

11/22/2024

Caryn Oresky

1 West 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 live in Gales Ferry and am respectfully writing in strong opposition to the Cashman/GFI proposed implementation of a quarry in the middle of our quaint, quiet town, Gales Ferry.

**First, I am not sure why we are at this point in the first place. I have reviewed some of the Ledyard zoning regulations, which prohibit the proposed use of the site by Cashman.** I planted a willow hedge from around 14 sticks along Laurel Leaf Drive (too close to the curb as I did not know the zoning law. Years later, after they grew to full height, the hedge became a “zoning” safety issue. I received the nice, threatening legal letter from the zoning office and was visited and told that people could not see down Laurel Leaf Drive from the stop sign on the corner and it could cause an accident.

Hence, the town came and removed the entire beautiful hedge. If a hedge is a safety issue, why can't even adhere to your own zoning regulations, when a wealthy company comes knocking at our door proposing an operation ten years in length that is a threat to the entire community from silica dust linked to cancer, radon contamination, water/well contamination, murder of trees, destruction of wildlife habitat, constant noise (trucks, blasting, rock crushing), in addition to destruction of a historic site.

Further, I believe that this will lead to devaluation of home prices, as stated in evidence supplied in the public hearing by a real estate agent. What are you going to get from this? It was stated by a “so-called” expert from Goman + York (whose obviously biased testimony said this would be wonderful for the town, even though his statements did not pertain to rock quarries), that only after 10 years would the town see any financial benefit. It seems a major win for Cashman and a loss for the town: his doesn't seem to balance out in terms of lost revenue from property devaluation and other factors. In the meantime, Cashman trucks will be wearing down our roads and Cashman operation will be destroying our quality of life. Will our small-town zoning board respond to people's complaints? Will anyone in our town respond to people's complaints? How much money do you

have to monitor what Cashman says they will do as opposed to what they actually do in terms of safety? Do you have the money to litigate against Cashman? What will you do if people in the area start developing cancer from silica and dust which can't be contained? I believe the town is and will be liable. After all, it comes back to the fact that you are willing to bend your own zoning laws to possibly approve this.

I'll tell another story – a professional chemical engineer I know retired from his job, which was to implement safety protocols at a major manufacturing plant (that used highly hazardous chemicals) in New Jersey in a densely populated area. Only the company wouldn't implement these safety features, of course... they wanted to save money, putting the entire community at risk. Hence, he retired early. In a world full of human caused environmental and health related disasters (Flint Michigan) ... do you really trust this company to do the right thing? Sorry, I'm not drinking the Kool-Aid.

Lack of transparency by the zoning commission to town members, leads to other questions...

Why was the former town planner fired by Mayor Fred Allyn with no explanation after making comments about concerns regarding the proposed project?

Why are you taking testimony from compromised people like Tony Sheridan, a Chamber of Commerce member, who got a sizable donation from Cashman? He doesn't even live in our town.

Sitting at these hearings, I question whether the zoning commission has the capacity to make a sound decision. As the radon expert said after the zoning council had no further questions regarding his testimony, "Of course not." Why are you not bringing in any state environmental experts to help with your decision? What is really going on here?

If this goes through, I will seriously be considering leaving this town. **There are better ways to develop the site that will generate revenue without such risk to the environment and the community.**

Thank you for your consideration,



Caryn Oresky