

Anna Wynn

From: Elizabeth Burdick
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2024 4:37 PM
To: Anna Wynn
Subject: FW: Concerned Residents

Anna, Please add the below email from Heather Carvalho as a public comment exhibit. Thank you!

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
TOWN HALL HOURS: MON-THURS, 7:30AM – 4:45PM

From: Heather Carvalho <the.carvalho.ohana@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2024 4:31 PM
To: Elizabeth Burdick <planner@ledyardct.org>
Subject: Concerned Residents

25 November 2024

Heather Carvalho
7 Oakridge Drive
Gales Ferry, CT 06335

Ledyard Planning and Zoning Commissioners Liz Burdick
Ledyard Director Land Use & Planning Ledyard, CT.

Dear Commissioners and Ms. Burdick,

I am writing in strong opposition to the Cashman/GFI proposed implementation of a quarry in the middle of our town, Gales Ferry.

I'd like to first point out that this issue has not been publicized enough. I was unaware of the proposed quarry until fairly recently, despite living across the street and less than a mile up from the Dow/Cashman property in the Woodridge neighborhood. Whether or not that was purposeful, it comes off as disingenuous at best, and rather unscrupulous when you consider how long the local government has had to notify the public properly.

My primary concern is my family's health and safety due to the air, water and land pollution this will undoubtedly cause - I have more than one severe asthmatic in my home. Who will be footing my hospital bills when the silica dust causes my daughter or me to be hospitalized and treated for asthma, cancer, or silicosis (which is irreversible)- the town or Cashman? Who will be replacing my lost wages, or caring for my family when I am unable to do so due to not being able to breathe? Who will explain to my child that her mother is too ill to help provide for her or that she has developed silicosis or worse because the town cared more about money than the lives of other humans? Who will be paying for the settlements and lawsuits that will undoubtedly be filed against Cashman and the town? Have you learned nothing from the Lantern Hill quarry? Do you live near the proposed site? How can you sentence us to have to live with this if you don't, and how can you choose this for your family if you do? Would you risk your own children or even yourselves getting cancer in order for the town to bring in a little money? How callous and daft must one be to even consider allowing Cashman to come in and destroy Mt. Decatur and the health of the people in the area?

I watched my grandmother and grandfather die of lung cancer and COPD, which are just two potentially fatal illnesses that a quick dive into the consequences of inhalation of silica dust tells us residents will have to face if this goes through. It is not a quick death, nor is it pretty. It is expensive to get treatment, if treatment is even an option. It is painful, terrifying and exhausting to attempt to breathe with these illnesses, and these are consequences you are choosing to bestow on residents and our children if you allow this. The Cashman

"experts" support Cashman and will say whatever Cashman wants them to; after all, they're brought in to convince people who don't know better, that they do.

I urge you to speak to doctors- specifically pulmonologists and oncologists who have no skin in the game to see what they say about the long term effects of these pollutants being released into the air we breathe or water we drink. Speak to experts in Environmental Science who don't work for or answer to Cashman. The pride of our high school is the AgriSci department Surely someone there could point you in the right direction of resources and information. Consider the children of our town. You'd be forcing them to breathe this in during school hours, and for many, at home for the next 10 years. If you don't live within a mile or two of the Cashman property or have children at GFS/JWL/LMS, bring the facts, as presented by doctors who do not answer to Cashman, to the parents and see what response you get. Are your children affected by this, or are you just playing fast and loose with children you are not responsible for or related to?

In addition to the very serious ill effects this will have on the community's physical health, the noise and added traffic as my home backs up to Route 12 that is expected with the additional dozens of trucks daily will also have an incredibly negative impact on my ability to enjoy the home I purchased and pay taxes on to raise my family and spend my retirement in. It will also further negatively impact my asthma with all of the exhaust from these added trucks. It will make getting out of my neighborhood even harder than it already is, and as the town of Ledyard already cannot manage the drivers speeding up and down Route 12, this large number of added commercial vehicles will almost certainly lead to more accidents and deaths in the area. It is irresponsible to allow this. I suppose these deaths will come much quicker than the deaths associated with cancers from inhaling the silica dust that will be in the air and radon being released from the ground into our homes; that could be considered some sort of consolation if your mind is twisted enough to see it that way. You might want to point that out during these community meetings.

I can already feel the blasting that was being done earlier this year both in my home and in my office on SUBASE New London. It is my understanding that buildings and floors should not be shaking with blasting or that blasting must stop. Despite complaints from the community, those explosions have continued. Items on shelves rattle and we've had photos fall off the wall. As someone with PTSD, I can tell you that allowing this will cause further harm and distress to many of the residents of Gales Ferry/Ledyard; many of whom are Veterans brought here by SUBASE.

The town WILL lose residents. The town WILL suffer. For what? A little money? From what I have been told, that can be made up for by raising the town mill rate by less than 0.5%. THAT amount is worth paying to simply keep Cashman out., PERMANENTLY If property values drop because of this, so will your tax revenue.

As a more recent transplant to CT, I am unfamiliar with local politics and ordinances, but I have seen multiple people mention that quarries have been disallowed in our town. This should be a non-issue if that is true.

Please show the town your dedication is to the people who have to live here, and not to a corporation who will trash our land and move on to destroy another community when they've finished depleting our land of its natural resources. Protect Gales Ferry. Protect the people you call neighbors. Protect our children.

Furthermore, per Ledyard's Zoning Regulations, common sense tells us that this proposed quarry would be in direct violation of the following sections:

8.16.D. The purpose of these regulations is to insure the following:

- the **landscape is not needlessly marred** during and after operations,
- the work will not be a source of **dust, pollution, and/or siltation**,
- the site will not be generally characterized by **unsightliness as evidenced by open pits, rubble, or other indications of completed digging operations** which would have a **deteriorating influence on nearby property values**.

9.2.C.1 No **dust, dirt, fly ash or smoke** shall be emitted into the air so as to endanger the **public health, safety, or general welfare, or to decrease the value or enjoyment of other property or to constitute an objectionable source of air pollution**.

9.2.C.4 With the exception of vibration necessarily involved in the construction or demolition of buildings or other structures, **no vibration shall be transmitted beyond the boundaries** of the lot on which it originates.

11.3.4.C ... that the use(s) would not be noxious, offensive, or detrimental to the area by reason of **odors, fumes, dust, noise, vibrations, appearance, or other similar reasons.**

11.3.4.D ... that no adverse effect would result to the **property values or historic features of the immediate neighborhood.**

11.3.4.E ... that the character of the immediate neighborhood would be preserved in terms of **scale, density, intensity of use, existing historic/natural assets/features** and architectural design.

11.3.4.F ... that the proposed uses would not cause any unreasonable **pollution, impairment or destruction of the air, water, and other natural resources** of the state.

I am begging you to do the right thing. A quick search online can tell you that we have seen the ill effects of quarries and other industrial activities on the health of the residents in communities around them. Do not allow Cashman in to destroy our community and our lives.

Signed,
Heather S Carvalho
7 Oakridge Drive
Gales Ferry, CT 06335