

Received
at Public
Workshop
5/14/2016

May 14, 2026

TO Planning and Zoning Commission

From: Karen Parkinson, 55 Rose Hill Road, Ledyard

Chair, Ledyard Historic District Commission

Re: Pre-Application re Gales Ferry Village, Introduction of Dave Schroeder, HDC as applicant

YES, LEDYARD IS A HISTORIC TOWN,,,,,please keep that foremost in this discussion. And tonight, I request that you put on your "P" hat for PLANNING. And a 50 year VISION, not a 10 year plan.

We are here tonight because we are passionate about history; we care about Gales Ferry and we care about Ledyard.

The HDC was approached by Mr Schroeder and other Villages residents, requesting the HDC act as the applicant for a zoning change for the village, initially back to "design" district, which had been changed to "Development" district, and in essence losing much protection for the village. After much discussion, reviewing our mission, and the "call" to take more action in preservation of the village in 2020 POCD, the HDC agreed to be this applicant.

A bit of historical background. Fifty years ago historical preservation was busy in Ledyard. The HDC was created, Nathan Lester homestead acquired, the sawmill was added. The Ledyard Historical Society was very busy, with local historians writing several volumes of Ledyard/Gales Ferry history. Life hummed along; nothing was seen as a threat to Ledyard's pride in maintaining its "rural character." In more recent times things changed without careful scrutiny. Threats emerged. Across the state, small communities became targets for data centers. mega warehouses, more dense housing, changes in state regulations. A progressive erosion of protection was occurring, not only of historic homes and properties but equally and more frightening, of our historic landscapes. Disappearing were forests, kettle holes, stonewalls, ledges, and cliffs. So as you listen to Daves's presentation, think of Gales Ferry Village not only of its structures, but of its landscapes, boat houses, its coves and ponds, its cliffs and bluff.....all need protection.

Thank you.