

August 11 2026

Dear Members of the Ledyard Planning and Zoning Commission:

I write in support of re-establishing Village District Guidelines for Gales Ferry. This is a unique district, rich in history, culture and current activity. It has been my home for all but 12 of the past 57 years; and there are many long-term residents like myself for whom the character of the District has been formative and integral. It has taught us the meaning of community and encouraged us to give back to our town.

The historic section of Gales Ferry is a jewel—old sea captain houses, the home of the annual Harvard-Yale Regatta (the oldest collegiate competition in the country), and where the old Memorial Day parade brought tears to my eyes every year watching the enthusiastic local involvement. The old firehouse still stands, as do several of the gong alarms mounted around the village. The Library and the Community Center have been utilized and loved by generations, three of my own family. These are all symbols of community.

Leading from the old village towards the Sub Base is Military Highway, a popular route for joggers, kids on bicycles, people walking dogs and children in strollers—all who smile and wave at passing traffic. You can rarely pass by Erickson Park, another jewel for the town, without seeing people picnicking, walking dogs, launching kayaks, or just sitting enjoying the view.

I would hope that Village District Guidelines would reinforce the character of this district, and encourage careful development that would fit within this character. Overdevelopment would destroy the sense of community we enjoy. We all would like to see a variety of establishments, ones that would encourage local patronage, safe pedestrian accessibility and provide needed support for the community, rather than become a place where traffic comes to make quick stops at discount stores and then leaves town.

Please consider carefully the current and future benefits of re-establishing Village District Guidelines.

Thank you,

Mary B. Larson (Mobby)
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Gales Ferry CT