

Roxanne Maher

From: LYNN WILKINSON <lynnwilkinson57@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2024 2:23 PM
To: Elizabeth Burdick; Town Council Group
Subject: Cashman/Gales Ferry Intermodal

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9/8/2024

Lynn S. Wilkinson
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Ledyard Planning and Zoning Commissioners
Liz Burdick, Ledyard Director Land Use and Planning
Ledyard, CT

Dear Commission and Ms. Burdick,
I am writing in opposition to the proposal for a quarry in the center of our historic district, with its proximity to homes, schools, and water sources.

I have many concerns, although I will try to limit them to a few here.
My house is within the one mile radius of the proposed project. From any given room, I can hear the trains, the Sub Base, and the Waterford Speed Bowl. For most a year, I could hear Eversource drilling at the Vinegar Hill / Whalehead intersection, over a mile from me. According to regulations 9.2.C and 9.2.C.3, excess or unreasonable noise would not be permissible. I submit that blasting and rock processing will absolutely impact the noise levels in our area. Even with the proposed hours of operation/blasting, many people in town work second and third shifts.

Regulations 11.3.4.C, 11.3.4.F, and 9.2.C.1 (and .2, .3 .4) all deal with pollution of various types and public health. Is there a 100% guarantee that silica dust will not be released into the air our families breathe? That vibrations from blasting will not affect home foundations? The calcium chloride that is supposed to suppress dust is highly toxic, especially in large concentrations. I respectfully request the commissioners read the following link, and consider how likely it is that there will be zero environmental contamination in this scenario. <https://camachem.com/en/blog/post/hazards-of-calcium-chloride#:~:text=Ingestion%20of%20calcium%20chloride%20can,when%20ingested%20in%20large%20quantities>.

Finally, some questions.

How many barges are expected per day to transport this material ? Who is responsible for their safe operation and material handling ? How much pollution can we expect to emanate from them ?

How long is this quarrying operation expected to last? If it's 7 to 10 years, will that truly have no effect on property values, as asserted by the McCormick study? I would also like to know if the properties referenced in their report were sold during or after the the quarrying was complete, as well is if they were bought by people planning to live there, or people planning to rent them outor commercial

interests. If McCormack is not an independent expert, I would respectfully request that the town hire one at the applicant's expense.

Who is going to monitor the levels of noise, vibration, dust, etc. from this operation? Are we relying on Cashman/GFI to self report? If so, who would they report to, and how frequently? Do property owners have to wait for calcium chloride in the groundwater or cracks in foundations to find out there is an issue? Should we wait a decade for a pulmonary or kidney disease diagnosis?

If this application is approved, will it set a precedent for what is allowed in other areas of town, setting up other neighborhoods for the same issues ?

It is all well and good for the applicant to put forth idealized plans, but projects rarely proceed perfectly. Cashman/GFI may be on the hook for penalties if something goes wrong, but the damage will already have been done, and we will have to live with the consequences. Zoning regulation 113.4.F states that "...proposed uses would not cause any unreasonable *pollution, impairment, or destruction of the air, water, and other natural resources of this state.*" I do not believe that the applicant can guarantee compliance with this, or the previously noted regulations. For this reason, I respectfully ask that the application be denied.

Lynn Wilkinson