

Kathy Warzecha

From: M A <reachma@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 16, 2021 11:24 AM
To: Kathy Warzecha
Subject: "EXTERNAL" Revised comments

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Hi Kathy...If you could delete my original comments and replace it with this one, I'd be most grateful. I thank you.

At 56, I have lived in the same house in Preston since my parents and I moved here 44 years ago. In that time, going from Lisa's Hot Dog Stand to a large casino certainly changed things. Yet, a slight buffer of land between the casino and quiet town of Preston....and the neighborhood on RT 164 approaching Rt 2, remained.

And over the years, I've watched Norwich implode on itself. You have a nice church on West Main Street and then a tacky looking Firestone was built right next to it. You have a downtown with historic buildings, and then a fairly beautiful marina.....but gargantuan parking garages and at least two empty buildings separating the two. I could go on. It all amounts to poor planning or regulating.

Back to Preston. As in the case of a few years back when an outdoor concert area was proposed, now an RV park, with accompanying use of a small pond is being proposed. Now I don't claim to be an expert on anything about what some are citing as reasons to stop such a development (costs to the town, ecological reasons, etc..). And I do realize the land in question is no longer owned by Preston. But, on one particular corner of this relatively quiet, small town is a small school, and one of the few small but fairly populated neighborhoods in Preston. Many residents of this neighborhood reside on the edge of the equally small Avery Pond. Directly surrounding the neighborhood, school and residential areas by the pond are woods and farm land. It's been this way for more decades than I've been here. I have no problem at all with RV parks, in general, or with people who want to build them. I'm all for making money, and sure wish I could recall what it feels like. But it should come as no surprise to anyone on any side of this, that that there are many local residents who didn't want outdoor concerts before, or an RV campground now...with all that accompanies it, right out our collective back windows.

I was told that you have to come up with very specific, technical and unshakable legal reasons why such an RV park (or anything else), shouldn't be built smack against a longstanding, quiet neighborhood and school, and that you can't just say you're simply against it. I thought about that, agreed with the premise, and then decided my gut answer is, "Why not?!" I understand those who think this is a great idea. But in just speaking for myself, I can't for the life of me figure out why, every couple of years now, a large scale plan is proposed to go so pressed against what has been a quiet neighborhood for decades. Is there no other land available that is even a mere mile away, and not right on top of local residents? And are our town leaders backing these taxpaying residents' reasonable desire not to have a neighborhood that has remained relatively quiet for countless decades, completely transformed?

I can no more answer these questions than I can our son's questions on Algebra! And I don't claim to have a solution that is fair to "all" parties involved. But to sum it all up in the most technical way I can, I just think the whole thing is ridiculous. That's just one man's opinion.

Sincerely,

Mark O'Neill

Preston, CT