



Edward A. Diana

SUPERVISOR

August 19, 2019

Mayor Joseph DeStefano
City of Middletown
16 James Street
Middletown, NY 10940

Re: Middletown Reservoir Trails

Dear Mayor DeStefano,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Joe", is written over the line of the salutation.

After reviewing the Middletown Reservoir Trails Feasibility Report I have a few concerns that I'd like to share with you.

My biggest concern is the protection of the City's water supply. I believe the safety of the City's water supply must be considered above all else. Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 the City of Middletown has taken great measures to protect the reservoirs by not allowing public access. By inviting the public into the protected areas around the reservoirs you are creating a potential threat to the City's water supply.

Another area of concern is the fact that the primary public access and secondary access locations are in the Town of Wallkill. As stated in the feasibility report, both the primary and secondary entrances will require the installation of parking lots, gates and signs. This construction, especially the creation of a visitor's center on Mapes Road, will greatly impact the quiet lifestyle of the residents of Restorative Lane and Casa Davi Court. The country setting is what drew these residents to this area and they are concerned that the increase of traffic into their neighborhood will upset their quiet lifestyle and potentially increase safety risks to their families.

99 Tower Drive- Building A- Middletown, NY 10941.

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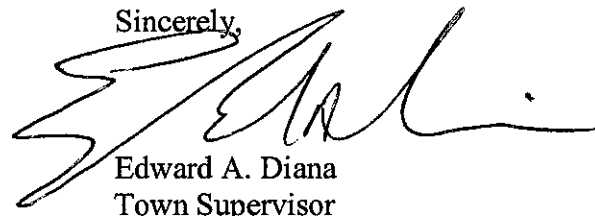
In addition to the two public access areas noted above, there are several other gated areas that are in the Town of Wallkill that could affect Town roads and residents. According to the map provided in the feasibility report, there are gateways on the following Town roads; Van Duzer Road, Highland Lakes Road, Abrahamson Road, Shawangunk Road and Pilgrim Corners Road.

While I support your efforts to create additional recreational opportunities for your residents I am disappointed that the City and Town did not collaborate on a project of this magnitude as we have on so many others.

This project that has the potential to affect so many Town residents and Town Roads that I respectfully request a meeting with you so it can be discussed further.

Please call my office at your earliest opportunity to schedule a meeting. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Diana', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Edward A. Diana
Town Supervisor

CONCERNED NEIGHBORS OF RESTORATIVE ESTATES

Restorative Lane & Casa Davi Court
Middletown, New York 10940

July 15, 2019

BY HAND

Mayor Joseph M. DeStefano & The City Council
Middletown City Hall
16 James Street
Middletown, NY 10940

Re: Proposed Public Trails Around City Reservoirs Including the Highland Lake Reservoir

Dear Mayor DeStefano and City Council Members:

We would like to start off by expressing our gratitude for your dedication to rehabilitating the City of Middletown. As most of us work within the City, we are overjoyed seeing it come back to life. It is our understanding that as part of the City's rehabilitation, you are proposing public walking trails around the three City Reservoirs. As a whole, we have major concerns with regard to this proposal, and we specifically object to the trails proposed for the Highland Lake Reservoir.

Our beautiful subdivision backs up to the Highland Lake Reservoir. All of our homes were constructed within the last several years, many of which are still occupied by the owners who first built them. Each family chose this wonderful neighborhood for its serene nature and quiet surroundings. You can even say that our homes were custom built so that each property could take advantage of true country living, something we have all greatly invested in financially.

However, the value of our properties extends much further than just the financial cost of purchasing our lands and building our homes. Our children enjoy the amazing sense of community in our neighborhood by riding their bikes and taking walks with their friends on our quiet country roads.

While this proposition may sound to you like a wonderful idea to bring tourism to the City of Middletown, to us, it sounds like a nightmare. We see the potential for a decrease in our property values and almost certainly our quality of country life.

The traffic behind our quiet neighborhood will almost certainly increase the noise level as the topography of our properties results in sounds being carried down through the valley. Further, the potential for crime will also increase. Something we believe is oftentimes overlooked or unrecognized on the Heritage Trail, which we understand is to be connected to these proposed trails. We will no longer feel comfortable with our children playing carelessly in the backyard. Instead, we will fear the potential of malevolent people roaming around our

neighborhood. Also, the City should be reminded that our neighborhood is located within the Town of Wallkill. Which means our closest police departments (Town of Wallkill and the NYS Police) are over 20 minutes away. We cannot count on a quick police response or strong police presence in our neighborhood due to its geographical seclusion, something that is of great concern to us especially as a result of the increased potential for crime. It is also our understanding that the City will not be providing any City of Middletown police officers to patrol this area, leaving this area completely unpatrolled by police.

With a proposed entry point to the Highland Lake Reservoir next to the entry to our neighborhood, we will lose our quiet country living. Instead, we will be subject to heavily increased traffic and congestion from cars and pedestrians, something our roads are definitely not equipped to handle. Gone will be our quiet neighborhood walks and the sounds of children laughing while riding bikes down our once quiet country roads.

What is especially frustrating is that our neighborhood was never notified as to the City's plans. We originally saw information regarding a proposed entry point at the Monhegan Lake Reservoir. Then suddenly, it has become our neighborhood as the proposed entry point, parking and Visitor Center for the Highland Lake Reservoir. Again, something that we never received notice for or information about, which seems highly unfair since our neighborhood will suffer so greatly as a result of this significant change. Further, we have contacted the Town of Wallkill to discuss the City's plans and received a response from the Town that they have no knowledge of the City's plans or how the Town will be affected by such.

Even beyond the direct negative impact on our once serene neighborhood, we have fundamental concerns that the City has not considered the impact of a potential attack on the City's water source. Unfortunately, it is more often than not that we hear about acts of terrorism throughout the world. In fact, many of us have come accustomed to hearing about an attack or a foiled attack on the daily news. By inviting the public into the protected grounds surrounding the reservoirs, you are potentially endangering the over 28,000 residents of the City of Middletown and all of those who work, shop, or dine within the City.

Further, you are endangering the wildlife living in the natural grounds surrounding the reservoirs. Trash littered after a picnic causing pollution will threaten the population of aquatic animals. Cigarette butts left for a small animal or bird to nibble on, or even to start a wild fire, are just a few examples of the effect this proposal will have on these currently secluded and gated grounds. We have major question into the environmental studies that may have already been conducted and any feedback that may have been received from the Department of Environmental Conservation.

It is for these reasons (any many more) that our neighborhood objects to your proposal of public walking trails around the City's reservoirs, especially the Highland Lake Reservoir. **We are hereby requesting a meeting with you and/or the City Council to discuss this matter further.** Please contact us via email at restorativehomeowners@yahoo.com to schedule. We trust that you will take our concerns and objections into consideration prior to moving forward with this proposal, and we do look forward to the further rehabilitation of the City of Middletown, absent the addition of these proposed trails. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Respectfully Submitted,
THE CONCERNED NEIGHBORS OF RESTORATIVE ESTATES

CC: The Town of Wallkill (BY FIRST CLASS MAIL)
Attn: Town Supervisor Edward A. Diana & Commissioner Louis J. Ingrassia Jr.
99 Tower Drive
Building A
Middletown, NY 10941

Hon. Steven Neuhaus (BY FIRST CLASS MAIL)
County Executive
40 Matthews Street
Goshen, NY 10924

Hon. Aileen Gunther (BY FIRST CLASS MAIL)
100th Assembly District
City Hall, 3rd Floor
16 James Street
Middletown, NY 10940

Hon. Jen Metzger (BY FIRST CLASS MAIL)
201 Dolson Ave
Suite F
Middletown, NY 10940

Angel Tupper
Pedro
1 Restorative Lane

[Signature]
Mahoney
12 Restorative Lane

→ [Signature]
Pisano
22 Restorative Lane

Mary E. Pisano
Slanovec
23 Restorative Lane
J Sam

[Signature]
Reyes
27 Restorative Lane

[Signature]
Moran
35 Restorative Lane

Monica Kelly
Kelly
47 Restorative Lane

Yanosy
51 Restorative Lane

Samatha Berman
Berman
56 Restorative Lane

Kelly Mecocci
Mecocci
70 Restorative Lane

Nicole Walter
Walter
82 Restorative Lane

Nain Bhagwande
Bhagwande
7 Casa Davi Court

Rebeca Tomasulo
Tomasulo
29 Casa Davi Court

Katie Pedro
Pedro
24 Casa Davi Court

[Signature]
Name: JAMES MASAYUE
Address: 20 MAPES RD

[Signature]
Name: Jennifer Harel
Address: 15 Restorative Lane

Jose Carlos
Name: Jose Carlos
Address: 24 MAPES RD

Name: Samatha Berman
Address: 56 Restorative Lane

Name: _____
Address: _____