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I just bought a condo in Pheasant Run and I received the packet from Attorney Heller that he had to send me due to being 101ft away from the proposed blasting site. So I attended every meeting. I have a huge stake in this. I have sat through all of the "experts" and listened to them mention Pheasant Run and Anderson. I sat with my neighbors on Anderson and It gave me a pit in my stomach. It was really hard listening to the impact that would take place at my new home.

A little background on me. I grew up in Ledyard and I have significant ties to the community. My brother Todd Willis owns New London County Septic and is the deputy Chief of Ledyard Fire, one of his sons is a Lieutenant and another is a paid firefighter for Montville and volunteers for Ledyard as well. I lived in Niantic and was part owner of the Village Bake House. We owned a home in Black Point for 28 years.

After my divorce I searched for a place to buy but there was not a lot of inventory in my price range. My home in Niantic sold very fast due to it being in a private beach community. I had to find a place fast and had to rent a place in Groton. I wanted to be on this side of the bridge to be closer to my brother and his sons who now have kids and I babysit for a couple of them. Pheasant Run came to me before it was even on the market due to connections through my brother's business. My brother met me to look at it and it was a little over my budget. But he figured I could put about \$10,000 into it and could probably get my money back. They were asking \$150k and I went to \$160k all in cash, \$20,000 up front and there were 12 other offers. I considered myself so lucky to get it. I needed to NOT spend \$2,000 a month for rent. The HOA fees and taxes were reasonable being \$485 a month and taxes are \$\$\$?? So I put most of my up front alimony into it and bought my first and probably only home in my lifetime. What I'm saying is I really didn't have much of a choice. It was out of necessity.

So my life on Rte 12.

I live on it and work at Holmbergs and I babysit off of it on Christy Hill and Long Cove. My condo deck faces Rt 12. As you can see my deck faces a field, a tree line and then rt 12. I traded in the sounds of the ocean for the sound of rte 12 traffic and the hum of Cashman. It is a beautiful hill facing beautiful Mt. Decatur. The train comes through between 9-10 p.m I actually enjoy the whistle, I also hear beautiful church bells from the village.



The picture is out my back deck it shows the tree line buffer to rt 12.



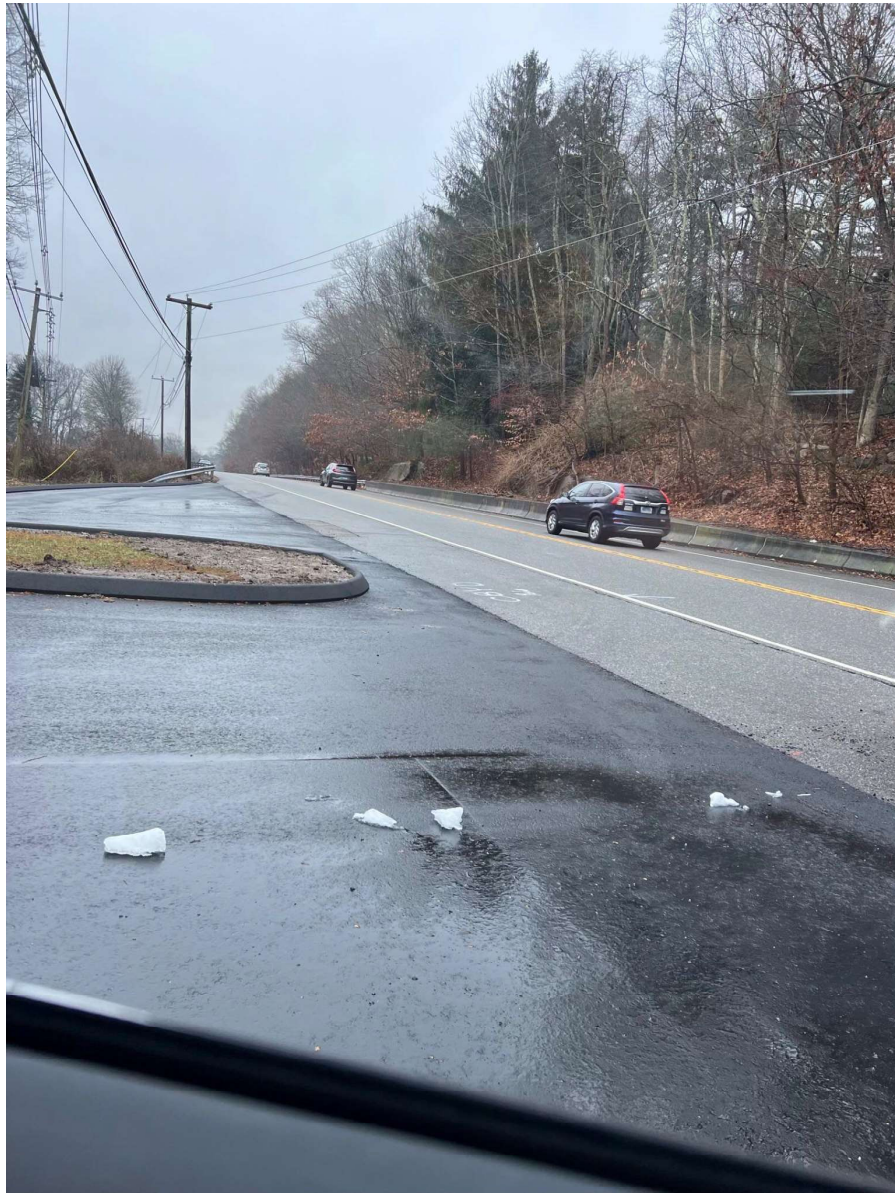
This pic is headed down my hill and across from Mt. Decatur.



This is a pic below of the bottom of my hill turning right heading to Holmbergs. Excuse the barrels they are there due to an accident happening a couple days after the traffic consultant spoke. And he specifically mentioned "the curve". The road was closed for hours.

Now there is a stop light at Cashman, I can count on one hand how many times it's been red in either direction. It keeps traffic moving except when trucks like this trigger the light.

The pic below is at the bottom of the hill turning left when I go babysit for my nephew. Going in this direction I have to go just past the white line sticking out as much as I can. And then I have to just punch it while watching if anyone was speeding and now on my ass and punch it even more.



This picture below is when I was heading home from Holmbergs. This is one of Cashman's trucks. I see about 5 of these trucks when I'm at Holmbergs but that's only a 5 hour span. Just past the light is where the deadly curve starts. As soon as I go through the light I put my blinker on, giving cars behind me enough time to see that I'm turning left into Pheasant Run. I do that due to many cars getting rear-ended between Pheasant Run and the top of Anderson at Whale Head Rd.



My home is around the corner or the curve of the Gales Ferry fire house. The amount of sirens we hear is non-stop at all hours and sometimes last for 10mins or longer. I can always tell how serious it is when I hear, probably my nephews or my brother, Ledyard Fire coming from the other direction. Closures happen all the time due to accidents. I get all the details from them afterwards. I can't even imagine the more deadly accidents with 50 tractor trailer trucks now traveling on Rt 12.

Route 12 is a huge problem with this project. The stretch of the curve is the scene of many accidents. This is nothing new. It seems to me that the state needs to be involved to make it safer especially with the influx of 50 tractor trailer trucks. There needs to be street lights and more road signs. You never see pedestrians or bicycles or runners and there is a reason for that. You also don't see any police presence local or state. I think with this project there should be a police presence to maybe curb the speeding that takes place. I feel like there is a reason the applicant didn't have any type of traffic expert. The only mention is how many trucks they would be putting on the road. The applicant stressed how the traffic light was already there like it was a benefit. The light does have turning lanes but how many trucks will they hold? If I were to guess maybe 2 before they would be sitting in either direction traveling lanes. The light hardly ever turns red now if it did that may help with the speeding but it would also back up the traffic. The town traffic consultant mentioned possibly lowering the speed limit. That might be good and bad. It would cause more traffic but instead of people doing 60mph they might only go 50mph. Maybe adding another stop light somewhere but that would increase traffic. He also talked about rerouting bus traffic out to the light at Rt 214, they would be such a huge mess. I'm hoping you realize that and how much trouble that would cause with residents. Either way I think the state should be involved with this situation and the applicant doesn't want that to happen at all probably.

Here is my response to all those experts that I sat through referencing MY HOME. There will be dust, elevated noise with more traffic and more trains. I enjoy one train whistle and limited train track noise but won't enjoy the increase. The applicant boasted of using the existing train tracks but it just trades Rt 12 traffic to train traffic both come with more noise. It gets very windy on the top of my hill which will contribute to dust, noise and air quality. The experts did not mention the wind factor at all. That tells me there was a reason why they didn't. I heard phrases like "not much" or "just a little" when referencing my home and the above issues. Like these are things that will change and I just have to get used to them and it's not a big deal. It will affect my property value. The applicant's expert offered no legitimate comparisons. As far as the blasting goes I have to be part of a survey in case my home is damaged. That's a little intrusive but I do understand it. Doesn't mean I'm all for it though or like it. The whole debate about whether or not it's a "quarry", you can put lipstick on a pig but it's still a pig is my comment about that.

I know this will probably pass, maybe it's a money thing. But after seeing the numbers, is it worth it? I don't know the answer to that. I won't weigh in on all that or the politics of it. Thank you all for taking this on and listening to us all. I'm really hoping we have all been heard. This is my home.

Sincerely,
Michele (Willis)Kushman