will also rise while creating a drain on the already limited services that are provided in the form of additional service costs which necessarily comes along with a significantly increased population. I think I share the sentiments of most of the residents of Swan Lake in stating that the manner in which this has been conducted and the ultimate results are placing the needs of future developers over the rights and desires of the current residents and that we will look back on this decision and the future one's made by the board on these issues with regret.

Very truly yours,



Paul J. Edelstein