

Fortunately, the board has agreed to a smaller plant than originally proposed, but this doesn't change the fact that we're faced with two equally-undesirable outcomes: either we're left with an unsustainable financial burden because the promised new development never materializes, or we're left with the destruction of the community's rural character because it does. Neither outcome is acceptable to me and my neighbors. With concerted action the board can make it possible to avoid this choice. This is what we are insisting on.

In terms of costs, it will be the present 381 users of the sewer district who will be paying for the new plant from day one and for years to come. 18 million dollars is a very substantial figure and many of our residents are on fixed incomes. Unless the town lowers this cost by a significant amount, I believe many present residents will be forced to sell their homes. The board has had nine months to consider how to do this. Now is the time for action. Within the next six months, the board must show the public exactly how the price-tag for the new sewer will be reduced.

In terms of new development, the Town Board, Planning Board and Zoning Board must work together to ensure that as much as possible of Swan Lake's rural character and natural beauty is preserved. Take the Lee Cole Road development as an example - actually in the Town of Bethel but very close to Swan Lake. This developer has chosen to cut down almost every standing tree, leaving huge buildings for all to see instead of beautiful greenery.

People move to Swan Lake because of its natural beauty, but the places being built certainly don't reflect that. Elected officials must oversee future developments very closely in order to avoid these problems in terms of the placement of homes, size of the homes and other aesthetic considerations.

Finally, as the board is aware, there have been no improvements to Route 55 or Stanton Corners Road, which are unable to safely accommodate even the present levels of pedestrian and vehicle traffic. Unless substantial improvements are made quickly, this is an accident waiting to happen.