

November 22, 2024

Caitlin Houser

10 Tom Allyn Court

Gales Ferry, CT 06335

Dear Commissioners and Ms. Burdick,

Hello, my name is Caitlin Houser, I reside at 10 Tom Allyn Court in Gales Ferry, CT 06335. It saddens me that it has even come to me having to write this letter of concern.

I am respectfully writing in strong opposition to the Cashman/GFI proposed implementation of a quarry at the old Dow chemical, middle of my town, Gales Ferry.

After attending last night's meeting on 11/21/2024 I'm disheartened to say the very least. I'm all for new development in our town. However, that new development should not come at a risk to our residents.

My main specific concern of course is the health of my family and other families in Gales Ferry & Ledyard. As our town learned from the Lantern Hill Quarry this is an extreme health risk to our residents and the surrounding areas. Why take on this risk again? I would much rather pay higher taxes than potentially put anyone within miles of this at a risk. A risk that in later years could cause our town to be in a legal battle. Silica dust is not something to mess around with - especially with so many homes, schools, recreational areas in close proximity to the site. This could be absolutely detrimental and ruin our town forever! No one will want to live here, develop here and grow old here. The rules and regulations by the prior planning committee were set in place for a reason. Let's respect them and our town's people. To entertain a special permit like this does not even make sense for our town.

Other concerns include and are not limited to the following:

- Environmental impact. This includes but does not limit to just Wildlife, land, watershed, rivers, streams and air quality.
- Noise Pollution. I live within a mile of the projected site. One of the things that made me fall in love with our community and my neighborhood was how quiet it is. I can sit outside while my kids play and enjoy the sounds of wildlife. The sounds of blasting for 10 years would be one of the reasons I would want to sell. As I'm sure plenty of others feel the same.
- Traffic. For anyone that lives near route 12 it is well known that during peak times of travel how congested it can become. Thus the reasons, shifts have been given at larger Groton companies to assist in this flow. Allowing that many trucks to run on our roads not only creates a risk for traffic, accidents and damage but it also releases the very same hazardous Silica dust along the way.
- Property values. I will openly admit that this is probably the least of my concern when talking health and well-being. Yes, do I care about my property value? Absolutely! However, the drop in values is minuscule compared to potential damage to all above. Again as much as it pains me to say there are other ways to gain tax revenue for the town by upping the mil rate. At least

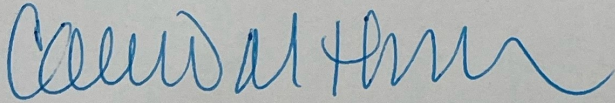


doing that keeps the quality of life for all residents far better than allowing a quarry to disrupt our quaint town.

- Destroying a historical land mark. Allowing the blasting of a mountain that holds significance for our town is irresponsible.

In closing I truly hope each and every commissioner takes the time to reflect on ALL the reasons why this special permit should be denied. This will be disastrous for our town. The effect of this quarry will change our town forever!

Sincerely a very concerned Gales Ferry resident,

 11/22/2024

Caitlin Houser