



Lantern Hill Valley Association, Inc

% Betsy Graham, Secretary

72A Long Pond Rd S, Ledyard, CT 06339

860-608-5620; TheLHVA@gmail.com

24 April 2024

Ms. Cate O'Keefe, PhD, Executive Director,
New England Fishery Management Council,
50 Water Street, Mill #2,
Newburyport, MA 01950;
email to: comments@nefmc.org.

“Atlantic Herring Amendment 10 Scoping Comments.”

After much time, expense and effort to clean up our rivers and streams, remove dams, and build fishways, it seems counterintuitive to allow the decimation of the potential spawning population before they can avail themselves of these benefits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert G. Graham'.

Robert G. Graham
Treasurer, Lantern Hill Valley Association
72A Long Pond Rd S
Ledyard, CT 06339

May 1, 2024

Mayor Fred Allyn III,

Naomi Rodriguez, Chairman of Ledyard Town Council

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway

Ledyard, CT 06339

Dear Mayor Allyn, Chairman Naomi Rodriguez, and members of the Ledyard Town Council,

We were surprised and deeply concerned when we learned of Ms. Hodge's sudden departure. Her abrupt firing without a replacement has left our town without a knowledgeable and courageous advocate who would prioritize the welfare of Ledyard's citizens over the interests of developers. The loss of Ms. Hodge's guidance could lead to a decline in protecting our inland wetlands and watercourses.

The lack of a suitable replacement immediately in place is a pressing issue. The new town planner must be someone who can effectively shoulder the position's responsibilities and demonstrate the same expertise and commitment as Ms. Hodge. Without a new hire, Ledyard's development progress risks stagnation and dangerous exposure to environmentally harmful practices.

As we understand it, a town planner's primary role is to guide development that benefits the town's residents and businesses while preserving the surrounding area. Ms. Hodge, in her capacity as a town planner, fearlessly confronted developers and lawyers representing large corporations, a quality that may have made her unpopular with the town's financial advisors. She was a staunch advocate for her role in governing the development of Ledyard, ensuring residents had pleasant spaces for their homes, recreation, and work.

Ms. Hodge had high expectations for herself and her staff's work ethic. She pushed for improvement in record keeping and strove to enhance the efficiency of the legal system to deal effectively with clear violations. She advocated better protection and concern for resources, particularly wetlands and waterbodies, as they are irreplaceable once lost to development or impairment. Ms. Hodge was dedicated to working and guiding our various town commissions, which monthly reviewed and made decisions on proposed projects being presented to the town.

Ms. Hodge also actively participated in the Alliance for the Mystic River Watershed, representing the interests of the Town of Ledyard. Here, she learned about innovative climate resiliency building and development techniques that could significantly benefit our town.

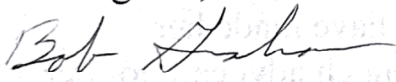
Without a Town Planner advocating for our town's welfare, our town is vulnerable and at risk. Our town is already dealing with developers who aim to maximize their profits and exploit the situation by purchasing less expensive wetlands and watershed lands for high-density development. These developers are not concerned about the consequences of their actions, which could lead to increased flooding of properties, well contaminations, and septic failures with groundwater/aquifer contaminations. Unfortunately, these events will burden the residents and town citizens, as the developers bear no responsibility, and the town will have to provide sewers and community wells to manage sewage and clean water.

Ledyard is currently threatened by proposed developments that could have severe consequences for the environment and the well-being of some of its residents. These developments may also adversely impact our neighboring communities.

Mayor Allyn, we strongly urge you to work with the Ledyard Town Council to hire a replacement with a proven track record in guiding environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient development. This is not just a beneficial move but a necessary one for the welfare of all Ledyard residents.

We appreciate your consideration of our concerns and hope you will promptly find a replacement with similar guiding principles. We eagerly look forward to hearing about a new town planner.

With regards,



Bob and Betsy Graham

72A Long Pond Rd S

Ledyard, CT 06339

860-608-5620

Cc: Naomi Rodriguez, Chairman; naomir@ledyardct.org

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