

October 27, 2023

Town of Highland Ms. Monica McGil, Planning Board Secretary 4 Proctor Rd, Eldred, NY 12732 Submitted electronically to:

planningboardzba@townofhighlandny.com

Dear Town of Highland Planning Board.

I would like to begin by thanking you for your decision to require a full EIS for the Camp FIMFO proposal. Your decision ensures the best opportunity for the town to fully comply with state law and to ensure that the environmental and community impacts of Camp FIMFO are fully identified, quantified and considered as part of decisionmaking. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network applauds your decision in this regard.

The key now will be full and fair implementation of that determination and to ensure the Town gets the best information out of this process. With that in mind, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network is urging you to extend the public comment period regarding the Camp FIMFO draft scoping document.

As you know, this is a highly controversial issue that has garnered tremendous interest and engagement from the public. Given the high level of interest, providing only 20 days for the community to fully consider and gather their comments will inhibit many from being able to fully and fairly participate in this important public comment opportunity. In addition, the 20 day period includes days leading up to Thanksgiving when many people will be travelling in order to spend Thanksgiving week with family, which is very unfair and infringes upon the ability of people to fully and fairly engage. The comment period of time that includes the days leading up to, and including, election day – a day when many engaged members of our community are participating in our democracy, including volunteering time to share candidate information and to staff the polls. Given the significant interest and impact of this proposal on the Town of Highland, but also beyond – including neighboring communities in New York and Pennsylvania, as well as having implications for the broader Delaware River watershed region – it is essential that the Town of Highland work to support broad and inclusive engagement.

A robust, inclusive ,and fully informed comment process will not only serve the community, but it will best serve the Town of Highland Planning Board and other involved decisionmaking entities. The

more complete the public comment information received during this crucial process, the better the information the Town and other regulatory agencies will have in order to inform their decision.

Therefore, we ask that you please extend the public comment period to December 21, 2023.

Respectfully requested,

Maya K. van Rossum

the Delaware Riverkeeper

Mayo 16. van Rom

From:

Penelope Floor <pennyfloor@coastside.net>

Sent:

Friday, October 27, 2023 3:59 PM

То:

Planning Board and Zoning

Subject:

Camp FIMCO

Hello,

I hear that the time limit for public feedback on the Camp FIMCO project is ridiculously short. Please do not ram a giant project like this down our throats without allotting adequate time for public review and input. This looks suspiciously like a plan to limit public access and input. Is that true?

Sincerely,

Penelope Floor

Little girls are cute and small only to adults. To one another they are not cute. They are life-sized. -Margaret Atwood, novelist and poet (b. 1939)

From:

Linda DeBoer <millriftlinda@gmail.com>

Sent:

Friday, October 27, 2023 4:09 PM

To:

Planning Board and Zoning

Subject:

fimo resort

i request a comment extension...please. i care about the Delaware.....and i do not think that it should be compromised for people who wish to make a profit.

thank you.

Linda DeBoer

From:

Cherise Barasch < buffalowomyn@yahoo.com>

Sent:

Friday, October 27, 2023 4:07 PM

To:

Planning Board and Zoning

Subject:

More time for review

Please allow more time to review the proposal for camp to be built on the existing Kittany site.

Cherise Barasch Road Mama Productions 845-428-4934

From:

Tesla Deboer <tesla.staple.maple.rabie@gmail.com>

Sent:

Friday, October 27, 2023 4:21 PM

To:

Planning Board and Zoning

Subject:

delaware river

It is time to join our voices and urge the town to extend the public comment period until December 21, 2023 in order to ensure a full and fair opportunity for everyone to engage. This extension is necessary to allow for a robust, inclusive and fully informed comment process that will ensure all the issues that need to be considered are considered.

Truly,

Tesla DeBoer

From: Suzanne Klewan <suzyklew@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 27, 2023 4:48 PM **To:** Planning Board and Zoning

Subject: Please read my heartfelt Request

• Thank you for listening to the people who live in the Town of Highland, and in our case, Barryville. Let our voices be heard and duly noted. Haven't met anyone yet who is for a resort on one of the last remaining pristine rivers. The people who are fortunate to visit the Upper Delaware River Valley don't want or need the extraneous activities, but to be in nature, and enjoy the wildlife they are blessed to be with. Breathe some fresh air, feel the breeze, see the eagles, listen to the water flowing, hug some trees and delight in knowing a place like this still exists. People can visit whenever they like, but a huge footprint left by FIMFO would destroy all that we treasure, and what is truly important in life. Leave our forests in peace. Everyone loves it just the way it is. Ms. Monica McGil, Planning Board Secretary

- I appreciate the Town of Highland's step in the right direction in requiring a full Environmental Impact Statement for Camp FIMFO;
- A 20 day comment period, that spans the busy election season as well as travel days associated with the Thanksgiving holiday, is not adequate for my
 ability to fully and fairly review and comment on the draft scoping document;
- The true impacts of the proposed Camp FIMFO, while clearly significant, have been largely inaccessible to the public to date and it will take time to fully consider and identify all the issues that need to be addressed;
- It is clear that this resort type project would have devastating impacts to my community and the forest, streams, public spaces, and much of the Delaware River watershed I cherish;
- The 223 acre resort-style project proposes changes and impacts that are not in keeping with the scenic forested Upper Delaware Wild & Scenic River
 qualities that the Delaware River and its riparian corridor are known for and for which visitors come to enjoy each year; and
- The scoping comment period must be extended to at least December 21, 2023 in order for myself, my friends, family, and community to fully grasp and respond to this proposal.

Thank you.

Suzanne Klewan

From:

ken schleife <kschleife@hotmail.com>

Sent:

Friday, October 27, 2023 5:02 PM

To:

Planning Board and Zoning

Subject:

Camp Fimfo

Thanks for your work on this project review to date, and please continue, By extending the comment period on the environmental impact statement.

environmental impact statement.

This project has for my family huge unwanted impact. We love, use and respect

The forested river shed as it stands. Camp Fimfo brings no positive effect to the Area residents and does nothing to preserve the beautiful river area we so love.

Thank you. Ken Schleife Cochecton, NY Sent from my iPad

From:

Stephanie Ulmer <ulmer.stephanie.marie@gmail.com>

Sent: To: Friday, October 27, 2023 7:15 PM Planning Board and Zoning

Dear Ms. McGil.

Please extend the comment period for the Camp FIMFO Resort. This is a major project and it will require considerable time to fully understand and research the impacts of Camp FIMFO in order to respond in an educated way to the proposal. Allowing only 20 days for the comment period during a period of time which includes both the elections and Pre-Thanksgiving preparations seems grossly unfair to the community.

I do very much appreciate that the Town of Highland is requiring a full Environmental Impact Statement for Camp FIMFO. We just need more time to go over and absorb the facts.

Thank you,

Stephanie Ulmer

From:

Art Satter <artsmail_2000@yahoo.com>

Sent:

Friday, October 27, 2023 7:41 PM Planning Board and Zoning

To: Subject:

Camp FIMFO Resort Comment Period!

Dear Planning Board;

I appreciate the Town of Highland's step in the right direction in requiring a full Environmental Impact Statement for Camp FIMFO. Please consider the following:

A 20 day comment period, that spans the busy election season as well as travel days associated with the Thanksgiving holiday, is not adequate for my ability to fully and fairly review and comment on the draft scoping document;

The true impacts of the proposed Camp FIMFO, while clearly significant, have been largely inaccessible to the public to date and it will take time to fully consider and identify all the issues that need to be addressed;

It is clear that this resort type project would have devastating impacts to my community and the forest, streams, public spaces, and much of the Delaware River watershed I cherish;

The 223 acre resort-style project proposes changes and impacts that are not in keeping with the scenic forested Upper Delaware Wild & Scenic River qualities that the Delaware River and its riparian corridor are known for and for which visitors come to enjoy each year; and

The scoping comment period must be extended to at least December 21, 2023 in order for myself, my

friends, family, and community to fully grasp and respond to this proposal.

Thank you,

Art Satter 794 Milanville Rd Beach Lake, PA 18405

From:

WILLIAM M CONEGHEN JR < bkdconeghen@verizon.net>

Sent:

Friday, October 27, 2023 8:36 PM

To:

Planning Board and Zoning

Subject:

Review & Comment on Camp FIMFO Resort!

To the members of the Planning Board

I am encouraging you to extend Environmental Impact Study on the FIFMO Resort from the limited 20 days to at least another 30 days. The election period as well as the Thanksgiving holiday will limit the public's time to have input on this matter. The board's responsibility to seek complete and inclusive input from the community can be fulfilled by extending the community input period another month.

sincerely,

Bill Coneghen Delaware Keeper Member

From:

KathyLynn Dabanian <katgirl2007@yahoo.com>

Sent:

Saturday, October 28, 2023 7:36 AM

To:

Planning Board and Zoning

Subject:

Camp FIMFO

Please consider these reasons for NOT moving forward with this plan as it would ruin an area that needs to be preserved for future generations given the amount of land lost and the repercussions of these actions on the environment!

- I appreciate the Town of Highland's step in the right direction in requiring a full Environmental Impact Statement for Camp FIMFO;
- A 20 day comment period, that spans the busy election season as well as travel days associated with the Thanksgiving holiday, is not adequate for my ability to fully and fairly review and comment on the draft scoping document;
- The true impacts of the proposed Camp FIMFO, while clearly significant, have been largely
 inaccessible to the public to date and it will take time to fully consider and identify all the issues that
 need to be addressed;
- It is clear that this resort type project would have devastating impacts to my community and the forest, streams, public spaces, and much of the Delaware River watershed I cherish;
- The 223 acre resort-style project proposes changes and impacts that are not in keeping with the scenic forested Upper Delaware Wild & Scenic River qualities that the Delaware River and its riparian corridor are known for and for which visitors come to enjoy each year; and
- The scoping comment period must be extended to at least December 21, 2023 in order for myself, my friends, family, and community to fully grasp and respond to this proposal.
- Sincerely, Kathy Dabanian

From:

Andy Thierry <andythierry@aol.com>

Sent:

Saturday, October 28, 2023 9:11 AM

To:

Planning Board and Zoning

Subject:

Please extend the deadline for the FIMFO evaluation to allow time for a proper study.

From:

vgfurn <vgfurn@ptd.net>

Sent:

Sunday, October 29, 2023 1:26 PM

To:

Planning Board and Zoning

Subject:

scoping period

Dear Board,

Please allow a longer period for study and review. Twenty days next month are just too much a rush. Let's do our best to get it right. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Scott Van Gorder

From: Colleen Gutwein O'Neal <colleengutwein@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 9:02 AM

To: Planning Board and Zoning

Subject: More Time Needed on Camp FIMFO Resort Comment Period

To the Planning Board:

Give Fair Time for Community Input on the First Step of the Environmental Impact Statement Process

- I appreciate the Town of Highland's step in the right direction in requiring a full Environmental Impact Statement for Camp FIMFO;
- A 20 day comment period, that spans the busy election season as well as travel days associated with the Thanksgiving holiday, is not adequate for my ability to fully and fairly review and comment on the draft scoping document;
- The true impacts of the proposed Camp FIMFO, while clearly significant, have been largely
 inaccessible to the public to date and it will take time to fully consider and identify all the issues that
 need to be addressed;
- It is clear that this resort type project would have devastating impacts to my community and the forest, streams, public spaces, and much of the Delaware River watershed I cherish;
- The 223 acre resort-style project proposes changes and impacts that are not in keeping with the scenic forested Upper Delaware Wild & Scenic River qualities that the Delaware River and its riparian corridor are known for and for which visitors come to enjoy each year; and
- The scoping comment period must be extended to at least December 21, 2023 in order for myself, my friends, family, and community to fully grasp and respond to this proposal.

Sincerely, Colleen

Colleen Gutwein O'Neal she/her/hers (908) 635-3407 www.colleengutwein.com www.newarkartsphotodoc.com

From: Sent: Anie Stanley <smokeybelles@gmail.com> Monday, October 30, 2023 12:16 PM

To:

Planning Board and Zoning

Subject:

Scoping Timeline

Ms. Monica McGil, Planning Board Secretary,

Please address these issues to the Planning Board and include in correspondances.

- I appreciate the Town of Highland's step in the right direction in requiring a full Environmental Impact Statement for Camp FIMFO;
- A 20 day comment period, that spans the busy election season as well as travel days associated with the Thanksgiving holiday, is not adequate for my ability to fully and fairly review and comment on the draft scoping document;
- The true impacts of the proposed Camp FIMFO, while clearly significant, have been largely inaccessible to the public to date and it will take time to fully consider and identify all the issues that need to be addressed;
- It is clear that this resort type project would have devastating impacts to my community and the forest, streams, public spaces, and much of the Delaware River watershed I cherish;
- The 223 acre resort-style project proposes changes and impacts that are not in keeping with the scenic forested Upper Delaware Wild & Scenic River qualities that the Delaware River and its riparian corridor are known for and for which visitors come to enjoy each year; and
- The scoping comment period must be extended to at least December 21, 2023 in order for myself, my friends, family, and community to fully grasp and respond to this proposal.

Sincerely,

From:

Franklin Roth <fmroth@gmail.com>

Sent:

Saturday, October 28, 2023 8:50 PM

To:

Planning Board and Zoning

Subject:

Northgate proposal for Camp FIMFO -- scoping commentary period

October 28, 2023

Ms. Monica McGil, Planning Board Secretary planningboardzba@townofhighlandny.com

Dear Ms. McGil:

Congratulations to the Town of Highland for requiring a full Environmental Impact Statement regarding the development of Camp FIMFO. However, allowing only 20 days for a scoping comment period undercuts the potential effectiveness of the EIS—and a really good EIS is in order for reasons given below.

What's the hurry? As you know, the proposed 20-day scoping period includes the election season and holiday travel days, therefore depriving interested parties the time needed to review and comment on the scoping document. Haste will only serve the narrow financial interests of Northgate, whose environmental concerns regarding the delicate and beautiful Delaware are far down on their list of priorities.

Please use your authority and influence to extend the scoping comment period at least to December 21, 2023, so that the affected community can understand Northgate's proposed project and ask the right questions.

So far, the public that will have to live with Northgate's plan has not been exposed to its realities and people need time to digest and understand what's at stake. Camp FIMFO will not be a pretty dimple on the landscape. If you look at Northgate's YouTube that advertises Camp FIMFO in Waco, Texas, (see https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMg2SL6IvPA you will see that their plan for this sprawling amusement park badly needs the scrutiny of an informed EIS.

The plan is obviously and profoundly inconsistent with the atmosphere, natural resources, and purpose of the Upper Delaware. We did not come to live up here to be exposed to another heavy-handed private playground spoiling the natural landscape.

As you know, the Park Service has already determined that Camp FIMFO has a design and purpose inconsistent with the Upper Delaware Wild & Scenic River. Let's take that as a starting point and assure that the EIS is properly informed by allowing enough time for adequate scoping and public comment.

Sincerely,

Franklin M. Roth

P.O. Box 988 Dingmans Ferry, PA 18328

From: Mike Madden <myke907@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 1:57 AM
To: Planning Board and Zoning

 I appreciate the Town of Highland's step in the right direction in requiring a full Environmental Impact Statement for Camp FIMFO;

 A 20 day comment period, that spans the busy election season as well as travel days associated with the Thanksgiving holiday, is not adequate for my ability to fully and fairly review and comment on the draft scoping document;

The true impacts of the proposed Camp FIMFO, while clearly significant, have been largely
inaccessible to the public to date and it will take time to fully consider and identify all the issues that
need to be addressed;

 It is clear that this resort type project would have devastating impacts to my community and the forest, streams, public spaces, and much of the Delaware River watershed I cherish;

 The 223 acre resort-style project proposes changes and impacts that are not in keeping with the scenic forested Upper Delaware Wild & Scenic River qualities that the Delaware River and its riparian corridor are known for and for which visitors come to enjoy each year; and

 The scoping comment period must be extended to at least December 21, 2023 in order for myself, my friends, family, and community to fully grasp and respond to this proposal.

From:

Amy Gable <amyagable@gmail.com> Sunday, October 29, 2023 12:55 PM Planning Board and Zoning A 20-day comment period is not adequate

Sent:

To:

Subject:

PLEASE CONSIDER EXTENDING. We NEED this river!!!!!

From:

Louise Washer < lbwasher@gmail.com>

Sent:

Tuesday, October 31, 2023 2:22 PM

To:

Planning Board and Zoning

Subject:

FIMFO comment period deadline

Dear Town of Highland Planning Board,

I write to you from just up-river to thank you for requiring a full Environmental Impact Statement for a possible Camp FIMFO along our beautiful river.

I am very concerned, however, that the 20-day comment period is not long enough for any of us concerned stakeholders to have time to adequately study and comment on the document, especially during the holidays.

The 223-acre planned development would pave over 14 acres of forest at a time when we are all coming to understand the vital importance of the forests to help combat climate change but also to keep the local ecosystems in tact—to keep the water filtered and clean, to support the insects that feed the fish and the birds that bring tourists to our area, to help protect the character of the place we all love so much.

This is not a place for an amusement park with 14 acres of new pavement, lawn and swimming pools—the National Park Service has determined that this proposal is not in keeping with the land and water use guidelines for the Upper Delaware Wild & Scenic River management plan. The permanent structures for guests in the flood plane, the destruction of riparian forest, the increased acreage of impervious surface, and the threats to water quality created by all three are not in keeping with the management plan for the river.

There is nothing wild and scenic about this giant amusement park—the largest development ever in the Upper Delaware, according to a UDC member. Something so unusually large and destructive requires ample time for the community to understand what is proposed and to comment. I ask you to please extend this deadline and give those of us who will be so heavily impacted by this proposed project time to review the Environmental Statement and respond. Please!

Thank you for the opportunity to have a voice in this matter.

Sincerely,

Louise Washer River Road Milanville, PA

From: Linda Smith <linzadnil@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 12:00 PM

To: Planning Board and Zoning

Subject: FIMFO

• I appreciate the Town of Highland's step in the right direction in requiring a full Environmental Impact Statement for Camp FIMFO;

- A 20 day comment period, that spans the busy election season as well as travel days associated with the Thanksgiving holiday, is not adequate for my ability to fully and fairly review and comment on the draft scoping document;
- The true impacts of the proposed Camp FIMFO, while clearly significant, have been largely inaccessible to the public to date and it will take time to fully consider and identify all the issues that need to be addressed;
- It is clear that this resort type project would have devastating impacts to my community and the forest, streams, public spaces, and much of the Delaware River watershed I cherish;
- The 223 acre resort-style project proposes changes and impacts that are not in keeping with the scenic forested Upper Delaware Wild & Scenic River qualities that the Delaware River and its riparian corridor are known for and for which visitors come to enjoy each year; and
- The scoping comment period must be extended to at least December 21, 2023 in order for myself, my friends, family, and community to fully grasp and respond to this proposal.

Sent from my iPhone

From:

dalegoodman@verizon.net

Sent:

Tuesday, October 31, 2023 8:21 AM

To:

Planning Board and Zoning

Subject:

FIMFO

To whom it may concern: I am a resident of the Delaware River Watershed. I have a home in Dingmans Ferry, PA. I have significant environmental concerns regarding the FIMFO proposed development on the Delaware River. While I appreciate the Planning Board's steps in the right direction to require a full Environmental Study, I would like to request that the Planning Board seriously consider delaying the comment period for at least another 30 days. The reasons for this request are as follows:

- 1. The current period is just too short and during the holiday season.
- 2. This project seems to have been flying under the radar and as such, needs to be fully and fairly reviewed by the public for its impact on the environment and the Delaware River in particular.
- 3. There is no doubt of the adverse impact of this project on the River and generally on the communities that surround the project. I have personally witnessed the unmanageable increase in trash and dumping in our area over the last decades due to development and influx of residents from out of our area.
- 4. This is a significant project in size which will have a devastating effect on the Upper Delaware River corridor which is pretty much a wild and scenic area now.
- 5. Again, the timing of the comment period must be extended to allow the effected residents, clubs, organizations, etc., to analyze the true impacts of such a proposal.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

Dale Goodman

"dalegoodman@verizon.net"

From:

VicGmail < vjdasaro@gmail.com>

Sent:

Tuesday, October 31, 2023 7:51 AM

То:

Planning Board and Zoning

Subject:

Extension

Dear Sir or Madame,

While the Town's decision to require a full Environmental Impact Statement was a good one to be respected, it is important that the Town ensure full and fair implementation of the law and the process. The EIS document will only help if it is robust, complete and accurate. Offering just 20 days – especially during the holiday and election season – is inappropriately short and will greatly limit meaningful public engagement, thereby adversely impacting the quality of the final EIS analysis. It is would be helpful to extend the public comment period until December 21, 2023 in order to ensure a full and fair opportunity for everyone to engage. This extension is necessary to allow for a robust, inclusive and fully informed comment process that will ensure all the issues that need to be considered, are considered. Below are my observations -

 I appreciate the Town of Highland's step in the right direction in requiring a full Environmental Impact Statement for Camp FIMFO;

 A 20 day comment period, that spans the busy election season as well as travel days associated with the Thanksgiving holiday, is not adequate for my ability to fully and fairly review and comment on the draft scoping document;

The true impacts of the proposed Camp FIMFO, while clearly significant, have been largely inaccessible to the public to date and it will take time to fully consider and identify all the issues that need to be addressed;

 It is clear that this resort type project would have devastating impacts to my community and the forest, streams, public spaces, and much of the Delaware River watershed I cherish;

 The 223 acre resort-style project proposes changes and impacts that are not in keeping with the scenic forested Upper Delaware Wild & Scenic River qualities that the Delaware River and its riparian corridor are known for and for which visitors come to enjoy each year; and

 The scoping comment period must be extended to at least December 21, 2023 in order for myself, my friends, family, and community to fully grasp and respond to this proposal.

Thank you for your consideration

Vic Dasaro

From: Gail Brunner <gailbrunner07@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, November 1, 2023 9:06 AM

To: Planning Board and Zoning

Subject: Camp FIMFO-comment period extension

Good Morning, I appreciate that the Town of Highland is requiring a full Environmental Impact Statement for Camp FIMFO and the concern for this resort type project that will have devastating impacts to our community and the forest, streams, public spaces and much of the Delaware watershed which my husband and I live in. Please keep in mind a 20 day comment period that spans the busy election season as well as travel days associated with the Thanksgiving holiday is not adequate to fully and fairly review and comment on the draft document. The true impacts of the proposed Camp FIMFO have been clearly inaccessible to the public and it will take time to fully consider, identify and investigate all the issues that need to be addressed. This 223 acre resort style project proposes changes and impacts that are not in keeping with the scenic forested Upper Delaware Wild & Scenic River qualities that the Delaware River and its riparian corridor are known for and which visitors come to enjoy each year. I respectfully request that the comment period be extended to at least December 21, 2023 in order for myself, friends, family and community to fully grasp and prepare and respond to this proposal. Thank you for your consideration in this important project.

Gail J. Brunner (retired Public Health Inspector) 180 Chicopee Rd Damascus, Pa 18415

From:

Paula Campbell <paulacam@verizon.net>

Sent: To:

Thursday, November 2, 2023 3:33 PM

TO:

Planning Board and Zoning

Subject:

Extend the time for Public Comment

I am contacting the Planning Board to demand a fair amount of time need for the public to comment on the proposed FIMFO Environmental Impact Statement. Twenty days to answer all the concerns just isn't;'t enough time, and it isn't fair. You need to do the right thing and extend the public comment time to December 21, 2023.

Paula Campbell Eldred New York