

Lake Communities Alliance pushes for critical environmental areas

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ROCK HILL – The Lake Communities Alliance in Rock Hill is pushing for sustainable economic development and smart growth that respects the rural character and natural resources of Sullivan County.

To that end, the group is seeking to have a portion of the towns of Thompson and Mamakating designated as critical environmental areas.

Jessica Lansdale, the alliance’s president, said there would be no need for any formal zoning changes.

“Not a regulation change, it doesn’t change any zoning. It definitely flags the area as special. When a developer wants to put something through the planning board, they would have to say they are proposing this in a critical environmental area and gives the planning board some push to say we really want to do a very thorough environmental study,” she said.

The Lake Communities Alliance has hired Hudsonia Ltd. And Greenplan to assist with their efforts. The Town of Thompson was the first to receive the proposal with Mamakating to follow later, said Lansdale.