

Dear Linda and Meghan,

Thank you for talking with us on Monday via Zoom. As the executive officers of the neighboring municipalities of Philipstown, Cold Spring and Nelsonville, we feel it is important that we document our strongly-held and shared convictions relating to planning for the Fjord Trail.

Having the actual trail enter the Village of Cold Spring, by any route, would irreversibly change the landscape, viewshed and character of the Village, as well as the experience of all Philipstown residents who consider Cold Spring the heart of our Town. The trail's necessary size, scale and construction requirements, particularly to meet the accessibility goals identified by the HHFT design team, would be outsized for our small residential Village.

The Fjord Trail is necessary to solve visitation management issues north of the Village. However, the Village itself must be understood and treated differently than the northern areas. Given what we have seen to date of HHFT's planning and process, we believe that the trail in the Village, and particularly the water-borne route under proposal, would become a tourist destination in and of itself, and would result in an unbearable, unsustainable increase in visitor volume that no number of trash cans and toilets will offset.

As Village Mayors and the Town Supervisor, we believe that simple, residentially-scaled pathways and sidewalks out of Cold Spring, leading to a Fjord entrance north of the Village, are far more appropriate to our historic, livable community. Such pathways and sidewalks will provide safe passage for residents as well as tourists heading to the trail's entrance. Further, these pathways and sidewalks should be constructed and/or upgraded and maintained by Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail as a form of impact mitigation for the entire Philipstown community.

We look to New York State Parks, in your role as Lead Agency in the SEQR process, to represent the public interest.

Thank you,

John J Van Tassel
Supervisor, Town of Philipstown

Kathleen E Foley

Mayor, Village of Cold Spring

Chris Alice Winward

Mayor, Village of Nelsonville