

November 2, 2004

To: Ledyard Planning and Zoning Commission

From: Sharon (Weiss) Ward
25 Whippoorwill Dr
Gales Ferry, CT 06335

RE: Cashman/GFI Rock Quarry Project Application

I am very much in favor of bringing business to the Town of Ledyard/Gales Ferry as we need the growth and increased tax base to reduce the tax impact on residents. While I haven't personally shopped at Dollar General or frequented the newer restaurants along Rt 12, I know that they are beneficial to many residents and our tax base. I am also supportive of the apartments being developed off Military Highway as we need rental housing in town.

The Cashman/GFI application to create a quarry at the former Dow property does bring many concerns to my mind, though. The silica dust, increased truck traffic, noise and decimation of Mount Decatur as mentioned at many P/Z meetings are all valid concerns. I wanted to also share my personal experience with the quarry located off of Baldwin Hill Rd. I live on Whippoorwill Drive which is up the wooded hill from the quarry located off Baldwin Hill Rd. I regularly hear all of the equipment used to dig and move the material from the quarry, in addition to the explosions, that are used. Occasionally, I notice, on Facebook, a notification of an upcoming explosion, but mostly it is an explosion that just comes out of nowhere, and jolts you to attention. The noise from the quarry begins before 6:30AM and continues throughout the day. This type of operation and the hours that it runs are inappropriate near neighborhoods. While I understand this decision was made in the past and should not be changed, we should not make the same mistake again by approving another quarry.

Unfortunately, I don't recall any public notification of the quarry opening off of Baldwin Hill Rd and I'm not clear how it was even allowed since the town's P/Z regs appear to prevent a quarry from operating in town. I feel a quarry operating near the center of Gales Ferry with the dense housing/small business/school activity is not appropriate due to the noise, silica dust, and heavy construction truck traffic in addition to the unsightly mess that will be left of Mount Decatur. I'm not looking for the Cashman property to remain undeveloped rather I believe it is better suited to light industrial activity. When Dow/AMSTY were operating, we were able to co-exist even though there were large tractor trailers leaving with foam and there was a smell of polystyrene sometimes. Quarry work, though, is much more invasive and includes significantly more truck traffic. This type of operation doesn't appear to meet the current standards of the P/Z regs and should not be approved by the P/Z Commission as a special use permit due to the negative impacts to the residents and the environment.

Please accept my concerns and add my letter to the exhibits regarding the Cashman/GFI Rock Quarry Project.

Thank you,

Sharon (Weiss) Ward
Resident
25 Whippoorwill Dr
Gales Ferry, CT 06335