

Anna Wynn

From: Elizabeth Burdick
Sent: Thursday, December 19, 2024 2:00 PM
To: Anna Wynn
Subject: FW: In Support of Denying the Cashman Proposal

New public comment exhibit.

Regards,
Liz Burdick
Director of Land Use & Planning
Town of Ledyard
741 Colonel Ledyard Highway, Ledyard, CT 06339
Telephone: (860) 464-3215 ~ Email: planner@ledyardct.org TOWN HALL HOURS: MON-THURS, 7:30AM – 4:45PM

-----Original Message-----

From: fireflygirl <fireflygirl4@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 19, 2024 1:22 PM
To: Elizabeth Burdick <planner@ledyardct.org>
Subject: In Support of Denying the Cashman Proposal

To the Members of the Ledyard Planning and Zoning Commission,

I write with deep concern and in vehement opposition to the Cashman/GFI proposal to establish a "QUARRY"(which they are trying to pass off as major excavation) in Gales Ferry. This project represents a grave threat to the health, safety, and character of our community. The idea of allowing such a disruptive and damaging operation in a residential area defies reason and violates the core principles of sound governance and responsible planning.

The harmful effects of this quarry are undeniable. Blasting operations will produce fine particulate matter, including silica dust, a known health hazard. Noise, vibrations, and increased truck traffic will endanger both residents and the historic charm of Gales Ferry. Approving this proposal would irreparably harm our community and undermine trust in the commission's ability to protect the public interest.

Key Issues:

1. Public Health Risks:

The dust from blasting contains silica, which can cause severe respiratory illnesses, including silicosis—an incurable and fatal condition. Subjecting children in nearby schools and families in their homes to this hazard is unconscionable. The risk of radon is also another concern that was presented.

2. Environmental Destruction:

Mount Decatur is a historic and natural landmark that holds cultural and geographic significance. Reducing it to rubble for profit would be an irreversible loss and a violation of the town's commitment to environmental preservation.

3. Traffic and Safety Concerns:

Heavy trucks transporting materials will flood local roads, increasing congestion and the risk of accidents, particularly near schools and residential areas. The potential for catastrophic collisions involving school buses or pedestrians cannot be ignored.

4. Devaluation of Property and Quality of Life:

Years of blasting, noise, and environmental degradation will devastate property values and force families to leave. Gales Ferry will no longer be a desirable place to live, jeopardizing the stability of the community.

5. Community Character and Reputation:

Gales Ferry is a village of families, schools, and history with two Historical Districts. A quarry is entirely incompatible with this identity. To approve such a project would permanently damage the town's character and standing, leaving a legacy of regret.

Failure to Meet Zoning Standards:

The Ledyard Planning and Zoning Regulations exist to protect the public's health, safety, and welfare. This proposal violates multiple provisions, including those meant to:

Reduce congestion and ensure safety from dangers.

Preserve air quality and promote general welfare.

Protect historic, tribal, and environmental resources.

A quarry, no matter how it is labeled, contradicts these goals and cannot be justified under the town's zoning framework.

A Clear Choice

This decision is about priorities. Will the commission prioritize corporate profits over the health, safety, and character of Gales Ferry? Or will it honor its responsibility to protect the people it serves? Approving this proposal would signal abandonment of the town's values and its residents.

I implore you to reject the Cashman/GFI application in its entirety. This project is wrong for Gales Ferry, and the community deserves better. Preserve our village, protect our families, and uphold your commitment to the well-being of this town.

As someone (with asthma) that resides 50% of my time in Gales Ferry, with my significant other, who lives less than a mile away from this potential disaster on the River Thames, I respectfully urge you to deny Cashman's proposal for the above reasons and in line with the majority of the residents in the town and others that share my concerns.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration on this very important matter.

Respectfully,
Brittany J. Smith
Sent from my iPhone