



Mary Alex <malex@washingtonny.org>

Letter to the Town Board in response to Derris Letter

1 message

Andrew Heaney <andrew@tankfarm.io>
To: malex@washingtonny.org

Fri, Feb 3, 2023 at 6:05 PM

Dear Mary Alex,

Would you please be kind enough to distribute this letter to the Town Board, the Planning Board, the Zoning Board of Appeals, and the members of the Conservation Advisory Committee please?

Many thanks in advance and I hope you enjoy your weekend. Stay warm!!! Very Best- Andrew

Dear Members of the Town Board,

I am writing in response to remarks recently added to the public record by Mr. Jesse Derris.

It seems Mr. Derris may not have read the whole letter sent to the Board by the Friends of the Town of Washington (FOTOW), otherwise he would have noted that it was co-signed by myself as an emeritus Board member, as well as its current three directors. I'm also puzzled as to why Mr. Derris and other supporters of Migdale keep bringing up the Cottonwood in the same breath as Migdale.

FOTOW has **no** issue with the Cottonwood project. Never has. Why are Migdale supporters constantly referencing this popular and non-controversial project? The Cottonwood has been a hospitality venue for decades and is in a high density, largely commercial district. Most importantly, the citizens of our Town have expressed their view through the CPRC report, that it is in an appropriate part of our Town for expanded hospitality.

FOTOW **has** opposed for almost 2 years now Mr. Guidara's dangerous and illegal hospitality/housing development project at Migdale. The CPRC report has made it crystal clear nothing of this sort is wanted in our rural residential areas. Contrary to the criticisms Mr. Derris has cast on the CPRC process, it was in fact flawlessly considered and executed. Funded by volunteer dollars, and run by volunteers who are widely recognized pillars of our community. It was a thoroughly democratic and highly professional process whereby an enormous percentage of our neighbors participated in open houses, focus groups, and answered a complex survey with thoughtfulness and concern for their community.

While I don't begrudge any Town of Washington property owner from expressing their opinion in any forum, I do have to ask- what exactly has Jesse Derris, or Will Guidara for that matter, ever done for our community other than cause a great deal of trouble and ill will?

Have they supported local families in need with groceries or presents during the holidays? Have they volunteered for or donated to the Dutchess Land Conservancy? Have they coached youth sports for the Town Rec? Volunteered for the Millbrook Fire Department or donated to it? Raised their children here? Supported and volunteered at local schools? Have they started and run local businesses here? And have they lived full-time in Millbrook collectively, for decades?

These are all things that the founders and leadership of FOTOW have done and will continue to do. Our collective commitment to Millbrook speaks for itself, and none of Mr. Derris' attacks can call any of it into question.

One of the benefits of being a long-term member of our community is to know our history. If you ask the old-timers here they will tell you that every generation or so, there is an outsider who comes to Millbrook thinking they will turn our beloved landscape and natural beauty into their personal piggy bank. We have always sent them packing.

Millbrook is a small town and we don't always agree on everything. But we don't like outsiders who lie to us for personal gain. We don't like outsiders who attack our citizens because they stand in the way of their dangerous plans. And we refuse to hand over to strangers, the priceless legacy passed down to us from generations of visionary stewards of our beautiful countryside.

Respectfully,

Andrew Heaney
Board Member Emeritus and Co-Founder
Friends of the Town of Washington (FOTOW)

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