

# Hidden costs drove Legacy proposal

To the Editors:

It is ironic that self-professed environmentalist Thomas Falconer has returned to the pages of The Ledger to lament the loss of his favorite supervisor Jim Nordgren's Andes project of several years ago. That proposal, which sought Legacy funds to create a county park operating day and night in the heart of Cross River, was abandoned after what was probably the most contentious public meeting in Lewisboro history. Yet Mr. Falconer laments its passing almost as much as he complains about the double yellow lines in

front of his own home in South Salem.

It was in reaction to the first proposal that Adam Rose purchased the property himself and made his generous offer to the school district for fields subject to certain use restrictions sensitive to the concerns of the neighbors.

Unfortunately, through a series of secret negotiations between Mr. Falconer's new favorite supervisor Edward Brancati and the school board, "Legacy II" was born — a second county-driven project with more than \$1 million of hidden costs and

obligation placed upon the town, including the guarantee of at least 40 units of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) housing without control over its character or location. Fortunately, after several public hearings with pointed questioning from the bipartisan combination of Town Board members Peter DeLucia and Bruce Pavalow, it became clear just how bad a deal this was. In the end, even Mr. Brancati couldn't bring himself to vote in favor of it.

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