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RE: RIVENDALE SUBDIVISION

To Deerpark Planning Board,

Please accept this letter in response for comments at the public hearing on August 12, 2020. I am concerned with several issues relating to this project and will outline them within my comments.

Several concerns is the quality of life for all residence that live down stream of this project and the environmental problems if this project is not reviewed with this in mind. Although any discharge of water into any stream or body of water is the authority of DEC. If they have no interest I believe the quality of water in our town becomes every ones top priority. The environmental integrity and sustainability should be top priority in any development in Deerpark and Orange Co.

Although this site plan is very complete I don't believe it answers question as to the overall project such as water issues in general. The project indicates it will run a pipe under a stream of water to reach the additional sewage discharge, without 24/7 supervision of any sewage plant. A malfunction could dump and effect the rivers and streams for 100s of years into the future. The monitor systems for waste water and any odor this sewage could generate needs to be addressed prior to any approvals. It should also address any and all measures that will be put in place to eliminate the above actions.

I think that the planning board should reach out to DEC about any approvals it may have on this project to deny any water quality certification due to, not providing enough information about how placing a pipe under a stream would effect and impact the environment and endangered wild life in the area.

This project site plan indicates that portions of this development will utilize wet land, flood zones and areas know to flood. This was noted in other planning board minutes as not suitable for building when New Hope Farms was being reviewed. (See planning board minutes of January 14, 1986) so this part of the project needs additional review and explanation as to why on the opposite side of the road would be different.

I also submit a letter from the Nature Conservancy onto the planning board from June 28, 1993 relating to water runoff into the Neversink River with New Hope Farms. Water pollution, and lose of wildlife habitat should be addressed urban run off often contain nutrients, sediment and toxic containments, can cause not only water pollution but also large variation in stream flow and temperature. Again this should be no different for this project to address in full prior to approval.

In April of 1990 the planning board minutes indicate that a large sand and gravel aquifer was in the vicinity of the New Hope Farm project. Although they determined that it yielded enough water for this project a review and study should be required to ensure that this project will not affect the wells of every other resident downstream. Since 1990 new homes and business that utilize this aquifer have grown, in addition New Century film has indicated additional development of their land and therefor more weight should be given to this issue then in the past.

In closing as someone who has lived in this area for over 65 years I have seen the quality of water in the Neversink River change in many ways. We now have trout fishing again, bald Eagles have nested and feed off of the wild life in the area. We have seen a drop in the miniature wedge muscles however are still present downstream from this project. It is most important that any project in Deerpark should be required to address this matter in full to maintaining the clear water in our area.

I believe that the project will have a negative effect of the environment and quality of life and should be required to not only complete a long form environmental impact study but review the issues I have mentioned in my statement and perhaps any approvals be held until a complete study has been performed.

Thank you for your time and anticipated review of all the issue relating to this project