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Gales Ferry CT -6335

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Member of the Ledyard Planning and Zoning Sub-Committee  
Ledyard Town Hall  
Ledyard CT 06339

Dear Chairman Woody and Commissioners,

I am writing with concerns about parking regulations, which I understand you will be addressing at your February 5 meeting.

In the Gales Ferry District we are all concerned about the possibility of cars from any possible multi-family development being forced to park on our narrow streets. Visibility on the streets is already bad in spots, where curves and steep hills prevent a driver seeing what might be ahead on the street. The current conditions of snow banks on either side of the roads makes the danger especially clear. The attached photo is a particularly bad blind spot on Military Highway, just around the corner from Sweet Hill Farm, heavily traveled by vehicles and pedestrians. This is the street where people from a possible development would be forced to park.

In our rural town, this is a concern everywhere. For example, yesterday I was driving on one well-trafficked road in town, where cars are currently forced to find a spot to pull over to let a driver pass in the opposite lane, since the snow is piled up on both sides. There is no way an emergency vehicle could get past oncoming traffic.

Cars parked in the street are the equivalent of snowbanks, and make navigation difficult if not impossible. There are many roads in Ledyard like these, where on-street parking is dangerous. And where would these cars park during winter conditions when on-street parking is banned?

Our roads are used every day by joggers, dogwalkers, families with strollers, and children on bicycles, since there are no sidewalks for pedestrians in most residential areas. If cars are forced to park on the streets because they do not have enough spaces in a development, all these people out for healthy exercise would be in danger from two-way

traffic attempting to travel in one lane around the cars. Emergency vehicles would also have great difficulty navigating, especially when time is of essence.

Please consider carefully the ramifications of not requiring sufficient parking in any proposed development, for the health and safety of our residents. This is a rural town, not a city where there are parking lots and designated parking spaces along the streets. (And a side note, I wonder how many people would want to live in a development where they could not park the cars they need?)

Thank you for your consideration, and for all you do on behalf of our town!

Sincerely,  
Mary B. Larson (Mobby)

