

The Latest:

One of the most ask questions is "why so many delays in the planning board meetings regarding the Village Grande?" The water and sewer issues have not been resolved. According to the report submitted by the developer in late September, not enough water was found on site to support the project. Two options in the report for water were to hook into Stanhope's existing water lines or to run a new pipeline through Stanhope from the American Water Co. in Mt. Olive. CCH/HOPE coalition chairmen went to an October Stanhope Town Council meeting to express concerns and objections. The Stanhope Mayor and Administrator promised to meet with coalition members in a private one-hour meeting to be scheduled by the Administrator. After almost a month of not hearing from Stanhope they finally decided to allow only 10-15 minutes before the Mayor & Council. During that meeting they answered & asked no questions and made no comments. They remained silent. Later that night they agreed to consider selling 100,000 excess gallons of Musconetcong Sewage Authority (MSA) sewage allotment to Hopatcong for the Village Grande. Stanhope has yet to decide the water issue. Although they have rejected the idea of connecting into their existing pipes, they are considering the new pipeline. Stanhope may very well be holding the key to whether this development gets built or not.

Even more distressing is that according to Hopatcong's Town Administrator, Phase III of the ongoing Hopatcong sewer project may be many, many years away if they can't find the needed sewer gallorage to the MSA. Basically, Hopatcong officials seem to be interested in purchasing the Stanhope sewerage allotment to supply the as yet not approved Village Grande project while sewerage for existing homes in Hopatcong may be delayed indefinitely for lack of gallorage. This is an outrage! Unless or until the MSA expands it's plant capacity there is only a limited amount of sewerage gallorage to be found. Let's have the gallorage for the existing residents, not the new ones!

In case Stanhope declines the appeal for water, D R Horton, Inc. has submitted an application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to install wells within the freshwater wetland transition areas of the site. Yet another abomination! Private wells are in danger!

We appeal to all citizens of Hopatcong to write to the NJDEP to protest approval of the application to drill the wetlands for water. Write a letter today to:

Bradley M. Campbell
Commissioner of the NJDEP
PO Box 402
Trenton, NJ 08625-0402
and
NJDEP
Land Use Regulation Program
PO Box 439
Trenton, NJ 08625
Sussex County Section Chief

Contact the Mayor of Stanhope and tell her NO. Tell her that we don't want this development. Talk to your friends in Stanhope. Many don't know that any of this is going on.

Mayor of Stanhope:

Diana Kuncken
77 Main Street
Stanhope, NJ 07874
Phone: 973-347-0159
Fax: 973-347-6058

Stanhope Borough Administrator:

Teri Massood - 973-347-0159, Ext. 14

Stanhope Council Members: (All may be contacted at 973-347-0159)

James Benson
Jack Mohrle
Brian Murphy
Edward Schwartz
Michael Vance
Raymond Wootten

Tell them NOT IN OUR TOWN. IT IS NO GOOD FOR HOPATCONG AND NO GOOD FOR SUSSEX COUNTY.