

10/9/2024

Marleen and Mike Myers  
11 Library Lane  
Gales Ferry, CT 06335

Ledyard Planning and Zoning Commissioners  
Liz Burdick, Ledyard Director Land Use & Planning  
Ledyard, CT 06339

Dear P& Z Commissioners and Ms. Burdick,

My husband has lived in Gales Ferry for over 60 years and I have lived here for over 40. We have lived in Gales Ferry Village for 38 years and love our home and our neighborhood. This neighborhood is full of life. We have running groups in the summer, we have the yearly CROP walk for hunger, along with the local daily walker and runners of all ages, dog walkers and even cat walkers too! It is truly a great neighborhood to live in. I truly believe the blasting during the day and the daily noise from the excavation machinery, trucks and blasting, will have a negative impact on our neighborhood. I am concerned about the health and wellbeing of our residents and our children exposed to silica dust, which is a carcinogen, a cancer-causing agent. How will silica dust be tested?

Another item I am concerned about is damage to the homes in Gales Ferry due to the blasting from Maine Drilling and Blasting (MD&B). At the September 26, 2024, Ledyard Planning and Zoning meeting, Tim Harmon of Maing Drilling and Blasting presented on the blasting process at GFI. He noted a pre-blast survey is being offered to residences up to 750 ft from the blasting site. Maine Drilling and Blasting or independent company would do the pre-blasting survey (video of interior/exterior of the residence). Attorney Carroll asked Tom Harmon about damage claims and he only knew the claims went through Maine Drilling and Blasting insurance company. When Attorney Carroll asked Tim Harmon about the Baldwin Hill site complaints as to structural damage to residences and insurance claims processed, Tim had no knowledge of any claims. Tim noted Jim Mann could speak to the claims process, however he was not in attendance at this meeting and I think he needs to provide the residents with the answers. So, we don't know what the number of claims were at the Baldwin Hill site. We also don't know what MD&B's insurance claims process is and how they handle the claims. Tim said to submit an insurance claim for damage to your residence, the homeowner contacts the fire department and completes a damage compliant form, which gets submitted to MD&B insurance company. How long does it take them to process the claims? If you have damage and don't live within the 750FT area, will you be denied by their insurance company? What if anything will the town do to assist its residents in this process if our property is damaged and our claim is denied? We are not an affluent area; we are hardworking middle class and if damage to our homes is extensive what is our recourse? These are the questions the town needs the answers to before the application is approve in order to protect our residents.

In my research on home damage claims against Maine Drilling and Blasting, I found a very disturbing pattern of denied damage claims. Please see the links to the articles below.

**Andover Townsman (MA), August 9, 2018: Blasting Damage Claims denied by MD&B (30 residents)**  
[https://www.andovertownsman.com/news/blasting-damage-claims-denied/article\\_f209793c-54c7-5a91-9b8e-51563fa99693.html](https://www.andovertownsman.com/news/blasting-damage-claims-denied/article_f209793c-54c7-5a91-9b8e-51563fa99693.html)

**CVille-Charlottesville Albemarle airport project, April 16, 2013: Residents say blasting for critical airport project is damaging properties. 8 household claims to MD&B**  
<https://www.c-ville.com/big-bang-theory-residents-say-blasting-for-critical-airport-project-is-damaging-properties>

**Wicked Local Marblehead, February 1, 2013: New Hampshire, 25 residents: Fighting blasting company (MD&B) no easy road**

<https://www.wickedlocal.com/story/marblehead-reporter/2013/02/01/n-h-residents-fighting-blasting/39847246007/>

**Patch Marblehead, MA February 1, 2013: 27 Homeowners filed claims against MD&B denied**

<https://patch.com/massachusetts/marblehead/glover-neighbors-told-they-are-on-their-own>

**The Nashua Telegraph, New Hampshire December 30, 2010: Homeowners filed claims denied**

<https://www.nashuatelegraph.com/news/local-news/2010/12/30/blasting-firm-denies-homeowner-claims/>

*I would also like to cite the regulations as they pertain to our concerns and note that the applicant shall have the burden to prove!*

**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 designs

**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.

**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.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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