

EX#275

**Anna Wynn**

**RECEIVED**

**From:** Elizabeth Burdick  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 18, 2024 1:40 PM  
**To:** Anna Wynn  
**Subject:** FW: Submission of Concerns regarding Cashman's Quarry **Land Use Department**

DEC 18 2024

Anna, Please post the below email as a public comment exhibit. TY.

Regards,  
*Liz Burdick*

Director of Land Use & Planning  
 Town of Ledyard  
 741 Colonel Ledyard Highway, Ledyard, CT 06339  
 Telephone: (860) 464-3215 ~ Email: [planner@ledyardct.org](mailto:planner@ledyardct.org)  
 TOWN HALL HOURS: MON-THURS, 7:30AM – 4:45PM

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**From:** Georgia E. <[gcedwards1127@gmail.com](mailto:gcedwards1127@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 18, 2024 1:15 PM  
**To:** Elizabeth Burdick <[planner@ledyardct.org](mailto:planner@ledyardct.org)>  
**Subject:** Submission of Concerns regarding Cashman's Quarry

Dear Commissioners and Ms. Burdick,

I'm Georgia Edwards from Richard Road, and I was unable to attend last Thursday's meeting in-person. My husband was called into work late, and I have two kids under 10 who would've made attending even the zoom meeting difficult. But I desperately want to vent my spleen, even via email, and share my worries about how this could affect them and their little lungs.

I know I can't offer up more knowledgeable reasons why this petition should be shredded than the good people who have gone before me. My son has already spread a story of heroism throughout the fifth grade featuring Mr. Eric Treaster, who calmly and pragmatically dismantled a nefarious petition with 22 axes. Mr. Eric Treaster, who handed the commission 22 bureaucratic reasons on a silver platter, while a caricature of a soulless corporate attorney tried to derail him with legalese about whether or not bedrock is stone. I know Attorney Heller was just doing his job, I'm *sure* he loses as much sleep as we do about this...

If this whole affair is based on the tipping of scales full of speculations, how can we possibly put our hopes on the scale of "maybe lower taxes in a decade" when the other scale holds the incalculably grim weight of potential sick children? If the burden of proof is on them to show that it's an impossibility, or even an improbability, they have NOT done that. Their experts (who they paid, which might make objectivity dubious to some) provided underwhelming, non-definitive testimony. There has been countless counter-testimony provided to nullify their attempts to put our minds at ease.

As a potter, I work with materials that contain silica. I take care, daily, to manage the cleanliness and air quality in my studio. Keeping things damp while tidying up, running purifiers, and wearing a respirator while messing with the materials that could cause damage over prolonged exposure. Do we really expect or *trust* Cashman to maintain the necessary steps required to reduce prolonged exposure over a *decade*? He has already had suits against them in other endeavours whereupon malfeasance was proven. Groucho Marx said, "The secret of life is honesty and fair dealing. If you can fake that, you've got it made." Cashman is faking it, and not even very well. He settles numerous suits, and points fingers at his subcontractors. This seems like common practice for corporations, and

will likely be practiced again if the permit is granted. No accountability with issues, just throwing money at the problem and blaming subcontractors. I included a couple articles to highlight this, though there are more than two dozen instances where Cashman proves that he can shrug off unscrupulous behaviour. He seems to embody the rich mindset that "fines" means "legal for a price." A particularly damning quote from an article that discusses the aftermath of the death of Milena del Valle says, "That meant media inquiries about Modern Continental's role in the tunnel accident were directed to Jay Cashman Inc. Cashman, ensconced on his island, was uncharacteristically silent." Is this someone you want to get in bed with?? Do you trust this man with the health and safety of your town, of your children? I *certainly* don't, and nothing could convince me to, certainly not his nebulous promises of economic growth somewhere down the road.

I mean, it's great that Cashman offered up some hush money, I mean bribery, I mean couch change, to the PTO for the playground. What a fantastic charitable donation, to provide funds (a pittance for a company worth his, a pittance that he can write off) for a brand new inclusive playground, so kids of all abilities can laugh and play while they get silicosis. Maybe, in that vein, Cashman could build a little more community spirit by offering to host school assemblies to educate students and staff about silicosis, and maybe provide annual lung function exams to ascertain whether or not the schools within *one mile* of his cash cow are being affected. If spirometry is affected, would he shut the operation down? If not, will a large percentage of what he makes from this endeavour be set aside for medical bills for those affected? Community building is important, after all (as is early detection). Cashman can afford to be cavalierly confident about the air quality near the schools. He has no skin in the game. It's not naive to think that if he had kids in the neighborhood, or grandkids enrolled in the school, he would sing a different tune. Instead, he plays with our community like a live-action game of Monopoly, while he breathes fresh air on his private island.

Since Cashman professes to feel strongly about community building, he went to the trouble of fixing up the mayor's little family home. As a sign of good faith, I was wondering if he'd offer up some more community building to me! I'd love something in writing saying he'll pay for a contractor of my choosing to do annual assessments on my foundation and well, and pay for the renovation of either should they be found deteriorating from the blasting. If he's confident those things won't be affected, it'd be pocket change for someone who stands to gain millions from this. I don't blame Cashman for focusing on profit. We all love money, we all want more of it, and with a name like Cashman, he has a Dickensian destiny to focus on profit! But his desire to profit at our expense is untenable. Please do not dismiss the concerns of your townspeople. Please do not consider their concerns paranoid or fear-mongering. Please refer to the inexhaustible list of precedents whereupon profit-focused corporations have done wrong by small towns. If, in 10 years or so, we realize we've joined their ranks, my *ire* will also be inexhaustible.

My thanks to the commission for hearing our voices. I know that you all have indubitably lost more sleep than I have over this, and that's brutal. I'd be happy to pay MORE taxes, if I knew some of that would go towards free coffee for you guys. It feels like your work is just getting started, especially if he gets permission to go forward. Will he run air quality tests in the area to get a baseline? Will officials have access to this information and stay on top of it monthly? Are you all prepared for this maintenance and any kerfuffle about shutting it down promptly if the levels become unacceptable? It all sounds like a nightmare, and more trouble than it's worth, at a minimum. I don't envy you any of this. I'll toast you all with my next caffeinated beverage.

Thanks again,  
Georgia Edwards

There are enough news articles to give us all solid headaches, but I'll just throw in three examples that I referenced.

<https://wbsm.com/cashman-dredging-fined-for-alleged-illegal-dumping-in-new-bedford-and-maine/>

<https://www.patriotledger.com/story/news/2021/03/16/epa-quincy-cashman-dredging-185-000-fine/4722551001/>

<https://www.bostonmagazine.com/2006/09/18/zen-and-the-art-of-infrastructure-maintenance/>