

Updates

Paula Medley

Draft Comprehensive Plan (Plan)

Currently, definitions are being scrutinized to ensure their compatibility with the Plan's Vision. Now, it will be March or April, 2019 before the Town Board adopts this document.

Thompson Education Center (TEC)

Concrete footings are being laid for Sherry Li's supposed single family home off Renner Road in Fallsburg. There is nothing else to report.

Hopper Hill Sand and Gravel LLC (HH)

DEC has not heard from HH in a while. Supposedly, HH is in the midst of an environmental review with DEC over their proposed mine in Mamakating on former Wurtsboro Airport property. Thus far, this process has not gone beyond Scoping. Notably, HH is no longer permitted in the Light Industry Office zoning district due to a local law's passage in April, 2018.

Close monitoring of the aforementioned is ongoing and members will be informed of pertinent intervention benchmarks.

7 Peaks Is Back!!!

New Project is Smaller But Still Bears Close Scrutiny

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On November 13, at a Mamakating Planning Board work session, a reconfigured 7 Peaks on 554 acres owned by Shalom Lamm, upslope from the Basha Kill on the west and overlooking Winterton Road on the east, was discussed.

While the original (2008) subdivision entailed building 49, 8,500 sq. ft. homes, this application subdivides the site into three lots of 272, 164, and 117 acres, each targeted with one house. Notably, one lot already includes an existing "model home" having a long driveway, which will provide access to the remaining two parcels.

One huge challenge confronting this newest application is placement of enormous responsibility on prospective homeowners to determine exact location and design of their homes as well as prepare their own stormwater management plans. Homeowners could also further

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Deepark Planning Board Conducts Public Hearings on Two Dragon Springs (DS) Proposals: Constructing a Traffic Loop Across DS Guymard Turnpike Entrance and Erecting a Large-Scale Solar Farm

Kudos to Deepark Rural Alliance's (DRA) Successful Advocacy Efforts

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On November 11, at a "packed" town hall, Deepark's planning board held two public hearings on DS proposals. Regarding the traffic loop, nearby residents emphasized that Guymard Turnpike is a steep, twisting thoroughfare with poor sight distance. Although DS engineering report claimed that road alterations would not increase traffic, DS is building an 1,100 car and bus garage to accommodate their 900-seat auditorium. DRA's consultant, Schneider Engineering, visited the site and examined DS traffic determinations, concluding that they would not accept the DS report as it lacks sufficient details (see accompanying Schneider analysis). Written testimony will be accepted on this matter until the next planning board meeting, December 12.

There were lots of questions concerning DS proposed solar farm, like: How will electricity be transmitted to DS? Will lines be above or below ground? Why clear cut 40 acres? Andy Garrison from the NY-NJ Trail Conference emphasized that the solar farm is contiguous to part of the Shawangunk Ridge Trail. Questions and uncertainties over this project resulted in continuation of its public hearing and allowing written comments until December 12.

Thanks to DRA's hard work in galvanizing residents' and interested parties' participation over these critical proposals.

CATSKILLS ASTRONOMY continued from page 28

the Daniel Pierce Library in Grahamsville, NY. Afterwards a brief starwatch is held at the movie location. All club related public programs are announced on our facebook page, which also presents astronomy related news stories as well as summaries of club activities and information about other astronomy related happenings. The club email is catskillsastro@Jiotmail.com. Membership forms are available upon request.

Many thanks to the Basha Kill Area Association for hosting the starwatch and to Kevin Keller of the BKAA for bringing his telescope for attendees to use.