

September 11, 2024

Catherine J. Marshall  
66 Partridge Hollow Road  
Gales Ferry, CT 06335

Mr. Tony Capon, Chair  
Ledyard Planning and Zoning Committee  
Ledyard Town Hall  
741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339

Dear Mr. Capon:

I am writing to state my very strong opposition to the resubmitted application by Cashman Dredging and Marine Contracting to blast and dredge in the historic community of Gales Ferry.

I have not lived in Gales Ferry for very long compared to most of my neighbors and friends—not quite eight years now—but have come to love the community and the residents of Gales Ferry and Ledyard. What happens in this community, and how it affects the health and well-being of all of us who make our homes here, matters very much to me.

I attended the meetings of the Planning and Zoning Committee last December, during which the proposed plans to quarry rock on Mount Decatur in Gales Ferry was discussed extensively and in great detail. I heard Phil Fiore provide details about the possible release of silica dust, a carcinogen, and I heard many other attendees voice their concerns for the foundations of their homes, contamination of their water sources, heavy truck traffic on our local roads, and fears for their own health.

For the second time, I want to point out that the people who are proposing and condoning this project are not community members. Cashman Dredging & Marine Contracting is based in Quincy, MA. They are not endangered by proximity to the work location. I recall the op-ed piece in The Day of New London in which Tony Sheridan, CEO of the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut, supported the project with enthusiasm if not elation. Let's remember that Mr. Sheridan lives in Waterford, not in Gales Ferry or Ledyard. His property and well-being are not threatened, and his support for this blasting and dredging should not influence your decision.

In addition to having grave concerns about the Cashman proposal, I have equally grave concerns about the Klewin project that is proposed for the Sweetwater Farms area. Surely there must be more appropriate locations for hundreds of housing units than this small area located in a village in which none of the homes are higher than two stories. If these projects are approved it will be clear that the Town of Ledyard does not consider the village of Gales Ferry an equal partner in the governance of the town.

Very truly yours,



Catherine J. Marshall

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