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2	TOWN OF AMENIA
3	PLANNING BOARD
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5	TOPIC: Troutbeck
6	DATE: Wednesday, February 8, 2023
7	TIME: 7 p.m.
8	LOCATION: The Town Hall 4988 Route 22
9	Amenia, New York 12501
10	PLANNING BOARD SECRETARY: Judy Westfall
11	BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:
12	Robert Boyles, Jr., Chair John Stefanopoulos
13	Matthew Deister Anthony Robustelli
14	Nina Peek James Walsh
15	Neil Kusnetz
16	ALSO PRESENT: Paul VanCott, Esq. John V. Andrews, Jr., P.E.
17	Richard Rennia, P.E. Joshua E. Mackey, Esq.
18	COURT REPORTER: Laura A. Couch
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MS. WESTFALL: My name is Judy Westfall. I'm the Planning and Zoning secretary for the Town of Amenia.

So number one, This is a continued Public Hearing on Troutbeck's application for Planning Board approval of a Special Use Permit for an Adaptive Use Plan and Site Plan approval of the first phase of that Plan. The Planning Board is also conducting a full environmental review of the application under the State Environmental Quality Review Act.

Number two, The Planning Board received this application in September of 2021 and has been reviewing it for over a year. During its review, the Planning Board has sought additional information and studies from Troutbeck, as well as input from other agencies on the application. Troutbeck has appeared before the Planning Board a number of times over the past year to present additional information on the application.

Number three, All of Troutbeck's application materials submitted to date have been posted on the Town's website, and all written comments on the application by the public have been provided to the Planning Board for consideration.

Number four, The purpose of tonight's Public Hearing is for the Planning Board to hear from the applicant on any updates to the application and to hear public comments on the application.

Number five, Persons wishing to make oral comment in the Public Hearing tonight have had the opportunity to sign in as they entered the auditorium. People will be called up to provide their comments in the order in which they have signed up.

Number six, When called, speakers should use the microphone provided to speak so that they can be heard by others and so that the comments are recorded.

Speakers should identify themselves and

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where they live for the record and their
address so that the Planning Board
directly will hear their comments or
questions.

Number seven, Comments and questions will be accepted but will not be responded to by the Planning Board, the Board's consultants or the Applicant, unless the Board's Chair directs otherwise.

Number eight, Comments should be limited to five minutes for each individual making comment.

Number nine, We respectfully request that people not repeat comments that have already been submitted to the Board, either at a prior hearing or in writing, and refrain from repeating comments or questions which have already been made by others here.

Number ten, Persons who have not signed up or have not spoken will be given that opportunity after all who have signed

{FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA} 1 2 up had their opportunity to speak. Number eleven, After public comment 4 tonight has concluded, the Planning Board 5 may have some discussion, which could 6 include asking the applicant to respond to 7 any comments and questions as deemed 8 necessary. Number twelve, Before public 9 10 comment is taken, the Applicant has asked 11 for the opportunity to make a short 12 presentation to the Planning Board 13 regarding updates to its application. 14 Thank you. 15 The applicant can go MR. BOYLES: 16 ahead. 17 MR. MACKEY: Good evening members 18 of the Board, Mr. VanCott, Mr. Andrews, 19 members of the community. 20 As you know by now, I'm Josh Mackey. 21 I'm here for Troutbeck. The hard work by 22 the Board the past two years is nothing 23 short of remarkable. We thank you for all 24 you have done.

I thought it would be helpful to offer the following factual and procedural background before we begin.

This application is as a right and conforms with the letter and the intent of the Amenia code. In 2005 the Amenia ZBA unanimously approved Troutbeck's existing Special Use Permit. Shortly after the ZBA resolution, Amenia updated its code to add, among other things, a historic preservation overlay district and applied it to the 43 acres comprising of the Troutbeck Inn parcel. This is the basis of Troutbeck's current expansion. also notable that both the ZBA Resolution and the application of the HVO were subsequent to Troutbeck's earlier subdivision. The land now includes the 40-acre Troutbeck community. It was a subdivision from the 43-acre parcel. is this relevant? It is relevant because Troutbeck's expansion was contemplated long ago when the neighborhood evolved

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desirable.

into what you see today. The visionaries in the Town who established the framework that leads us here tonight knew the expansion of Troutbeck as appropriate and

Troutbeck has operated as an inn and conference center and banquet hall and a public restaurant since at least 1979.

We have all grown accustomed to the Troutbeck sign on 343. It is up on the screen now. It stood there for more than 20 years and plainly advertising those uses until sometime in 2017 when our client replaced the sign. All this simply underscores the point that the uses and entitlements, along with the events and personal experiences that occurred at Troutbeck are part of the ever evolving history of this unique property.

Lastly, this application, too, has evolved. In a moment Rich is going to explain the recent revisions to the application which we are offering to

address public concerns expressed in written submission and at the two prior Public Hearings. In light of all this, we respectfully submit that the Board has enough information to satisfy its hard met requirement, and therefore, it should close the Public Hearing and move ahead

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I'll now hand it off to Rich who is going to explain the revisions. Thank you.

with its determination.

MR. RENNIA: Good evening. My name is Rich Rennia, the principal at Rennia Engineering.

So a few things that I wanted to touch on. So the Adaptive Use Plan is up on the screen. But just to touch base on a little bit of what we talked about in the past and what we talked about at the other meetings. This proposal agrees with the Comprehensive Plan. This proposal is also centered right in the middle of the Leedsville hamlet. I think that is very

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Site density, we heard a lot of the public say that we are too dense, that we don't meet the zoning code. This project is not too dense. We are actually, with the revisions that we are going to show you tonight, we are going to have -- we are nearly 50 percent less than the amount that would ordinarily be allowed by the Adaptive Use. The permitted density is 168 1/2 lodging units. We are currently proposing 85 units, so nearly half of that.

With respect to zoning, as you heard Josh say, the Plan is conforming, the Plan is as of right. There will also be a conservation easement on more than 50 percent of the land.

The existing use. We have seen a lot of comments come through from the parties, the interested parties, I guess we will call them the opposition, trying to question the fact that if Troutbeck

{FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA} 1 2 really does have a Special Use Permit. 3 Well, the 1978 Special Use Permit is real. It was affirmed by the Town of Amenia ZBA 4 5 in 2005, and I know that for a fact 6 because I was there representing the 7 previous Troutbeck owners at that meeting. 8 And then as far as revisions, we 9 will get into those revisions right now. 10 So this is looking at the most 11 northern portion of the site, and you see 12 a red X over a building. That is a former 13 lodging building. We are calling it Garden West Hotel. That has been 14 15 completely removed from the project. 16 reduces or takes away 32 lodging units. 17 That is a 25 percent reduction. 18 The parking area. We received 19 public comments regarding seeing the 20 parking area from 343. So what we did was 21 we revised the layout of that parking area 22 to tuck it in closer to the buildings. 23 And we can also grade it down.

grading is not shown here, but that will

be basically set down into the ground so you would be actually looking over the top of the parking lot. That is -- and then that allows us to increase the landscaping buffer. That buffer is increased by over 28 percent.

And then there was also comments regarding where the shuttle vans would As a skiing and event center, the most responsible thing to have to get people in and out of an event is to have shuttle vans available if needed. rightfully so, we have to provide a location for those to park. People were concerned about those being visible. we removed their location, which is -- you can see some rectangles in red up in that upper right hand corner. Those have been removed from that location. So the parking lot that you see outlined in red was the former parking lot. The parking lot that is in black, that is the new proposed. And then the building with the

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red X on it is the building that has been completely removed from the application, and that is a complete removal of an entire phase from the phasing plan.

We heard a lot of comments at the previous Public Hearings regarding what would this look like from Route 343. that is a main travel corridor for the majority of the neighbors and people passing through town getting to Sharon and getting from Sharon back over to Millbrook. So we took that to heart and we took a very hard look at that. We went back to the landscape architecture team and said what can we do here. So their idea is to do some -- there is an existing tree line along Route 343. So the first part of this is to enhance that with shrubs. So there would be lower shrubs there. If you try to plant trees in there, they are not going to grow because it is already shaded. And then to the south of that, to add onto what is at the

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corner of Leedsville Road and 343 is an existing portrait. So that the trees that you see extended back from 343 are low orchard trees, and then there is enhanced plantings that are closer to the buildings and closer to the parking area. And then there is an open meadow in the middle. That open meadow is where we will have the septic systems located, and that will remain open meadow just like it is now.

No fences in this area. Open for wildlife to roam through. We believe that this will greatly enhance the appeal for 343.

These are some renderings of what
the buildings would look like with and
without the trees. So the picture at the
top left shows the proposed buildings, how
they would look without the plantings.
The building or the photo in the bottom
shows the proposed orchard. The photo in
the top shows the proposed buildings, and
this photo is taken from closer to
Leedsville Road and 343. You can see you

just see the roof line. But with the addition of the orchard, you basically do not see the building at all.

Phase one. We did some revisions to phase one. We made the gatehouse a little bit smaller and moved it up closer to the road and reduced a cabin. was five cabins, now it is four cabins. The reduction in the footprint of the gatehouse is around 20 percent. It was a larger building. It had more decks on it. So we made it much smaller. You can see the red outline of the former building. It was a lot bigger. The gatehouse, like I said, was moved a little closer to the road and closer to the Troutbeck Lane. The gatehouse is actually a very important feature to this, and we think will greatly enhance operations throughout the neighborhood. It is going to have somebody from the Troutbeck staff there. They are going to be able to keep an eye on what is happening at the entrance to

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2 Troutbeck. They are going to be able to 3 direct people. They are going to be able 4 to greet people. They are going to be 5 able to tell people where exactly to go, 6 where to park, where their rooms are. 7 anybody that is lost in the neighborhood 8 would be able to pull in there and get 9 directions as well, too. So the gatehouse 10 we believe is a very important part 11 because it does a lot for the neighborhood 12 as far as welcoming people and then also 13 directing people and making sure that 14 there are no mishaps where people drive 15 right past Troutbeck and they end up using 16 roads that they don't need to use. 17 cabins, the reduction in the cabins is a 18 little bit better because it is going to 19 It is also going to save trees here. 20 reduce what is seen or heard from any of 21 the neighboring sides of the lower left 22 We moved the cabins around so corner. 23 that last cabin is a single occupancy 24 cabin with just a building wall facing the

road and facing the neighboring areas. So that coverage is reduced by about 13 percent.

And then in the left side of the photo closest to the street we see a little red area there. That is the proposed bakery. And there was a proposed deck that was overhanging the embankment of the creek, and that has been reduced to pull that back because we felt that that was -- that that encroachment did not need to be there. So we removed that encroachment, and the footprint is about 31 percent smaller.

The gatehouse rendering. This is a rendering of what the gatehouse would look like. You can see it is very small, very tasteful. A small porch, welcoming porch in the front. The cabins, there is one and two bedroom cabins. So this is a rendering of the one bedroom cabin. There is a small porch where you walk up onto to enter it, and then there is a porch in the

back that overlooks the creek. So the idea is that activity in these cabins occurs not outward but inward into the Troutbeck site. This is a rendering of the two bedroom cabin. The same setup, basically, as the one bedroom, just a little bit bigger.

The phase one landscaping. At the top of this screen for everybody's reference is Leedsville Road, and then the road that you see to the left side, middle left of the screen is the Troutbeck Lane entrance, the main entrance. All of the round circles that you see with the little mark in the middle, that is all proposed trees and shrubs. So that entire area is going to be completely replanted, made thicker, revitalized and very prime trees and shrubs are going to be planted and then any of the dead, decaying material would be removed. This is a rendering showing just how the gatehouse would look from the existing main entrance. You can

see that it is very small. It is set back from the road. It is barely noticeable when you drive by. But when you pull into the entrance that will be there, and that is what will welcome and direct.

So the revision summary. This summarizes the revisions to the Plan. The first column describes what the different units are. The next column is what are the previous submissions included. The next column is what the revised is, and then the net difference and then the percentage difference. So I'll run through these very quickly.

The lodging units, we are reduced from 118 down to 85 now. That is a difference of 33 units, and that is 28 percent less as far as lodging units goes. The phasing, we had nine phases, now we are eight phases. So it is one less phase. And as we had talked about at other public hearings and with the board in general prior to the Public Hearing,

{FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA} 1 2 the idea of the phases was not to drag out 3 construction, but it was to have small 4 construction areas where they could go in, 5 cordon off an area, do a small project, 6 get everything done, buttoned up, get the 7 C of O, put into operation and then start 8 another one. So it is more functional for 9 that purpose. 10 Water use. We were at a water use 11 of over 25,000 before. Now we are reduced 12 down to just over 20,000. So that is a 18 1/2 percent reduction per day in 13 14 gallons per day. 4670 gallons per day 15 reduction in total. 16 The net water use. If you were to 17 look at the net water use over a year, we 18 are 1.7 million gallons per year less. 19 The total building coverage is now 20 reduced down as well by 5,000. It is just 21 about 6,000 square feet, and that is six 22 and a half percent reduction in building 23 coverage. 24 The other area that was discussed

{FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA} 1 2 when we were -- people were concerned 3 about what was it going to be like for 4 work on the weekends if they were trying 5 to -- people were out trying to relax on 6 the weekends. Well, the applicant thought about that. So we don't need to do work 7 on the weekends. We will ensure that no 8 9 work on the weekends. So we revised the 10 EAF. The work hours were originally 11 Monday through Saturday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. 12 Now it is Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. 13 to 6 p.m. with no work -- the key point there will be no work on the weekends. 14 15 And the overnight capacity that was 16 previously proposed or previously was the 17 result based on the number of lodging units was 261. Now it is 197. So that is 18 19 64 guests less than the previous 20 application. 24.5 percent less as a 21 percentage basis. 22 In closing, we would like to point out a few things here. I tried to bold a 23 24 few items that I think are important here.

Troutbeck has been here for 40 years. It
has been operating in the neighborhood
probably a lot longer than a lot of people
that got up and spoke about it. So it
always has been there. It has been there
for a long time. Things have been
happening at Troutbeck, as we talked about
in the historical narrative, for well over
40 years as well.

A driver of tourism and economics.

That is a very important piece of what

Troutbeck does for Amenia. And it is also
a local employer. We heard other people
get up and talk about how they worked at

Troutbeck as a child when they were
growing up here in Amenia. It was a place
for them to have a job, to have a summer
job, to have a weekend job, and there is a
lot of full time employment as well, too.

In the application we have staff housing. We all know how difficult it is to purchase or to get a place to live these days because of the cost. So the

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Back to the question of whether it is a legal use now. That has been affirmed in the past, 2005, like I said at the beginning. I was there. So I know that to be a fact.

Josh touched on this before, but the historic overlay was intentionally applied to the Troutbeck property. That is put into the code. That is what we are talking about here tonight with the adaptive reuse. That was -- it is specifically written in the code that this is allowed.

The project is fully conforming to the Zoning Code. It fully conforms to the Comprehensive Plan, not just for the intent but to the spirit of the Comprehensive Plan. If we follow the zoning, we could have up to 168 guest rooms, but that is not being proposed.

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85 guest rooms are currently proposed.
That is nearly 50 percent less than what the code says is allowed.

More than 50 percent of the land will be preserved through the conservation easement. And with this, Troutbeck could never be subdivided again. Troutbeck has a great history of being a much bigger parcel, and over the years it had been subdivided off and it got much smaller. So now we are down to  $43 \ 1/2 \ \text{acres}$ . 43 1/2 acres is now -- will now be preserved for this project. It will never get any smaller. That is a very fundamental piece of what the applicant is trying to do with preserving the Troutbeck property. So we think that that is very important.

And back to what Judy touched on and what she talked about. We did start this process with the Planning Board in September of 2021. The Planning Board had requested a lot of information of us.

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2	They asked a lot of questions. We
3	provided a lot of information. And back
4	in the fall of 2022 or in September of
5	2022 I was asking the Planning Board and
6	said hey, when can we have a Public
7	Hearing? We would like to get the
8	public's input. So we finally got to that
9	point where they felt that we were
10	complete enough to show something to the
11	public, and that is where we are at now.
12	We are in our third Public Hearing. We
13	heard a lot of the concerns, and we
14	believe that with this revised submission
15	that we have addressed those concerns and
16	we think that it is a very well-balanced
17	project.
18	MR. BOYLES: Thank you.
19	There is a motion to open the
20	Public Hearing.
21	MR. DEISTER: I'll make a motion to
22	open the Public Hearing.
23	MR. STEFANOPOULOS: I'll second it.
24	MS. WESTFALL: Should I introduce

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2	our members?
3	REPORTER: Sure. Go ahead. That
4	would be perfect.
5	MS. WESTFALL: So from my left is
6	John Stefanopoulos, Matthew Deister, Tony
7	Robustelli, Robert Boyles, Jr., Nina Peek,
8	James Walsh and Neil Kusnetz. And these
9	are our consultants for the Planning
10	Board, Paul VanCott from Whiteman,
11	Osterman and Hanna and John Andrews from
12	Rohde, Soyka & Andrews.
13	MR. BOYLES: We will announce your
14	name and you can come up to the mic, off
15	the list.
16	MR. STEFANOPOULOS: Hello. So we
17	will have Andre Fulodar.
18	REPORTER: How is it spelled?
19	MR. FULODAR: F-u-l-o-d-a-r.
20	MR. VANCOTT: Everybody, we have a
21	stenographer here tonight. So if you
22	clearly state your name before you make
23	your remarks, then she will be able to
24	pick that up. She may ask you to spell it

just so that we have a correct record.

MR. FULODAR: Good evening

everyone. My name is Andre Fulodar,

F-u-l-o-d-a-r. I am Polish so it makes it

tough. Welcome.

I live in Millerton, and last year as the war with Ukraine started, we founded something called United With Ukraine. Why am I bringing it up here? Because when we needed someone immediately to help, and within literally six days we were able to pull one of the best fundraisers for Ukraine, thanks to Troutbeck. On March the 20th we have done in one event, we have raised \$125,000 for an art auction, and through local chefs cooking Ukrainian specialities, we had live music, we did terrific things. am I here? I'm here to tell you that Troutbeck for me and for us, it is a community place. They have been helping us as a community, not only in Amenia. brought people here, over 200 people

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2 participating. We sold \$85,000 worth of 3 art, and we had only 34 lots. This year 4 we are doing in two and a half weeks at 5 Troutbeck again, and we are bringing 6 Ukrainian art. I was in Ukraine twice, 7 once in July, once end of September or 8 October. I just drove on Monday to Newark 9 to pick up four crates of art that came 10 from Labeouf, from Kyiv, from Kharkiv. Wе 11 will have an opportunity in this community 12 to look at incredible art all the way from 13 Ukraine, and you will be able also to buy 14 this art and help Ukrainian orphans, 15 Ukrainian kids that need it. They go 16 through trauma of war. We are doing this 17 job together. All I can tell you is I 18 participated in May at Troutbeck in two 19 days symposium with high school kids. It 20 was all about the human rights and black 21 history in this region. You know, to me 22 this was an eye opener. And to have all 23 different people and young students

participating in it. You see, maybe to

1 2 you what you look at it is okay, it is a 3 hotel. I look at it as a community place. 4 And my wife is in art business. We have 5 had art exhibitions there. We are going 6 to continue to have art exhibitions there. 7 We welcome the kids. We welcome community 8 members, and I believe extending a classy 9 and tasteful place. There is nothing 10 wrong with it. Why, may I ask, is it an 11 eyesore to me? I see those signs, you 12 know, I haven't participated in the two 13 last meetings. So, you know, I missed a But when I drive, and I drove today 14 lot. 15 back from Manhattan because we were 16 picking up more art, and I look at Silo 17 Ridge, and to me that is an eyesore. 18 it is without taste and it is horrible, and you guys approved it. So I'm sorry, this 19 20 is all protected. You are not going to be 21 able to see a thing. Why are we even 22 discussing this? I'm sorry. But, you 23 know, to me, it is very important.

support this project with all my heart.

We doing -- you more than welcome to join us on February 26th for this incredible event. We hope to surpass more than

Thank you.

\$125,000 this year.

(Clapping.)

MR. STEFANOPOULOS: Jim Flaherty.

Good evening, I'm Jim Flaherty. I live at 486 Leedsville Road. I left Troutbeck in 1978. We opened in 1979. Towns change, and the best thing we can do is try to manage the change in our towns in the right way. Certainly, I can say very cheerfully and with much pride that Troutbeck was always a positive influence on Amenia, and it was always done in good taste. And the reason I mention taste, taste is very important. In our town I think it is very nice now. You get to our light, our one traffic light town. love that in the rest of the world when I say we have one light in town. It is a nice honor and always neat and welcoming.

And an icon town, the Miller Bank town, the new Tent, which is certainly a very beautiful establishment right there. Ι noticed in the last couple of weeks they built, I guess it is called The Stone Resource. I don't even know who owns it, but it is done in taste, right on 343. Instead of just stacks of ugly, they have done it all very, very tastefully. You must understand that everything that Troutbeck has done is always going to be done with taste. They are not going to have anything or take any shortcuts that are going to make their own property ugly. They are dealing in a tasteful product to the world. And it is a very big world with Troutbeck, and they will attract wonderful elements of art and culture and different people throughout the world. I do hope that this Town, this closing, this review of Troutbeck will close very soon because I would like Troutbeck to go

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on.

I would like it to expand. We were

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2	already sporting two bedrooms, folks, when
3	Bob and I were running it. So to have it
4	at 86, there is plenty of room for it and
5	it will not interfere with the view or
6	anything.
7	That's all. Thank you.
8	(Clapping.)
9	MR. STEFANOPOULOS: Thank you.
10	George Bistransin.
11	MR. BISTRANSIN: My name is George
12	Bistransin, B-i-s-t-r-a-n-s-i-n. I live
13	at 3498 Route 343, Amenia.
14	I hope this is allowed. I have two
15	things that I would like to give to the
16	Board. One of them is by Lewis Mumford.
17	It is the story of Troutbeck. And in it
18	he says that he hopes that the fields and
19	woods will remain for another 200 years.
20	It gives a really interesting history. I
21	would like to give that, if I may.
22	(Clapping.)
23	MR. BISTRANSIN: And also, I would
24	like to give the Board the songs of the

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Webutuck, written by Myron Benton, who
lived there and wrote the poem there, and
the poems are about his farm. And to me,
what he writes about is so different from
the proposal that is being given now. I
hope you'll take a look at it. So if I
may, I'll give you this.
(Clapping. Documents handed to the
Board.)
MR. STEFANOPOULOS: Thank you.
David Lederkramer.
MR. LEDERKRAMER: Members of the
Planning Board, thanks again for this
opportunity to address you. I agree you
have been very patient, and we appreciate
the effort that you put into this.
David Lederkramer,
L-e-d-e-r-k-r-a-m-e-r, 2 Woodlands Road.
Are you with me, Madam Reporter.
REPORTER: Yes.
MR. LEDERKRAMER: I'm opposed. I
live right near there. I made the point
before, and I've heard it from other

people in the area, Troutbeck, even at the current scale, is noisy and intrusive and not the best neighbor.

Troutbeck at many multiples of the current scale will really be destructive of the area. It will not be peaceful. It will not be rural. It will not be bucolic. It will not be the essence of what people thought they were getting when they bought their houses. So this is a big change and it is a change for the worse.

We've heard tonight over and over again from the Troutbeck camp that this is as a right. We wouldn't be here if it were as a right. It would just be rubber stamped. You wouldn't have done all this work if it were as of right. It would just be sailing right through. We are here tonight because you have tremendous discretion and a really important decision to make. And when I bought my house

scale, I thought I was living next to an amenity which enhanced our experience, and we were happy and proud to have Troutbeck there and thankful for what Jim and Bob had created. This is a much, much different Troutbeck from that Troutbeck.

I always had faith that the Planning Board would not let it metastasize into something that was as negative as what we have now planned.

The homeowner's association, of which I'm a member and I'm on the board, voted at a meeting unanimously to oppose this Plan.

Now, let's talk a little bit about the relationship between the homeowner's association and Troutbeck. When Troutbeck was at its inception selling homeowner units, they had an Offering Plan. The Offering Plan disclosed risks. One of the risks that was never disclosed was that it would turn into what it is proposed to turn into today. But most important,

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2	there is an easement that allows guests of
3	the inn free access to our homeowner's
4	property, about 250 acres of it. Our
5	roads, our lands, and our fields. That
6	easement was never foreseen for a thousand
7	or more people to come traveling through.
8	There has never been one word in any of
9	these plans to address it.
10	(Audience member speaking.)
11	MR. LEDERKRAMER: Just count the
12	parking spaces. It is very easy math.
13	Simple, simple math.
14	(Audience member speaking.)
15	MR. LEDERKRAMER: I addressed that
16	the last time I was here. It is in the
17	application. Simple arithmetic. I can do
18	it for you. It is actually I have a
19	letter on file.
20	(Audience member speaking.)
21	REPORTER: Excuse me. Excuse me.
22	No, no
23	MR. VANCOTT: Please address the
24	Board so the stenographer can get it. If

{FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA} 1 2 you have comments, save them until your turn, please. 4 MR. LEDERKRAMER: Thank you, 5 Mr. VanCott. 6 MR. LEDERKRAMER: So the easement 7 was never intended to have that kind of traffic. It has never been addressed in 8 any of the plans. And if this Board is 9 10 inclined to approve any derivation of this 11 Plan, it should only be on condition that 12 easement be relinquished and extinquished. 13 So, water. The Plan does not 14 satisfy its burden to show any hydrology 15 study that would show that the aquifers 16 will be adequate at reasonable consumption 17 level projections for the houses and the 18 surrounding areas. And one of my 19 neighbor's houses did run dry last summer. 20 It is not hypothetical. 21 Seven years of construction. Very 22 very, big imposition on the area. 23 this is titled adaptive use application. 24 I'm let our lawyers address that. But my

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2	understanding is that adaptive use is a
3	safety net. If you have a family
4	property, you can change its use in a way
5	that is different and that will make it
6	more economically viable, and it is kind
7	of a last ditch thing. You don't want to
8	lose the property. You don't want to lose
9	the tax revenue. You don't want family
10	businesses. So you grant the safety valve
11	of adaptive reuse. There is nothing that
12	is failing here. The bedrock basis of the
13	Plan is missing and it should not be
14	approved for all of those reasons.
15	So thank you.
16	(Clapping.)
17	MR. STEFANOPOULOS: Thank you.
18	Stan Whitehead.
19	MR. WHITEHEAD: Stan Whitehead, 95
20	Yellow City Road. I have lived on Yellow
21	City Road since 1989. I own three
22	different properties. Right now I live at
23	95 Yellow City Road, which is directly
24	across from Troutbeck property. I have

never had any issues with Troutbeck, none whatsoever. You'll see the guests walking up and down Yellow City Road, but they are no problem. I worked for Troutbeck back in the late 70's, early 80's for Jim and Bob, and I know this is all beautiful ground over there, so I don't see any septic problems over there. And I'm just glad that we are looking at this Plan instead of a mining permit, because there is a lot of nice ground over there. I'm just here to say that I'm for Troutbeck and I hope it goes through.  Thank you. (Clapping.)  MR. STEFANOPOULOS: Thank you. Taylor Pyne. (No response.)  MR. STEFANOPOULOS: Okay. We will go to Nadine Macura.  MS. NADINE MACURA: Good evening, everyone. Let's see if this works. Can everyone hear me?	1	{FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA}
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	22	MS. NADINE MACURA: Good evening,
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i	24	everyone hear me?

AUDIENCE: Yes.

MS. NADINE MACURA: First of all, thank you, Planning Board. I know this has become a large issue and a large amount of time for you all, and I just want to say thank you. I appreciate the time and effort you are spending on this.

My name is Nadine Macura. I live at 453 Leedsville Road. I have been there 54 years exactly. Okay. So I have been there all of my life. So I was there before Troutbeck.

First of all, we are all kind of circumventing this water use. If you go on drought.com.gov, you are going to see that eastern Dutchess County has been abnormally dry or moderate dry for the last four or five years. Yes, wells are running dry. I live downstream. I live above elevation of Troutbeck. So what is going to happen to my well? I can't afford to go and redrill my well. It is a very expensive process. So we still never

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talked about the water. Yes, they are

going to decrease it. Yes, they are going

to decrease their water use, but it is

still going to be a lot. And there is no

hydrology study.

Noise. I have lived there for 54 years. And I appreciate the fact that they are going to instead of six days a week they are going to talk about five days a week from eight to six, and I appreciate that. But that still means that I'm going to have to listen to chainsaws cutting down trees, equipment going around moving dirt and debris, and then construction once the new buildings are going up. So that is the next six years of my life, five days a week.

Garbage. It is interesting.

April 22nd, I think everyone hopefully in this room knows April 22nd is Earth Day.

That is when everyone goes out and picks up the garbage off the sides of the road.

Well, I started doing that on Yellow City

Road as well as Randall Road. And it is interesting because I did that a number of times last year, and it is interesting because you always find a lot of debris right outside of Troutbeck's entrance.

There is garbage. There is boxes. There is different other plastic things that I end up picking up. And I understand that environmentally we need to be safe.

Route 343, now we are going to have to have a turning lane, which is just going to add to congestion to people who live on Leedsville.

First responders. I think that we all understand New York State, as well as the nation, has not enough EMS. You talk to anyone anywhere. So having this huge hotel that is going to overtax EMS is going to be a challenge.

Fire. There are not a lot of volunteer fire people. At some point in time it is probably going to have to go paid. We need to figure out how to do

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2	that.
3	So basically, I am completely
4	opposed to this project, and I have lived
5	there for 54 years. Thank you for your
6	time.
7	(Clapping.)
8	MR. STEFANOPOULOS: Thank you.
9	Elaine Macura.
10	MS. ELAINE MACURA: Good evening,
11	everyone. My name is Elaine Macura. I'm
12	64 years old. 453 Leedsville Road in
13	Amenia. I'm just down the road from
14	Troutbeck.
15	I literally grew up at Troutbeck
16	because my father was the caretaker for
17	Amy Spingarn for several decades. My
18	father also worked for Bob and Jim. My
19	sister also, thank you, worked for Bob and
20	Jim. My brother-in-law worked for Bob and
21	Jim. We loved it when Bob and Jim took
22	over Troutbeck because they tastefully
23	brought it into this century.
24	I am totally opposed to the new

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hotel project at Troutbeck. Number one, I knew Amy Spingarn very well. She and I are both all about preserving nature. Building this hotel and parking lot, even though you've put up your trees and masked everything to make it look pretty, it is still going to be there. It will still ravage nature. We grew up with all the deer and the animals, the cougar, the bobcat that lived by the stream. kids walked that entire stream, the Webutuck Creek from the Meili Farm all the way down to the gravel bank. We knew every inch of that river and we still do. You don't. That river up by Meili's Farm has water in it. When it goes through Spingarn's property, which is Troutbeck now, it has water in it. When you get down behind our house, there is no water in it. For the past four or five years I personally have trucked in 30 to 50 gallons of water a week. Why? We have a big garden of vegetables. We have had it all

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of our lives. We supply vegetables to our community on Leedsville. We put tables out front with free vegetables. what, the last four or five years there is no table of free veggies out front. We can't keep up with the water. We don't flush our toilet anymore. We flush our toilet once or twice a day. Why? don't have water anymore. What you people don't realize is you need to get out and walk the creek. You need to go down on the bridge that goes across the middle of your property, that nice little bridge with those pretty rocks in it that look like glass, put on some hip boots and walk all the way down to the gravel bank. you are going to find is that creek gets dryer and dryer and dryer. By July it is bone dry and we can walk across. there is water up by Meili's Farm going down into the Troutbeck property. want to take another million gallons of water out of our little valley? Another

million? We don't have water now. Do you understand we don't flush the toilet when we use it. Are you getting this? truck in water every single week. I don't care what studies you think you have done. You are robbing us of our water. I'm 64 years old. I grew up at Troutbeck. know more than anybody in this room. dad's dead. My sister is dead who worked Everybody else who lived on the street is dead. I'm the only one left to tell you, Amy Spingarn would have been so happy with what Bob and Jim did with her property. She would be horrified to see how you propose to ravage her land now and drain the local water table.

We on Leedsville are a community.

We are neighbors. We visit each other.

We cook for each other. We bake for each other. We walk across the street and we go up and down the street and we visit each other. You don't realize you are destroying our neighborhood.

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I could go on and on with other aspect of what I don't approve of. Part of it is the people who will work there. What we are finding more and more in America today is that a lot of people can't get the right people to work for them. So what I found in my personal experience out in this world in different counties, working different counties, is when businesses cannot find the people they need, they resort to having little hidden houses where they house the illegal immigrants who do the work that they can't get other people to do.

(Audience members reacting.)

MS. ELAINE MACURA: And I hope that doesn't happen at Troutbeck because we've had a history of being a good employer over the years.

I do hope that this project does not go through because of what it will do to our water level, what it will do to our Leedsville community. And I really thank

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2	the Board and everyone else for giving me
3	the time to say my piece, but I am 64 and
4	I have lived my entire life viewing what
5	has gone on on my street, and I totally
6	disapprove of this hotel project.
7	Thank you.
8	(Clapping.)
9	MR. STEFANOPOULOS: Andres
10	Valdespino.
11	MR. VALDESPINO: Pass.
12	MR. STEFANOPOULOS: Carla Meili.
13	MS. MEILI: My name is Carla Meili.
14	I live at 62 Alden Court in Delmar, but I
15	spent not 54 or 64 years here, but 59.
16	And I, too, grew up in the neighborhood on
17	Benton Hill Road. And I have addressed
18	some concerns in letters, and I have
19	addressed you, and I do also appreciate
20	your time and patience in this very, you
21	know, important issue. It is nice to see
22	that we all care because I think a lot of
23	America, you see strip malls, you see crap
24	going up all over the place, and towns are

probably like how did that happen.

But tonight I'm going to

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specifically address the environmental

issues, not the water. As you know it is

6 the DEC is the State agency that is tasked

7 with the State Environmental Quality

8 Review Regulation and Guidance, and the

9 DEC has an old online workbook, which I

10 have studied, and there are tools to

assist in the environmental assessment

form process, which include Part II, which

13 would be completed by you, the Planning

Board. In Part II, the form lists 18

areas of potential environmental impacts

for developments. If the answer to any of

the 18 numbered questions is yes, then you

18 can skip the rest of the question and go

19 to the next. We have discovered, we have

found, our team, my family, my sister, her

21 lawyer, that there are five, only five of

the 18 questions do not apply or have a no

answer in which you will have to go

further. So that is 13 remaining impact

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questions. Each one triggers a threshold that is moderate to a large impact. Wе prepared the exhibit which takes the hundreds of the pages of guidance in the DEC workbook and pulled it down to the questions and guidance relevant to this Troutbeck proposal. As you can see on the front and back, it is 28 pages. In the exhibit in the front there, which we will leave with the Town for your review, you can see the blue headings for each of the impacts, such as land, surface water, plants and animals. Under these headings are all the questions the DEC possess that are related to the potential significant impacts which stem from the proposal the Troutbeck applicants are making. important to note that throughout the DEC workbook they stress that if the proposed project exceeds a numeric threshold in any question, it is presumed to be a moderate to large impact. The Troutbeck project exceeds many of these numeric thresholds

for such things as sewage output, which is 25 times the threshold. Duration of construction, which is six times the threshold. And removal of natural material, which is 15 times the threshold. These are only a few. The Troutbeck team has made project changes and offered mitigation in many forms since the original Public Hearing in November.

Our attorney advised us that the court's view mitigation as an inherent acknowledgement that the project may cause significant environmental impacts. The case in our lawyer's letter says that the presence of comprehensive engineering documents such as the Rennia report, which offered mitigation techniques, acknowledges the potential for significant impacts.

My mouth is dry.

Finally, we understand there are more changes to the project with the recent submission that haven't been posted

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2	yet and ask to you keep the Public Hearing
3	open or shift to scoping these materials
4	thoughtfully and review them for further
5	comment.
6	Thank you. Again, I appreciate
7	your patience in this matter. But you
8	know, along with Nadine and Elaine, when I
9	originally heard of this project, the
10	water is such a big issue. It is like, I
11	mean, and nobody seems to be addressing
12	that. Mr. Rennia in his presentation
13	tonight, I don't understand, you know, the
14	reducing by reducing rooms they are
15	going to reduce water usage, but they are
16	really not saying there hasn't been a
17	water study and there needs to be. I
18	think there needs to be a water study.
19	Thank you very much.
20	(Clapping.)
21	MR. STEFANOPOULOS: Thank you.
22	Steph Ferradino.
23	MS. FERRADINO: Good evening. My
24	name is Steph Ferradino, and I am

{FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA} appearing on behalf of the Meili family.

We can likely agree, everyone in this room, that nobody wants to do a POS DEC, not the Town, not the applicant, and frankly, not the neighbors. It is costly and it is time consuming. The reality is that it actually does make better projects, and I have 25 years of experience with them. Ones that are healthier for the Town, better for the applicant, and less impactful for the neighboring property owners.

When large scale development occurs, it irrevocably changes the landscape and the impacts become permanent. Some have widespread effect such as those indicated in the Hudsonia report on the downstream impacts to a threatened species. So let's read them slowly and thoughtfully and consistent with the regulations in place.

We can all probably also agree on another point, which is that at least four independent laws and regulations with

{FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA} 1 2 almost identical language talks about when 3 an EIS is required. Two of those are in 4 State documents, the NYCRR, and the 5 Environmental Conservation Law. But the 6 other two are in the Town of Amenia's 7 regulations in both your site plan and 8 your special permit regulations. So if we 9 all agree that a POS DEC is mandated in 10 instances where there is the potential for 11 only one significant environmental impact, 12 then the issue really turns on whether 13 that potential exists. To determine the 14 potential for impact we have to evaluate 15 both the law and the actual facts of the 16 project at hand. And we found at least 17 four compelling arguments supporting the 18 potential for at least one, more likely 27 19 or so, but at least one. 20 First, type one actions are assumed 21 to have the potential, and that is written 22 into the statute, which is why they have 23 further scrutiny. 24 Second, the court's view mitigation

and project changes such as those offered in the Rennia report as well as everything that was offered tonight. Those are mitigation efforts trying to downsize the project as inherent acknowledgement of the potential for significant impacts.

The DEC guidance document, their workbook, and the front of that exhibit, but also the back there are 28 pages. took 150 pages and pulled it down, essence, to make you a cheat sheet for what the DEC looks at, only as relates to the things that are in this project, except I eliminated hundreds of pages just by taking away anything that doesn't apply to this project. The DEC guidance workbook says in many, many, many places that if the proposed project exceeds a numeric threshold in a part two question, it is presumed to be moderate to large impact. Those have the potential for a significant environmental impact.

The first question when you get to

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part one, you have the first question,

impact on land. That exceeds three

thresholds just in that one question.

First, construction of more than one year.

Second, it has multiple phases. Three, it

has removal of more than a thousand tons

of natural material. That is 40 trucks

full. The Troutbeck project is 15 times

that. You'll see in my exhibit several

other triggering thresholds, and I hope

you take the time to review it and we will

The most compelling, however, and case law will tell you this and your attorney, I'm sure, has read this case.

That two uncontroverted expert reports, first our engineering report done by Dan Koehler, and the second biodiversity report, which is updated and submitted today from Hudsonia clearly identifies impacts to four endangered, those most protected in New York State, four endangered species and one threatened

provide it electronically.

species. And that is just on the analysis. As you read the report you'll also see there are also impacts to lands.

The EIS is a big deal, but the threshold for having to use it is relatively low, and I take that from your counsel's partners' treatise. Very, very low threshold. As much as we all don't want to make -- move in this direction, it is the only defensible action for the Town to take. And I understand you've got a steno here in part to create the record.

Thorough review makes for better projects by ensuring ample time to review, a structure for the process, and all voices to be heard, and that every impact is identified and studied and all alternatives are considered. This record contains much proof of the potential for the project to have adverse impacts.

You've got expert reports that say it will have adverse impacts. At the end of this EIS process the end result will be better

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because it will be a well-vetted project
that fits the framework of the Town.

I heard a bunch of things after I prepared my reports, and I'll just take a couple minutes to highlight those.

Downsizing the project does not eliminate the need for an EIS. You still have impacts to those threatened species. Even if you cut the project in half, you still have those impacts. The thresholds are still triggered even with the reductions.

The expansion contemplated long ago wasn't approved long ago. That is why we are here tonight. So because you have an existing 40 room hotel doesn't mean you can build a thousand room hotel or a 120 room hotel. You still have to go through process, and that process includes SEQR, and SEQR wasn't done on this project in 2005.

As the changes keep being made, the public should have the opportunity to

respond to them. We saw a bunch of changes today. We haven't seen those. They haven't been submitted. There was a letter that alluded to them, but I haven't seen a plan with, you know, a building crossed out and the parking lot change. The public's involvement provides checks and balances. So where the architect is proposing an orchard and the engineer has a septic field and nobody has kind of maybe put those two together, that is where the public comes in. And maybe you didn't catch that. The public's input helps to provide that checks and balances to make sure the project is adhering and is proceeding in a thorough manner.

I have two little points. First, there appears to be work done on the site. There is large machinery, and they are grading and cutting down trees. I don't know if this project has started or not and I just heard that. I haven't seen it because I came and it was dark tonight.

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2	And last, the exhibit we will leave
3	with you but we would ask that that be
4	made part of the record.
5	Thank you so much. I appreciate
6	your time.
7	(Clapping.)
8	MR. STEFANOPOULOS: Thank you.
9	Barbara Meili.
10	MS. BARBARA MEILI: Well, it is
11	hard to top that in terms of a very
12	thorough analysis of what we know to date
13	about the science, about the facts, about
14	the environmental impact and what further
15	diligence needs to be done in the form of
16	an EIS.
17	MR. VANCOTT: Barbara, can you just
18	state your name and address, please.
19	MS. BARBARA MEILI: Oh, I'm sorry.
20	Barbara Meili, 57 Benning Hill Road.
21	MR. VANCOTT: Feel free to hold the
22	microphone.
23	MS. BARBARA MEILI: What I'm going
24	to speak to is a counter to some of the

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rationales offered by the Troutbeck Group and why I -- it is not a belief, but I don't -- my understanding of the regulations and the approval process, they should not be given weight.

So the first one is intent. Wе have heard a lot about what was intended, what was contemplated when Jim purchased the Manor House, the estate, subdivided into lots and created an Inn. And what the intent was when this investor group came in to ownership of Troutbeck, what That is not relevant what was intended. was intended. And there have been a few references to a 2005 Special Use Permit. I have looked at the prior permits. There is nothing mentioned about this level of development, this many structures. would ask that that is not really an appropriate rationale for approval of this project.

The other word that I've seen bantered about in certain materials

promulgated by the Troutbeck Group is that they are entitled to this approval, they are entitled to build. They actually are being very generous to the neighbors and to the Town by not building as much as they are entitled to build. I dispute that, and our two sets of lawyers dispute that. We do not believe they are entitled to build the number of houses and lodging units and hotel units that they are asserting.

The third area is conservation, which I will get into in a little more detail. That is a very legalistic topic.

The other topic I would like to talk about is good taste. I would like to stipulate for the record that I agree that Troutbeck has good taste. Jim and Bob had good taste. This group has good taste.

Anthony's mother, who is a world renowned interior designer did a great job. I would like to have some of the fixtures and furniture. It is fabulous. But that

does not constitute a reason to plop down and construct a bunch of buildings. I would say various buildings, the Louvre, there are many buildings around the world that I think are in fabulous taste. It doesn't mean they belong in a field in the middle of Amenia in rural, residential and

agricultural area.

So as you heard tonight, you know, there has been a lot of reference to the 2005 Special Use Permit. For the record, we do not agree that those limited approvals permit or approve Troutbeck from forcing your hand with this new development plan. And as I started out, these are really -- their intentions are really irrelevant. What matters is what Town approvals they currently have and what they applying for as per their application. Perhaps the Troutbeck investors intended from the beginning when they purchased the property in '05, '06 to intensively develop the site into a

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Hampton's-type hotel, but they can't legitimately claim a right to do so based on what they intended but never submitted in an application for or disclosed to the Town.

They also reference their entitlement to develop as per zoning code and the fact that it has been operating for four decades. One bit of proof they offered in the solicitation for support is that there is never -- is that there has been a Troutbeck sign on the road for a number of decades. What the heck does that have to do with building all these structures. There is a sign. Okay, we stipulate, it has been there for four decades. It has been an inn. We like it. We are happy with the inn. It is fine. But that doesn't mean that we want every inch of buildable land to have a structure on it and have an adverse environmental impact.

And let's dig into intentions. We

asked Troutbeck about their intentions for two additional parcels they purchased that are measured in feet away from the site. So if you look at the map, and I should have introduced this map. This is a map which shows from Amenia tax data, it is a section. And the red is the 43 acre site for the proposed development. What is outlined in the lower left are parcels that Troutbeck recently purchased. Troutbeck has asserted that they have, quote, "no immediate plans," closed quote, to develop this site. Well, I learned a lot about land use since I have been appearing at these hearings, and that seems to me like, potentially, an impermissible segmentation. That if there is a user plan and intent to further develop, that should be part of this application process. Are they going to come back in a couple of years and assert that it was their intent all along to add that as a recreational site for their

{FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA} 1 2 luxury resort? And intent as to occupancy and use 4 has been a much discussed topics. There seems to be a lot of confusion as to 5 6 actually how many people will be lodging 7 there and why they are building a 6200 new great hall when they have an existing 8 9 ballroom. They have made a lot of public 10 presentation regarding occupancy and use 11 that oh, it is not going to be at full 12 capacity. They recently secured a 13 \$9 million mortgage. 14 MR. STEFANOPOULOS: Sorry, Barbara, 15 but we are running out of time. 16 MS. BARBARA MEILI: Okay. All 17 right. 18 I'll finish up by saying we have 19 asked for business plans and materials 20 provided to investors. They have not been provided. We assume they exist. It is 21 22 not easy to get a \$9 million mortgage. 23 And we would like to see those materials. 24 And the other thing is, you know,

1	{FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA}
2	when we talk about good taste, that is
3	based on this owner. We have no idea what
4	the long range plans are. We are going to
5	be there. My family will be there in the
6	area. We don't know if this investor
7	group is going to be there. And they are
8	going to leave a lot of buildings in their
9	wake.
10	MR. STEFANOPOULOS: Thank you,
11	Barbara.
12	(Clapping.)
13	MR. STEFANOPOULOS: Maria Paton.
14	MR. PATON: I'm James Paton. I
15	would like to speak. Can I speak from
16	here loudly?
17	MR. STEFANOPOULOS: Please come up
18	to the microphone.
19	MR. PATON: I hadn't planned on
20	speaking at all, but hearing that there
21	has not been any hydraulic study done,
22	that seems ridiculous.
23	MR. STEFANOPOULOS: State your
24	name, please.

MR. PATON: It is James Paton, P-a-t-o-n. I'm at 442 Leedsville Road. My wife is basically a lifetime resident. And my wife grew up directly across from Louis Mumford and was friends with the Mumfords and with Amy Spingarn. Grew up in the neighborhood. To hear that there has not been any hydrology study done at all, and I'm just curious if anybody knows what the current usage of water is. is going to scale down to 7,500,000 gallons a year, it seems like a lot of water will be used per year. Does anybody know what the current usage is and what the increased percentage of water usage out of our aquifer?

Another important point I think is that that aquifer continues into Connecticut. Sharon, Connecticut shares that aquifer, and a lot of those people are not on Sharon water. They have wells also. And the impact on the shared aquifer with Sharon, Connecticut, it seems

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that Sharon, Connecticut has to be
involved in this. Seriously involved in

And another water usage point, water point, is that that water, that river, I'm an expert white water kayaker, racing in the 1980's on the US white water canoeing team World Championships in '85, and as a Housatonic area kayak squad member, and just recently, the Housatonic was finally given a wild and scenic river It is part of the National Park status. And there has to be a study done System. on any runoff pollution or any potential pollution into the Webutuck River, which runs into the Housatonic River above Gaylordsville, just below the ridge rapids, and that would be potential pollution into the wild and scenic river, the Housatonic River. And it is in that section of that 41 mile stretch that the water goes into the Housatonic River. it seems to me that Chris Murphy and the

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this.

Housatonic River Council that worked so hard finally to make the Housatonic wild and scenic status needs to be informed and involved in this. And a study should be done on any potential runoff into Webutuck Creek or Webutuck River, which runs into the Housatonic in that section. basically, 7,500,000 gallons sounds like a lot of water out of that aquifer, which is shared with Sharon. And does anybody know what the current usage is and what the increase is? Because I mean, that is an absurd amount of water to be used, and I would like to know what the percentage of increase is. So it seems absurd that a hydrology study would not have been done and will maybe not be done.

And I really appreciate you people spending so much time on this, but that seems ridiculous that a hydrology study would not be done.

So anyway, that's all I needed to say. Again, I wasn't going to speak, but

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1	{FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA}
2	when I heard that, that a hydrology study
3	had not been done, it seems absurd.
4	(Clapping.)
5	MR. STEFANOPOULOS: Thank you.
6	Rob Paton.
7	AUDIENCE MEMBER: That was Rob.
8	MR. PATON: Yes. Jamie is my
9	middle name. It is Rob.
10	MR. STEFANOPOULOS: Got it. James.
11	MR. PATON: Yes, James.
12	MR. STEFANOPOULOS: Next person.
13	Jane Schreiber.
14	MS. SCHREIBER: My name is Jane
15	Schreiber, S-c-h-r-e-i-b-e-r, and I live
16	two doors down from Troutbeck, and I'm
17	terrified about the water because we
18	haven't had much in the last five years.
19	The stream is frighteningly dry, and they
20	reduced their plan, they announced
21	tonight, and they have gone from using
22	nine million gallons a year down to seven
23	million gallons a year, and I don't know
24	what that is going to do to my well or all

1	{FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA}
2	the wells on Leedsville Road straight up
3	to Sharon. And I don't know whether
4	Troutbeck is prepared to pay for drilling
5	down another couple of hundred feet to
6	everybody's well after they suck out seven
7	million gallons a year.
8	(Clapping.)
9	MS. SCHREIBER: And that is scary.
10	The other thing I want to say is
11	I'm not sure what anybody thought they
12	were going to think by saying that
13	building a gatehouse is going to provide a
14	service to the community.
15	(Audience laughter.)
16	MS. SCHREIBER: Is that what is
17	advertised when people talk about gated
18	communities where we are providing a
19	service so that people who are lost on the
20	road can stop in and ask a friendly guard.
21	Really? I had never heard that before. I
22	thought it was creative.
23	Thank you very much.
24	(Clapping.)

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2	MR. STEFANOPOULOS: Thank you.
3	Allen Rappleyea.
4	MR. RAPPLEYEA: I'm Allen Rappleyea.
5	I represent the homeowner's association.
6	REPORTER: I didn't hear your name.
7	MR. RAPPLEYEA: I'm used to
8	stenographers. R-a-p-p-l-e-y-e-a. And I
9	live in Millbrook, New York. My address
10	is 35 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, New York.
11	I'll be brief and I'll try not to
12	repeat anything else. I appreciate your
13	patience.
14	I don't think there is a count on
15	how many meetings or Board meetings you
16	have to have on an application. I do
17	appreciate that what you do is hard. You
18	don't get gold stars. You don't get paid.
19	You are all volunteer. It is difficult.
20	But there isn't a certain threshold at
21	which you have to do something. So for
22	example, the applicant has been here a
23	while, I know that, and has done a lot of
24	work, but you don't reach a point where,

2 okay, I have been here 17 times,

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therefore, now I get to have this closed.

Frequently, when you speak, you change

5 everything you are going to say when you

6 listen to everybody else. And one thing

7 that occurred to me was what Mr. Andrews

8 said is, you know, that this notion of a

9 POS DEC, I think if you look at this

10 record objectively, that probably needs to

occur. In fact, I don't think there is

any doubt. But it is not the boogieman.

13 And although many times when folks are

14 trying to develop a property, they view it

as the boogieman and something that is so

terrible, it is actually something that is

17 good. Because when it runs its course,

18 the Board, the volunteers, the applicant

is trying to accomplish something and the

20 neighbors, and so far the only folks I've

21 heard from or that we heard from are the

22 applicant and the folks most affected.

Everybody is actually better off. It

takes a lot longer, costs more money.

Sometimes it is used just to scheme and keep the thing going. I don't think we can conclude that. There are lots of folks here that are deeply interested in the outcome. So viewed in that light, many times we hear that and we equate it with well, it is going to take longer.

Well, as I said earlier, that is just the process. It is actually a wonderful process, frankly, that the Town is engaged in.

Secondly, this has been said a couple of times. I don't think it is correct. The notion that what they are proposing is as a right, and as

Mr. Lederkramer said, if that were true, then it would have been 130 units. And it isn't true. It is difficult to read the zoning ordinance, and this Adaptive Reuse proposal is one that says -- it is not a building permit. You don't just walk in and say I have no setback issues, I'm here for my permit. It is not as a right. It

is not, frankly, even close to being as a

right. Not only on the code but in SEQR.

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Secondly -- or thirdly, rather.

The conservation easement, I didn't have a

chance to look at it until this evening.

It is a very lengthy document. It looks

like a lot of conservation easement

slough. But just one simple point to

10 really drive home the necessity of

continuing here is the conservation

12 easement itself calls for a management

13 plan, which is not attached. So it has

language that is very common, you know,

preserving open space and doing things

like that, but it calls for a management

plan that is going to be developed. And

what is interesting is, this is on page --

I can't see without my glasses on. It is

20 not page numbered, but it is Section 3.2,

just before 3.3. It says -- I'll just

read this sentence to you. The management

plan and the practices implemented by the

grant for under this plan, must at a

1	{FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA}
2	minimum restore degraded resources and
3	maintain those resources in a condition
4	that is consistent with the protection of
5	the conservation values. But what jumped
6	out at me was restore degraded resources.
7	What is this doing? Is actually anything
8	being conserved? And as I think you spoke
9	of last time, with all of the overlays,
10	the so called conserved area really isn't
11	conserved anyway. So the notion of the
12	conservation easement in its broadest way,
13	obviously, brings about the theory that
14	the land is being conserved. The
15	conservation easement really isn't doing
16	anything. And I think it is a bit of a
17	red herring.
18	I don't have anything else. And I
19	thank you for your time.
20	(Clapping.)
21	MR. STEFANOPOULOS: Thank you.
22	Joerg Meili.
23	MS. LEVIN: I'm Laurence Levin.
24	MR. STEFANOPOULOS: No. I'm sorry.

{FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA} 1 2 It is Joerg Meili first. 3 MS. LEVIN: Oh, sorry. MR. JOERG MEILI: I know it sounds 4 5 like the same. 6 (Laughter.) 7 MR. JOERG MEILI: Hi. I'm Joerg Meili, and I live at 3562 Route 343. 8 Basically, a neighbor of Troutbeck. My 9 10 land borders Yellow City. 11 I'm trying to touch on some of the 12 more big-picture issues. Everybody has 13 been, I agree with all the hydrology and all that stuff and questions about that. 14 15 I'm trying to -- I just -- where is Amenia 16 going with its future to retain this small 17 town environment? Amenia doesn't have to become an affluent neighborhood of 18 19 residents that could live anywhere. 20 guess what I'm getting at, and of course, 21 because Silo Ridge has been mentioned. 22 Silo Ridge is apparently Bob Walkover's 23 Farm, and they own King Stud. So what is 24 going to happen there? You know, are

{FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA} 1 2 there going to be a bunch more houses there? I know that is not Troutbeck and 3 4 we are talking about Troutbeck. But I'm 5 looking at the big picture. Where is 6 Amenia going to go? What is Amenia going 7 to look like, you know, in 20 years, in 8 50 years, not necessarily now. 9 (Clapping.) 10 MR. MEILI: And by they way, I used to play down there with Elaine down at 11 12 Troutbeck. Remember that Elaine? 13 MS. ELAINE MACURA: Yup. 14 (Audience laughter.) 15 MR. MEILI: You know, with all 16 this -- I'm sorry to use the word affluent 17 people, I don't mean to pick on them. 18 Apparently, Silo Ridge is disputing all 19 these taxes, and it has been costing the 20 Town of Amenia a lot of money to fight the 21 taxes, fight them and hire lawyers. 22 have Silo Ridge, we have Westerly Ridge, 23 we have Troutbeck, it is a little 24 different and nicer, I will agree with

1 {FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA} 2 that. But you know, what is going to

happen? More and more affluent people

come in, they don't like to pay the taxes,

5 they are going to fight the Town. The

Town has to spend a lot of money on

7 lawyers. I mean, I went to grievance day

8 this year to fight, to dispute my

9 assessment, which rose 11 percent. I

10 thought I had a pretty good proposal and a

11 pretty good argument because we sold our

development rights, and I feel that our

land is really not worth as much as what

14 the assessments say that it is, because we

lowered the value by selling the

development rights, and therefore, it can

never be developed, and makes all the

18 neighbors around us very happy because

they don't have to worry about seeing

20 anything like Troutbeck or Silo Ridge or

21 anything like that. You know, I applied.

I was kind of confident I would get a

23 little break, but I got nothing. I'm

qoing to go back. I'm going to fight it

more, but I'm not, you know, I don't really want to have to hire an expensive lawyer to fight my case, if I can help it, I think a lot of other taxpayers in this Town don't want to or can't afford to do that. It is just a point I have to include, with the fact that from what I understand, places like Silo Ridge, and I don't know about Troutbeck, but they are causing problems. They don't want to pay the taxes because they are too high. They are high for everybody, proportionally.

So I just -- the aspect is of a hardship. Apparently, this is considered -- well, I don't know if it is considered a hardship. I never even heard that word mentioned, but I know I applied for a hardship back in the 80's to build a dairy barn because I couldn't build it anywhere else, and they, you know, I was a young buck then. You know, I couldn't understand why they wouldn't let me do it, but they did. But I had a good reason for

## {FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA} 1 2 You know, and I never ended up doing 3 I ended up doing something different. it. 4 But my point is, is this really a 5 I mean, we are like five acres hardship? 6 zoned residential agriculture. So, I 7 mean, Troutbeck in the 80's, you know, 8 they must have -- you know, they might not 9 want us to use the word fight. But they 10 had to argue or dispute or changed -- I 11 assume they applied for a variance, I 12 think. I'm not sure what zoning was like 13 then, if we had zoning. And now they want 14 to do more. Is this really a hardship. Ι 15 It is a something that don't think so.

participate -- would Sharon allow this?

Would Pine Plank allow this? Would Ancram

allow this? I don't know. You know,

yeah, down in 44 above Adams, where I

mentioned last time I looked into it, look

some developer, investors want to build

And by the way, how many

because it is, you know, an opportunity to

24 what they did. You know, they were

do it.

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1	{FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA}
2	allowed to do stuff and it looks like
3	crap. So I just, as I said, I just think
4	we all have to think about where we are
5	going.
6	And lastly, I think I just think
7	by making decisions on growth and zoning
8	variances, Amenia should think about what
9	is good for Amenia, not just what is good
10	for the applicant.
11	(Clapping.)
12	MR. STEFANOPOULOS: Thank you.
13	Craig Meili.
14	MR. CRAIG MEILI: My name is Craig
15	Meili. I live at 173 Randall Road.
16	One thing my sister forget to
17	mention, the yellow markings on this map
18	are all the people that are in opposition
19	of this project, all the property owners.
20	And I just wanted to give this to Judy to
21	pass to the Planning Board members.
22	(Document handed to Judy Westfall.)
23	MR. CRAIG MEILI: But I do have
24	some thoughts about this whole project,

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2 And one thing that has kind of come 3 to mind is how much -- I mean, all right, 4 they are going to build it -- we are all 5 paying taxes here. I know in the past 6 meetings they are going to be paying a lot 7 of taxes, we all pay taxes. But really 8 how much influx of business is going to be 9 in the Town. I mean, we have somewhat of 10 a gated community or a gated situation 11 where people come in on Friday and have a 12 wedding and they leave. And they may 13 leave and stop at Cumbie's and buy our gas 14 because it is cheaper than New Jersey, you 15 That is about it. I mean, I know 16 in the meeting back in October, I think 17 the lady who owns the hilltop B&B, you 18 know, has got a lot of business because 19 Troutbeck didn't have the rooms for people 20 to stay. Well, I mean, she will probably 21 get business from other people. But there 22 are areas around here like Mitza's over in the Sharon Hotel, this might ultimately --23 24 they might lose business because of a

1 {FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA}
2 project like this because people are not
3 being farmed out, going to other places.
4 And also, there is a word, you know, it is
5 called rural gentrification. And I think
6 a project like this really kind of causes
7 that to increase. One is a lot of people

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she has lived here all her life. You

know, her parents passed away, they got

live in Leedsville. You know, the dean,

the house. And people like myself, I have

want to be able to live here, and I think

lived here all my life, too. I mean, I

projects like this price the local people

out because it changes the demographic,

which I know change is okay and

everything, but I'm really concerned about

that, the whole rural gentrification of

the area. Diversity is a good thing to

have in our Town, and I think this having

a homogeneous kind of demographics is kind

of bland in my opinion.

So anyway, you know, just those

things have been really kind of concerned

1	{FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA}
2	about just the fact that how much really,
3	you know, besides the taxes, how much
4	business are they going to put into this
5	Town. Are we going to see shops popping
6	up in town because of Troutbeck and all of
7	the 800 people coming for the weekend.
8	They are just coming here and they are
9	leaving. It is kind of like someone is
10	trying to create this kind of Hampton kind
11	of atmosphere. And we have been kind of
12	known to be the un-Hampton, you know, and
13	I think I would really like this area to
14	stay that way.
15	That's all I have to say.
16	(Clapping.)
17	MR. STEFANOPOULOS: Thank you.
18	Jessica Warren.
19	(No response.)
20	MR. STEFANOPOULOS: Laurence Levin.
21	MS. LEVIN: Thank you. Yes, my
22	name is Laurence Levin. L-a-u-r-e-n-c-e
23	Levin, L-e-v-i-n. I'm at 189 Amenia Union
24	Road down the stream from Troutbeck.

I already expressed some opinions at the last Public Hearing, and I have written some of my opinions. So I don't have that much to add, except to some of the things that have been said today that I think many of us have admired.

I have been here for 31 years -- 37 years, so a few years after Jim and Bob bought the Troutbeck. But we have known it ever since, and we have known its new rendition of it very well, as one of our sons was married there in 2020 -- 2019.

I was rather surprised by

Mr. Rennia's talk because he kept

mentioning how much things -- how they had

decreased everything because they took off

this one hotel. What they don't -- what

he didn't talk about is how much it had

been increased since -- from its present

configuration. For example, the rooms, he

says it has gone down from 118 to 85.

From what I calculate of the new

construction, it is about 33 rooms. So

{FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA}

that means they are about 32, 33 rooms

presently. Well, that is almost a

threefold increase from what it is. Say,

for example, the cottage, the cabins, they

are decreasing the number by two, but then

they are making two, two-bedroom cabins.

Is that really a decrease?

People have mentioned the water situation. And all through his presentation where he mentions decreases, we are not -- he is not telling us, and we can just figure it out for ourselves how much it has increased.

So as I mentioned before, I'm

against the expansion as it is because I

find it too dense and I think that, as

some of the lawyers have pointed out

today, that there are things to look at.

And particularly, it requires an

environmental study, an environmental

impact study. And there are other issues

as to whether it conforms to regulations

of what is this Special Use Permit and

{FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA} what was done in 2005, et cetera.

I would also, like Mr. Rappleyea, I did look at the conservation easements and found it to be really a joke. I'm sorry.

50 percent, 20 acres. Only three of those acres are land that is not impossible to build on. All other 17 acres are wetlands or forest or stream. So this conservation easement is for three acres. So I'm not impressed. I don't know if anybody else is besides the Troutbeck people.

The cabins, I've mentioned in a letter that they are actually touching or inside the floodplain. Conservation easement just overlooks that. Even though this is the Housatonic Valley Association, and as somebody mentioned, you would think that they would be concerned about how this impacts one of the tributaries to the Housatonic River.

So basically, I agree with a lot of the comments that were here, but they were spoken much more eloquently than what I

1	{FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA}
2	can do, so I will leave it at that.
3	Thank you.
4	MR. STEFANOPOULOS: Thank you.
5	Leo Blackman.
6	MR. LEO BLACKMAN: Pass.
7	MR. STEFANOPOULOS: Well, that is
8	it for speakers.
9	MR. BOYLES: That being said
10	MR. VANCOTT: Do you want to ask if
11	there is anyone else?
12	MR. BOYLES: Is there anyone else
13	that wants to speak?
14	Go ahead, sir.
15	MR. FLAHERTY: I would like to add
16	a couple of more comments. Jim Flaherty.
17	I live at 486 Leedsville Road.
18	As they talk about usage of
19	anything in Troutbeck, they are basing
20	that on full occupancy. You must
21	understand that kind of business I was
22	there the other day. I had a book reading
23	for my own book. There were 15 of us
24	sitting in the living room. The Troutbeck

quests, there were 28 of them. They were a corporation. They were off in a room having a quiet meeting. And the week is It is a very quiet operation. like that. It is like having the quietest neighbors in the world next door to you. We had the pleasure from my dining room window -- I have the pleasure of seeing the New Year's Eve fireworks from Troutbeck. And in the years before we built the ballroom, we used to tell all of our neighbors, put on your dancing shoes because all the weddings were in a tent back then. And so people would have music until ten or 11 o'clock at night. Where I was doing 20 weddings a year, the new Troutbeck owners have put a limit of 12 weddings a year on Troutbeck because it interferes with the rest of their business, corporate business and their real business, which is -- I'm going to call it room usage of having people come in for one night, two

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nights or three nights and to enjoy the

## {FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA} 1 2 food and to enjoy the surroundings. It is not a loud business, folks. And then 4 suddenly, one of the gentlemen, the Meilis 5 said how does Troutbeck help the Town in 6 terms of income. I know of -- well, we 7 built some of them. But I know of at least 17 families that live in Amenia that 8 9 came because Troutbeck was there. 10 Troutbeck attracted people to the Town. 11 People who come to the Inn are also going 12 to say gosh, this is pretty. I like it up 13 here. And so some of those people are 14 going to settle in the Town. The 15 Troutbeck is not a negative influence. 16 is not a hardship to the Town. I think it 17 is an advantage to Amenia to have 18 something like that. Thank you. 19 (Clapping.) 20 MS. ELAINE MACURA: I would like to 21 formally ask that Troutbeck, the Board, 22 whoever is responsible, to do the water level studies, formally do the 23 24 environmental impact studies. Do all the

1	{FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA}
2	studies that the people here who are
3	intelligent about these things, please go
4	ahead and do them for us.
5	Thank you so much.
6	(Clapping.)
7	MS. LEVIN: May I speak again?
8	MR. BOYLES: Yes.
9	MS. LEVIN: I'm Laurance Levin. I
10	just want to also mention that I haven't
11	seen anywhere any mention of the height
12	and dimensions of the event space. Is
13	there official impacts there? What is its
14	use? What would be the use of the old
15	event space? That hasn't been mentioned.
16	If it is in there all the thousands of
17	pages that they have given, I didn't find
18	anything about that.
19	When they also talked about the
20	reduction and other
21	REPORTER: I can't hear you.
22	MS. LEVIN: Another point about
23	Mr. Rennia's speech about how much they
24	are reducing the impact, the imprint of

1	{FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA}
2	what they had originally proposed when
3	they talk about the gatehouse, for
4	example, it still is a large gatehouse
5	compared to many other gatehouses that I
6	have seen in fancier resorts, and it is
7	about twice the size of what it is. So I
8	don't see that as a big reduction.
9	Moving the parking lot, you know,
10	three degrees east, west or north, south
11	is not reducing the parking lot. There is
12	still, I think, over 75 spaces on the
13	property. And I could go on and on.
14	But I would be interested to
15	seeing in hearing more about what the
16	event space is and what impact it might
17	have.
18	Thank you.
19	(Clapping.)
	(Clapping.)
20	MR. BOYLES: Any other public
20	
	MR. BOYLES: Any other public
21	MR. BOYLES: Any other public comment?

Myers. I live at 496 Leedsville Road.

I just want to respond to a couple of the comments here tonight, as I am also an employee at Troutbeck. And the question was raised is this good for Amenia, is it good for the applicant and what do we expect for Amenia. I would say from my colleagues and I, the opportunity to work at a place where it is not just being a server. I have a role with marketing and programming, and I see a real future for myself having a career there. I never expected to find that somewhere as beautiful and something that we could share with others and also share with our community. Troutbeck's doors are open to the community, and we do things like programs for fundraisers, we do Troutbeck symposiums. We also support the local community by recommending places in our community for people to travel to. have created Town guides that we hand out to most of our quests, if not all.

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2	along with that, through our food program,
3	we support local farms, and we are
4	incredibly proud of our local sourcing and
5	working with local farmers on supporting
6	the business. So I just want to make it
7	clear that we are huge members of the
8	community, those that work there. And not
9	just from a company standpoint, but from
10	an individual standpoint. So I just
11	wanted to share that.
12	Thank you.
13	MR. BOYLES: Any other comment?
14	MS. PFORZHEIMER: I'm just going to
15	stand here because I have a very loud
16	voice. My name is Zelie Pforzheimer.
17	Last name P-f-o-r-z-h-e-i-m-e-r.
18	
	REPORTER: What is the first name?
19	REPORTER: What is the first name?  MS. PFORZHEIMER: First name is
19 20	
	MS. PFORZHEIMER: First name is
20	MS. PFORZHEIMER: First name is Zelie, Z-e-l-i-e.
20	MS. PFORZHEIMER: First name is Zelie, Z-e-l-i-e. I'm a very new resident of Amenia.

{FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA} 1 2 vandalized. We had a window broken. I called Troutbeck and said is there 3 4 anybody, because I was in Boston at the 5 time, and I got the message from Taylor 6 Oil who said do you know that you have a 7 window broken in your house? And I was like no. So I called Troutbeck because 8 they were around the corner, and they sent 9 10 somebody over right away and they waited 11 there until the police got there. So to 12 me Troutbeck has been an incredibly good 13 neighbor. And I think you should do a 14 water study. So that is that. I haven't 15 had any issues with noise or anything, and 16 it always ends by, if there is noise by a 17 wedding, it seems like it stops at 18 11 o'clock. I love having the yoga barn 19 there and being able to walk through the 20 property. I think it is very beautiful. 21 So that is that. 22 Any other comments? MR. BOYLES: 23 JANE BRODSBERGEN (phonetic): I have 24 one more question.

{FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA} 1 2 MR. BOYLES: Go ahead. MS. BRODSBERGEN: The water, the 4 seven million gallons a year, does that 5 include the water for the massive 6 landscaping proposal? I don't know if it 7 does. I thought that seven million 8 gallons a year was just based on guest 9 usage. And now that they are planning on 10 planting an enormous landscaping project, 11 I want to know how much water is going to 12 be involved in that. Because the summer was so dry for the last two years I had to 13 14 let some plants on my land die because I 15 didn't want to use up the water from my 16 well. So that is a problem. Thank you. 17 (Clapping.) MR. RENNIA: Quick clarification 18 for the record, first. Rich Rennia. 19 There is a lot of talk about 20 21 studies and needing studies. I just want 22 to clarify that. For the record, that the application includes multiple studies and 23

assessments, which look at storm water,

1	{FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA}
2	they look at flood plain, they look at
3	water use, they look at wastewater
4	management. So the Board has that
5	information and the Board has a very
6	capable engineer who I know will be
7	reviewing that information. And he will
8	ask the questions if questions need to be
9	asked. So you are in good hands and you
10	have the information that you will need.
11	Thank you.
12	MR. BOYLES: One more.
13	MR. MOONEY: Hi. I'm Michael
14	Mooney. I actually reside on Spingarn
15	Lane at Troutbeck. So most of you well,
16	some of you here know me.
17	Regarding the community, I just
18	want to speak to that a little bit and our
19	involvement. And Zelie, as you know, as
20	you mentioned, we assisted with that.
21	Trees down over on Spingarn, over in the
22	community, we go and assist with that.
23	Jim recently had his panic alarm go off at

police officer was to be there to assist.

Some of the members here who are in

4 opposition, I actually personally

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5 delivered food to their houses when they

6 have had some challenges in their

7 families. So we strongly support the

community, opposition and those in favor.

Thank you.

(Clapping.)

MS. MARION PATON: Hi. My name is

Marion Moher Paton, and I live at 442

13 Leedsville Road, and I have lived there

14 for 59 years. And I do remember Troutbeck

when Amy and Joel Spingarn had it, and I

appreciate what Jim had done when he

17 renovated Troutbeck, but what I'm hearing

18 tonight, what I'm most concerned about, is

the environment and the land there. And I

20 notice on Troutbeck's current website that

21 they have a quote from Louis Mumford

saying, you know, about how beautiful the

land and the streams, and this was true

for other members that have been there,

{FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA} 1 2 when Myron Benton owned it and Emerson and 3 Thoreau went there, and the beauty of this land and nature that is there. And I'm 4 5 really concerned that it is going to be 6 destroyed. Now I know you are going to 7 put up a few plantings, but ultimately, 8 let's ask ourselves is this really necessary. And as Jim just alluded to, 9 10 you can go to Troutbeck, and they are not, 11 you know, busy all the time. It is quiet. 12 Well, then why do we need all this 13 development? It is counterintuitive to 14 what Troutbeck was founded upon, which was 15 It was a farm when it a private home. 16 started out. It was a private home for 17 Amy and Joel Spingarn. It has had many 18 famous people come through over the years, 19 and it has been beautiful and I think we 20 need to keep it that way. I do not think 21 this is necessary, except for maybe the

(Clapping.)

project.

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investors. So I strongly oppose this

1	{FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA}
2	MR. BOYLES: Any other comments?
3	(No response.)
4	MR. BOYLES: That being said, I'll
5	turn it over to our engineer.
6	MR. ANDREWS: I typically speak
7	very loudly, so I'm not going to use the
8	microphone. My name is John Andrews with
9	the firm of Rohde, Soyka and Andrews,
10	located in Poughkeepsie, New York. I have
11	been the consultant to the Planning Board
12	in the Town of Amenia for a number of
13	years.
14	Mr. Chairman, you've had substantial
15	public comment on this.
16	MR. BOYLES: Yes.
17	MR. ANDREWS: Despite the various
18	comments, each time the comments have been
19	refined, but I don't think we have blazed
20	any new ground. I think the issues are
21	fairly well established. I think the
22	attorney did a pretty good job of laying
23	out what needs to be analyzed. We have,
24	however, in both Paul and myself have

reviewed the various submittals. There was some information that was missing. I think you were given copies of what that is. There is water test data, as many people have asked. There is wastewater data. There is easement data, things that we have asked the applicant to provide.

And I mean, as far as I'm concerned, you have two options tonight. You can leave the Public Hearing open or you could, in fact, close it and start about the deliberation and analysis and evaluation of the matters that have been put in front of you. But in any event, before we do that, we do need the additional information from the applicant.

MR. VANCOTT: Yeah, and I would echo that, what John has said. We both spent a lot of time in the record. There is, as everybody knows, voluminous information that has been provided by the applicant. There are any number of reports and technical studies that have

been submitted and are available and online on the Town of Amenia website for review by the public, including regarding water supply issues, including regarding wastewater issues, including habitat issues, traffic, right on down the line. We have a visual simulation that was done. I had shared the concern that was referenced in one of the public comment letters about along 343 it appears that some of the plantings were proposed to occur where the septic systems were going to go, and that is obviously not going to So that is a bit of information that we have, you know, put back to the applicant to respond to.

On the other side of it, as John mentioned, we've heard in three, over the course of three public hearings from the public, and they have raised issues of concern. I think you have a very full record in terms of the public comment that has been provided. I think at this point,

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as John said, you could leave the hearing open, but I'm not sure that there is going

to be a lot of new ground that will be

plowed, you know, through --

MR. ANDREWS: No pun intended.

MR. VANCOTT: -- through public

comment.

What I would suggest, is if the Board does decide to close the Public Hearing, the applicant has been provided the information that we consider that is still needed. The Board may have some comments themselves. But I would suggest that they be given a week to provide that information. So from today that would be until February 15th. And then the public have until February 22nd, both to view the most recent information that is on the website that does contain the updated plans that were referenced tonight, but then also to respond to anything, any of the new information that the applicant provides. So then at the next board

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{FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA} 1 2 meeting on February 22nd, the Board could decide on what next steps it would like to do. 4 5 MR. BOYLES: Thank you. 6 Ladies and gentlemen of the Board 7 what is your pleasure on the public 8 hearing. 9 MS. PEEK: I just have a question 10 for Paul. 11 MR. VANCOTT: Sure. 12 MS. PEEK: Based on your schedule, 13 the applicant provides all the additional 14 information requested in your review 15 letter by the 12th, by next week sometime. 16 Then post it up to the website. Everybody 17 has the opportunity, including us, to review it. With that information do we 18 19 have a complete set of updated documents 20 based on the January 9th submission, the 21 stuff that came in yesterday? I just want 22 to make sure that we have a full 23 compliment of updated, current, corrected 24 information --

MR. VANCOTT: Right.

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MS. PEEK: -- to review as a set?

MR. VANCOTT: I think that is a

very good point because we have

received -- we have a January 23rd

submission that came in, and then the

8 updated plans that came in yesterday.

What I think would be appropriate for the

applicant to do, as they have done before,

is to essentially put new information in

red so that that is readily available to

the public, and to make sure that when

14 they submit on February 15th that we have

everything. So that the public can be

looking at the maps now if you want to

look at the site plans now, they are

18 available and you can be looking at those.

19 I'm not sure that theirs are going to

20 change. But when the applicant submits

21 next Wednesday on the 15th, we should get

the full compilation so the public can see

23 all of that. And everything that is new

should be in red so it is readily apparent

{FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA} to the public what is new and is the additional information that has been provided.

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The simple answer, if MR. ANDREWS: I may, is that this is a rather puzzle-like grouping of information, but as we have neared the end, the applicant has done a better job of putting it all in order. And if they put everything in order and you work backwards from the most current submittal to I think the next -the last milestone was a January 11th submittal that they made. That was the last comprehensive one. And if you look at everything in between, the answer is we have a fairly complete record. Is there minutia that may be missing, perhaps, but in terms of being responsive to the public, being responsive to our comments, the record will be complete with the addition of this information.

MR. VANCOTT: Yeah. That is essentially the time that John and I have

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2	spent over the last several days has been
3	focused on that, really drilling down and
4	getting, I mean, some of the things, the
5	information that we are asking for is very
6	technical and really is not necessarily,
7	you know, necessary for any kind of SEQR
8	or zoning law review, but it is something
9	that you want to have as part of the
10	record. There are some SEQR questions
11	that we posed to the applicant. So those,
12	you know, a lot of that is just clean up,
13	you know, it is stuff that, as John was
14	pointing out, it may be the information
15	may be available in one part of the record
16	but it is not necessarily in the
17	narrative. So they need to bring that all
18	together one last time so that the Board
19	has a full record for its deliberations.
20	MR. RICK ALFANO: Excuse me. May I
21	just
22	REPORTER: What is your name?
23	MR. RICK ALFANO: My name is Rick
24	Alfano.

# {FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA} 1 2 I'll just ask for a quick refresher as to who these two gentlemen are and on 4 whose behalf they are here for and what 5 are they speaking about. 6 MR. VANCOTT: My apologies. 7 should have introduced myself. I'm Paul VanCott. I'm an attorney with law firm of 8 9 Whiteman, Osterman and Hanna, and we 10 represent the Planning Board and help to 11 quide the Board. 12 MR. RICK ALFANO: The Board of the Town of Amenia? 13 14 MR. VANCOTT: Of the Town of Amenia, 15 that is correct. John is --16 MR. ANDREWS: Myself, I'll go 17 through it. My name is John Andrews. Ι'm a New York State Licensed Professional 18 19 Engineer. I am a principal with the firm 20 Rohde, Soyka and Andrews located in 21 Poughkeepsie, New York. I serve as the 22 engineering consultant to the Planning Boards and to the Town of Amenia. I am 23 24 normally appointed by the Town Board on a

{FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA} 1 2 yearly basis. And I will provide them 3 with assistance in the technical issues 4 dealing with engineering and other similar 5 matters. 6 MR. RICK ALFANO: Thank you very 7 much. 8 MR. VANCOTT: Is that responsive 9 then, Nina? MS. PEEK: Yes. That is 10 11 responsive. What I would like to see is just a 12 13 full -- when you post new materials, I would like to see a full updated record so 14 that people don't have to sort through all 15 16 the new, the different colors to find out 17 what is updated. Just a full compliment of an updated EAF, all the supplemental 18 19 studies that have been done, an updated 20 set of site plans, an EAF, a groundwater 21 study, visual impact analysis, traffic 22 study, rare, threatened and endangered 23 species, all the agency correspondence. I 24 mean, you guys know, a whole new package.

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2	I think that will be helpful.					
3	MS. FERRADINO: Could I ask that					
4	the map changes also be in red? There is					
5	so much information on each and every					
6	sheet. If they are making changes, the					
7	red should show up on the map, too. I					
8	found that very difficult in the three					
9	separate sets I have seen.					
10	REPORTER: What is your name again?					
11	MS. FERRADINO: Stephanie Ferradino.					
12	MR. WALSH: My thought is that					
13	given the fact that there is a multitude					
14	of questions that the public needs to have					
15	answers to. I'm wondering, you know,					
16	where we are going to go with this.					
17	MR. DEISTER: We could vote in					
18	which direction now.					
19	MR. VANCOTT: I think the question					
20	for tonight is really whether you want to					
21	continue the Public Hearing or whether you					
22	want to close it.					
23	MR. BOYLES: What is your pleasure?					
24	Do you want to keep the Public Hearing					

{FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA} 1 2 open or do you want to close it? MR. WALSH: In my case, I would 4 like to keep the public hearing open. 5 (Clapping.) 6 MR. ROBUSTELLI: I make it that we 7 close. My name is Tony Robustelli. MR. BOYLES: First of all, no one 8 9 said to close it, so, or keep it open. So 10 clarify what you are saying. 11 MR. ANDREWS: So the motion 12 technically would be, ladies and 13 gentleman, to close the public hearing 14 this evening, to allow the applicant a 15 seven-day period from now until the 15th 16 no supply the information that is 17 requested, and to allow public comment in written form through the 22nd, to be 18 19 closed, that public comment period, on the 20 22nd, to be closed. And some Boards do it 21 12 noon on the date of the meeting. 22 anything received after that you would 23 have to make a judgment call. But up 24 until 12 noon on the 22nd, the public

1	{FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA}						
2	would have the right to continue public						
3	comment. That would be the resolution.						
4	AUDIENCE MEMBER - FEMALE: Well,						
5	no, I have a different resolution.						
6	(Chatter in the room.)						
7	MR. WALSH: I make a motion we will						
8	keep the public hearing open because it						
9	will give the public another opportunity						
10	to voice their opinions once they hear the						
11	information that was asked for tonight.						
12	(Clapping.)						
13	MR. BOYLES: Is there a second on						
14	that motion from Jim?						
15	MS. PEEK: I'll second.						
16	MR. BOYLES: There is a second.						
17	(Clapping.)						
18	MR. BOYLES: Any other motion on						
19	the floor?						
20	MR. STEFANOPOULOS: I'll make the						
21	motion that we close the hearing.						
22	MR. VANCOTT: No, you have to vote						
23	on it.						
24	MR. ANDREWS: You have to vote on						

1	{FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA}					
2	it.					
3	MR. VANCOTT: Roll call vote, I					
4	guess.					
5	MS. PEEK: So the motion on the					
6	floor is to keep the Public Hearing open.					
7	MR. BOYLES: We will call a vote.					
8	John?					
9	MR. STEFANOPOULOS: No.					
10	MR. BOYLES: Mr. Deister?					
11	MR. DEISTER: No.					
12	MR. BOYLES: Mr. Robustelli?					
13	MR. ROBUSTELLI: No.					
14	MR. BOYLES: Neil?					
15	MR. KUSNETZ: No.					
16	MR. BOYLES: Me, no.					
17	MS. PEEK: So the Public Hearing is					
18	closed?					
19	MR. BOYLES: All right. So the					
20	Public Hearing is closed.					
21	MR. VANCOTT: No. You need to take					
22	a separate motion to close the Public					
23	Hearing.					
24	MR. BOYLES: Do I have a motion to					

1	{FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA}						
2	close the Public Hearing?						
3	MR. DEISTER: I'll make a motion to						
4	close the Public Hearing and have the						
5	applicant have a seven-day period to						
6	supply the information and keep written						
7	comments from the public open until the						
8	February 22nd meeting. At that time we						
9	can then make further assumptions or						
10	decisions.						
11	MR. BOYLES: 12 noon?						
12	MR. ANDREWS: You can make it						
13	whenever you want. Yeah, it should be at						
14	12 noon, you are correct.						
15	MR. BOYLES: Could I have a second						
16	on that?						
17	MR. STEFANOPOULOS: I'll second						
18	that.						
19	MR. BOYLES: Roll call vote.						
20	Start with Neil.						
21	MR. KUSNETZ: Agree.						
22	MR. WALSH: No.						
23	MS. PEEK: No.						
24	MR. BOYLES: Nina is no.						

1	{FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - TOWN OF AMENIA}
2	Mr. Boyles is yes.
3	MR. ROBUSTELLI: Yes.
4	MR. BOYLES: Mr. Deister?
5	MR. DEISTER: Yes.
6	MR. BOYLES: John.
7	MR. STEFANOPOULOS: Yes.
8	MR. BOYLES: Motion carried.
9	That being said, we are going to
10	move to other matters now. Is there
11	anything else we need to discuss?
12	MR. VANCOTT: No. Not tonight.
13	(Whereupon, the Public Hearing held
14	February 8, 2023 was concluded.)
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	i e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e

1 2 3 CERTIFICATION 4 5 I, Laura A. Couch, a notary public and 7 shorthand reporter in and for the County of Schenectady and State of New York, do hereby 8 9 certify that the foregoing transcript of the Public Hearing in the Town of Amenia is a true 10 11 and correct transcript of the hearing at the 12 time and place specified hereinbefore. 13 14 15 16 17 2/12/23 LAURA A. COUCH DATE 18 PLEASE NOTE 19 THIS TRANSCRIPT IS MY WORK PRODUCT AND IS NOT 20 TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO ANY THIRD PARTY. YOU MAY COPY IT OR SEND IT INTERNALLY WITHIN YOUR OWN 21 OFFICE. PLEASE NOTIFY THIS OFFICE FIRST IF YOU NEED TO DISTRIBUTE IT OR COPY ANY PORTION OF 22 IT FOR ANOTHER PURPOSE. 23 24

\$ \$125,000 [2] - 26:16,	<b>2019</b> [1] - 86:13 <b>2020</b> [1] - 86:13 <b>2021</b> [2] - 2:16, 23:23	<b>5 5,000</b> [1] - 19:20	accustomed [1] - 7:10 acknowledgement [2] - 50:13, 54:6	agrees [1] - 8:21 agricultural [1] - 62:9 agriculture [1] - 81:6
29:5 \$ <b>85,000</b> [1] - 27:2	<b>2022</b> [2] - 24:4, 24:5 <b>2023</b> [2] - 1:6, 116:14 <b>20th</b> [1] - 26:15	<b>50</b> [7] - 9:9, 9:19, 23:3, 23:5, 43:22, 78:8, 88:6	acknowledges [1] - 50:19 acre [1] - 64:8	<b>ahead</b> [6] - 5:16, 8:8, 25:3, 89:14, 92:4, 97:2
•	<b>22</b> [1] - 1:8 <b>22nd</b> [8] - 40:20,	<b>54</b> [4] - 39:11, 40:8, 42:5, 47:15	<b>acres</b> [9] - 6:13, 23:12, 23:13, 35:4, 81:5,	alarm [1] - 98:23 Alden [1] - 47:14
<b>'05</b> [1] - 62:23	40:21, 104:18,	<b>57</b> [1] - 59:20	88:6, 88:7, 88:8,	<b>ALFANO</b> [4] - 108:20,
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1	115:8 <b>23rd</b> [1] - 106:6	6	<b>action</b> [1] - 56:11 <b>actions</b> [1] - 53:20	Alfano [1] - 108:24 Allen [2] - 72:3, 72:4
4.7 40:40	<b>24.5</b> [1] - 20:20	<b>6</b> [2] - 20:11, 20:13	activity [1] - 17:3	<b>allow</b> [5] - 81:19,
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