

Top 15 Ranked Questions - May 8th Fjord Trail Joint Public Session

Rank #	Rank score	Ques. #	# of votes	Topic	Question	Proposed By	Residence
2	99	69	27	Accountability & Transparency	Will the Fjord Trail be built even if a majority of people in the community are against it?	Alice Krakauer	Philipstown
4	94	47	34		I liked this plan when it was a wooded trail. It transformed into a concrete extravaganza that will scar the landscape forever due to the influence of a private donor, Chris Davis. Even Parks deferred to him. Who elected him? How is he accountable?	Phil Weiss	North Highlands
8	81	55	27		It's understood there is a fine line in this so-called Public/Private Partnership between NYS and Scenic Hudson/HHFT. If this is truly a public project, exempt from local planning board oversight then agenda and minutes from meetings under this partnership would be required under Open Meetings law. If this is truly a private project then local board oversight is required by law and minutes can be hidden/withheld from the public. In this case, which is it? Ethically you shouldn't claim both. Wouldn't you agree?	Stephanie Hawkins	Cold Spring
3	95	21	33	Trail Design and Scale of Project	What viable alternatives to the proposed Fjord Trail have been proposed and evaluated, including alternative alignments and no build/no action options? Why are earlier iterations, much smaller in scope, impact, scale & cost to the taxpayer, no longer under consideration? What is the current status of any of these?	Andrew Hall	Cold Spring
15	32	36	10		A trail between Cold Spring and Beacon is a great idea. But the "add-ons" will totally change the character of the area the Fjord Trail claims to celebrate. Why must we accept the "add-ons" along with the trail?	Ned Rauch	Garrison
12	39	35	14		Given the concerns about 600,000 visitors using the Fjord Trail and potentially swamping the tiny Cold Spring Village on weekends, is it possible to have the Dutchess Manor site be promoted from the outset as the focal point/centerpiece for HHFT visitors...particularly those coming by car? This central point would have trail info, food, tons of parking, and be the designated starting point for trail access. All trail guide brochures, advertising, and other marketing information would direct visitors to this central point, noting that other trail access points may be available. Surely some will still come by train to the Cold Spring, Beacon, and Breakneck stations, and others drive and park at other areas along the trail, but having the focus on this mid-trail site should cause less stress on CS Village resources and residents.	Cathy Carnevale	Village of Cold Spring

9	69	107	25	Data, studies, reporting and project process	The Fjord Trail will have a big impact, but we have no data on what this impact (social, environmental, economic) will look like. Where are the studies that typically accompany projects of this large scale? Can we expect to see such analyses so we can have a fact-based debate?	David Duffy	Philipstown
5	87	208	32	Increase in Visitors	How can HHFT and NYS OPRHP claim they are solving the Village of Cold Spring's tourist problems when they are creating a major tourist attraction that will bring thousands more visitors to the Village of Cold Spring?	Dave Merandy	Village of Cold Spring
7	81	204	28		What is the projected increase in visitation to Hudson Highlands State Park? The Breackneck trailhead? The Village of Cold Spring? And what methodology was used to arrive at these projections? Specifically what time of year was traffic data gathered? What other projects, parks and attractions were used as comparables?	Michael Bowman	Village of Nelsonville
6	81	178	29	Parking, Transportation and Pedestrian Safety	HHFT predicts an increase of hundreds of thousands of visitors annually, with upwards of 66% arriving by vehicle. All vehicles arriving from the South and East must pass through the traffic light at Routes 9D/301. Will DGEIS address this increased traffic? How will negative impacts be mitigated? NYCRR Part 617.9(a)(b)?	David May	Cold Spring
1	123	7	32	Environmental Impact and Climate Change	MNR has requested a 25' buffer between tracks and trail, meaning EVERY TREE along the river will be removed to accommodate a 14' wide boardwalk shading the shoreline and preventing regrowth. How does this protect against flooding?	Grace Kennedy	Garrison
10	61	10	21		If the environmental review reveals that there will be significant impacts to species such as New England cottontail, cerulean warblers and submerged vegetation will the project be canceled?	Lauren Martin	North Highlands
11	45	12	14		I watched the waterfront development at Beacon station for 7 years, from the start. We know that much of the river shoreline has been disturbed for over a hundred years. The restoration brought back wildlife and habitat including pollinators and native plants. What kind of plans are there to restore the natural habitat that existed pre industrial revolution and how will the restoration help mitigate the rising water levels caused by climate change?	Adam Osterfeld	North Highlands

13	38	3	10		Seven significant ecological communities, identified by the New York Natural Heritage Program, as well as Endangered and Threatened Species exist in the trail corridor. A far more modest Fjord Trail proposal was given a Positive Declaration in 2015. What has changed to make these habitats and species less vulnerable now?	Susan Peehl	Village of Cold Spring
14	33	161	12	Services and Infrastructure	How will HHFT support the Village of Cold Spring to handle the increased strain in its infrastructure that the Fjord trail will bring? This is not a bathroom question -- the Village as it is can barely keep up with sidewalk repairs, garbage pickup, maintenance of the water treatment plant, etc.	Teresa Lagerman	Village of Cold Spring

