

July 24, 2024

Good evening,

My name is Ellen Atwood and I reside at 8 Harvard Terrace in Gales Ferry. I am also a member of the Gales Ferry District. One of our objectives is to help protect the character of Ledyard and Gales Ferry Village and the quality of life from over-development that will be detrimental to our town and all its residents.

An application is pending before the Wetlands Commission for a five-story 320-unit apartment complex on the 19-acre parcel at 19, 29, and 39 Military Highway, also known as the Sweet Hill Farm.

This application is expected to be approved by the Wetlands Commission in September, and then submitted to the Planning and Zoning Commission. The existing zoning regulations will allow the proposed 19-acre, 320-unit, five-story apartment complex by right, without a public hearing. This massive complex would be larger than the 14-acre 304-unit Triton Square four and five-story apartment complex being finished just west of the Super 8 motel on Route 12 in Groton.

This complex would not be in character with Ledyard or the Gales Ferry Village and would conflict with the approved Ledyard Plan of Conservation and Development. Such a high-density massive development will have unintended consequences, such as a need for school expansion, more teachers, increased school bus transportation costs, and more police and social services. It is wrong for our town.

There are other uses that are more suitable outdoor public events such as a park, Regatta events, and possibly the Ledyard Town Fair and civic activities, to name a few.

**Under Chapter 152 Sect. 9-369 of the CT General Statutes, you have the right to place any question you wish on a ballot. I urge that you amend the agenda this evening and discuss the merits of putting the question on the Nov. 5 ballot to determine if Ledyard residents would support the town acquiring the 19-acre parcel as a public park for future generations. Placing the question directly on the ballot would do no harm and would be necessary to justify the expenditure and bonding required to purchase the property. Because there are statutory lead time requirements for placing questions on the ballot, you should make the decision this evening. By amending the agenda and discussing this matter this evening, and if you are in favor of asking the**

**question on the November ballot, your decision would help to justify a moratorium by the Planning and Zoning Commission on receiving multifamily applications in the Gales Ferry Development District until after November 5.**

**Please, as a minimum, amend your agenda and discuss the idea this evening. It is important.**

Thank you for considering this proposal. It is a significant opportunity that will otherwise be lost.

Thank you for all your time and work you do.  
Sincerely,