



CATSKILL ART SOCIETY

The Catskill Art Society is a non-profit cultivating public interest, participation, and enjoyment of the arts. Through its multi-arts center, CAS explores contemporary art and facilitates creative and professional development for established and emerging artists.

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Executive Director
bradley@catskillartsociety.org



July 20, 2015

Mr. Rob Eggleton
Supervisor, Town of Rockland
PO Box 964
Livingston Manor, NY 12758

Dear Mr. Eggleton,

I am writing in support of the Town’s efforts to seek funding for the proposed Riverwalk project along Willowemoc Creek in Livingston Manor. I believe that this project will bring great benefits to our community in ways that make it an excellent candidate for public investment.

The Catskill Art Society moved to Livingston Manor in 2006 and purchased our building, the CAS Arts Center at 48 Main Street, in 2011. We have raised and invested over \$250,000 for the purchase and renovation of our venue, and plan to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars more to renovate our upper floor into a performance space. Our lot abuts the streambank and, as one of the wider property lines along the proposed Riverwalk zone, we are especially interested in the cultivation and preservation of this area. We are willing to work on an easement agreement with the Town if the Riverwalk project is approved and funded.

The Riverwalk will attract people to the hamlet downtown, bringing customers for local businesses and thus improving patronage for existing shops while catalyzing new private-sector investment. As the director of a community-based non-profit arts venue, tourism is central to our mission and crucial to our symbiosis with the Town’s economic landscape. Improved areas where visitors can travel, stay, and recreate will be a great boon to us as it makes Livingston Manor a more viable and enjoyable destination for regional travelers.

The Riverwalk will provide space for community activities, potentially engaging young people including those at risk. The Catskill Art Society sees this public space as an ideal venue for existing events like the Trout Parade as well as new initiatives that attract and engage visitors, such as a sculpture garden or rotating public art program. Creative projects like these will attract greater exchange between the Catskills’ booming artist population and our Town’s residents and visitors, provide cultural and educational opportunities, and make the Town a truly unique, must-see spot for tourism.

The Riverwalk also includes considerable improvements to the environmental stability of the streambank. The Riverwalk promises a lot, but it can deliver on these promises. It is being designed by a world-class team with exceptional experience in creating successful public spaces. The Livingston Manor Chamber of Commerce is behind the project, and will continue its

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involvement long after the construction phase. We anticipate assisting with site maintenance, operations and security, and will create programming that will capitalize on the Riverwalk's potential to support our businesses with increased traffic.

Thank you,

Bradley Diuguid
Executive Director

