



Lake Communities Alliance

P.O. Box 881 – Rock Hill, NY 12775

<https://rhlca.org>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lake Communities Alliance Fundraiser Draws Strong Turnout and Community Support

Residents Voice Concerns on Water Resources, Environmental Oversight, and Call for Action

Rock Hill, NY — The Lake Communities Alliance (LCA) hosted its Community Update and Fundraiser on August 24th at Dutch's Tavern, drawing over 40 residents and community leaders united in their concern over unchecked development in the Town of Thompson and its lake communities. Attendees included **Sullivan County Legislator Terry Bernardo and Town Board Member Scott Mace**, a candidate for Town Supervisor, who praised the Alliance's leadership in advocating for environmental protection and thoughtful growth.

The event featured presentations on major development proposals and ongoing environmental efforts, including updates from the LCA on its lawsuit regarding the Avon Park project's lack of environmental review and the proposed Critical Environmental Area (CEA) designation for the Delaware & Hudson Canal Reservoir.

Residents expressed overwhelming support for the CEA's adoption, viewing it as a crucial safeguard for water resources and lake ecosystems. Other concerns raised by residents included:

- **Water security:** Potential overdevelopment and new well drilling threaten water tables, with fears of wells running dry and other risks to the Lake Louise Marie drinking water supply.
- **Overly dense housing developments:** Residents criticized projects being "rubber-stamped" by planning and zoning boards, only to be built larger and more impactful than initially approved.
- **Environmental review rigor:** Residents unanimously demanded full SEQR (State Environmental Quality Review) assessments for all major projects to ensure transparency and thorough environmental evaluation.

Sullivan County Legislator Terry Bernardo commended the Lake Communities Alliance's work, describing it as "*community organizing at its finest.*"

"Having attended their community update and fundraiser, I've seen firsthand the dedication and professionalism the Lake Communities Alliance brings to environmental advocacy," Bernardo said. "Their mission to ensure responsible development while protecting our lakes, drinking water, and quality of life resonates with anyone who calls this area home. This is community organizing at its finest."

Attendees applauded Bernardo and Mace for their commitment to the community and pressed for stronger accountability from local officials and appointees.

"I came to listen, to hear residents' concerns, and understand both sides of the issue," Mace said. "We live in a beautiful and fast-growing area where change is happening every day. Any proposal requires thorough evaluation for potential impact on the environment and the quality of life we all enjoy. It is the responsibility of all of us to monitor that growth and keep moving in a positive direction."



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Residents voiced frustration at a history of development projects being quickly approved with little scrutiny, and many said they feel “overrun” with proposals that threaten to change the character and infrastructure of their lake communities permanently.

One resident, who preferred not to be identified, said, *“It’s clear many planning and zoning board appointees don’t fully understand their responsibilities or current laws, and some elected officials either don’t know or don’t care. It’s time for a significant change in representation at all levels.”*

Meeting participants left energized, pledging to attend local board meetings, support advocacy efforts, and demand full environmental reviews for all projects under the state SEQR process.

“This turnout shows how deeply residents care about their community,” said **LCA President Jessica Lansdale**, an architect and longtime resident. *“The strong support for the CEA and demand for higher oversight standards sends a clear message. But to keep this momentum going, we need every resident’s involvement - your time, your voice, and your financial support.”*

The Lake Communities Alliance is a grassroots resident-led nonprofit dedicated to responsible development, environmental protection, and preserving the quality of life in Sullivan County’s lake communities. With fewer than a dozen members, the group has already invested over \$50,000 in legal fees and countless volunteer hours to ensure environmental impact studies, traffic studies, and water assessments are performed before development proceeds.

Members of the LCA implored residents to get involved, attend meetings, and financially support the protection of the communities they call home. To support the LCA’s advocacy efforts, and for more information, visit <https://rhlca.org>

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About the Lake Communities Alliance:

The Lake Communities Alliance (LCA) is a nonprofit organization formed by residents of the lake communities and surrounding areas that are in and adjacent to the hamlet of Rock Hill, Town of Thompson, NY. The nonprofit’s mission is to ensure that local development is planned and executed responsibly by adhering to all regulations and being in the best interest of the lake communities. The Lake Communities Alliance is dedicated to preserving the natural beauty and ecological integrity of the Lake Communities in the Town of Thompson. Through advocacy and education, we strive to ensure a sustainable future for our environment and community.