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Subject:URGENT: Letter from Polansky residents on North Farms Road -- Re: Data Center Vote

Date:2021-06-21 22:18

From:Michael Polansky <jessandmike1039@gmail.com>

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Dear Mayor Dickinson, Town Attorney Janis Small, and all Town Council members:

I'm writing to you in good faith relative to very serious concerns that will negatively impact my family, my neighbors, and or neighborhood ...

I was born and raised in Wallingford, I love this town; it has always been my home. My husband and I have been raising our 3 children on our 1039 North Farms residence for the last 20 years, so needless to say, the recent discussions regarding the possible action with Gotspace for the development of Data Centers on the 500 acres behind us has been of extreme importance to us. I understand that their business could be beneficial for our town, however please don't let obtaining their business come at a grave and dire expense to the families who have deep generational roots in Wallingford, who are fully invested in creating the happy and safe havens that we call home. Please understand that if these data centers are placed too close to us, we are facing a certain reality that will devastate our property and our quality of life, for the rest of our lives. Please understand the gravity of that statement because your votes will have dire consequences relative to the level of happiness, health, well being, and peace we'll experience in our home and on our land in our own backyard .. 24 hours a day and 7 days a week ... for the rest of our lives.

Despite what the company says, it's well documented that these data centers are obnoxiously loud, enormous in size (two story buildings each spanning acres in size), on top of being nature and environment killing buildings that ultimately omit toxins into our clean farmland air. On top of that, they are also electricity guzzlers that could negatively impact Wallingford's power grid that our town already needs and uses. It should be common sensical to understand why these buildings should never be in close proximity to anyone residentially. The "football field away" is still too close to our residential area per everyone who already lives around them. Our family and those around us will suffer tremendously; that's not an opinion it's a fact. There are no positives to any homeowners having these in their back yards. Neighborhoods who have had these dumped on them describe a nightmare -- a living Hell -- that much is documented. On top of my obvious care and concern for my own family, I also care about the quality of life for my neighbors as well. None of us deserve our way of life, our quality of life, our privacy, the character of our land in our residential neighborhood, our landscape and view, to be interrupted let alone destroyed by LOUD, enormous, unsightly industry. Mr. Quinn said in an online meeting that these companies like their privacy -- well so do we.

I've rested in faith believing that our elected leaders in positions of power would hear our concerns, understand our plight, and ultimately care about the families who will be directly impacted in very damaging ways. I've trusted that behind the scenes the best interests of

our families (who live in this area) were going to be respected and taken to heart. However, now, my faith is being tested, and my trust is teetering on being broken, in learning that the plans that have been pushed the hardest behind the scenes are anything but proactive to my family and our North Farm's neighborhood. The residents need to know if Mayor Dickinson has introduced, and has been pushing, these latest plans that look eerily familiar (same roads) to the plans that were vehemently rejected by residents on North Farms Road from many years past when the town tried to force the Werbiski farm out of business by taking their land by eminent domain. At that time, the mass majority of North Farm's residents were strongly against this action. I spoke in support of my neighbors maintaining their livelihood and ability to farm their land that was 5 generations deep in operation. I did that because my moral convictions told me it was the right thing to do; it was the right thing to do. With that said, these latest plans, only put out as the ink dried on the Werbiski contract, *feel extremely retaliatory towards me*. These latest plans are the worst case scenario for my home/family and my surrounding neighbors. In both meetings, we spoke out about building 5 (one single smaller building) being too close in proximity to our homes (diagonal to my property on map), and our desire to push everything back was strongly voiced. No one voiced any concern for where Building #1 and Building #2 were located and yet they are now also moved behind my home and my neighbors home(s) on North Farms. Now, out of the blue, a triple-in-size two story monstrosity is now placed directly behind my home with 4 additional monstrosities around that enormous building. How did we go from Mr. Quinn stating that he would work with us and move Building 5 father back -- to now multiple enormous buildings being clustered directly behind my home? If it is true that Mayor Dickinson has been pushing this plan to Mr. Quinn behind the scenes when it's in direct conflict to everything we've voiced our grave concern over, we need an explanation. With 500 acres in play, why are plans being pushed that are clustered behind us when we've collectively begged for that not to happen? Why are plans being pushed that will indeed harm us by destroying our quality of life in every way that greatly matters to us and our neighbors? If Mayor Dickinson wants this business to help the town, which it can, how about aim to broker a deal that will make everyone happy? If need be, how about limit the amount of buildings to 3 instead of 5, so they can bury them deep enough within their property so tax paying home owners can't see them or hear them -- at all. It's a sickening feeling, in the most upsetting way, that this feels so retaliatory in nature towards me (and my family). How can I not take these sudden and drastic changes personally?

We elect you all to do right by us. From a personal perspective, and specific to our own back yard, my husband and I have killed ourselves to create a back yard paradise where nature and outdoor activities are our true and daily way of life. We have vegetable gardens, fruit gardens, extensive flower gardens, a compost area, a huge outdoor living patio and grilling area, as well as multiple outdoor sporting setups that are conducive to our family's extremely active and outdoorsy way of life. We love nature and we spend an enormous amount of time in our back yard enjoying every aspect of it. It is devastating to think we've work our entire lives creating a beautiful home for our family (and future grandchildren) that is our absolute everything, only to have it be viewed as expendable by those who place a greater value on big business rather than their fellow hardworking citizens. I plead that you please put the shoe on the other foot. If you wouldn't be willing to destroy your own quality of life, surrounding your own home and yard, please do not destroy ours. If you thoroughly do the research you will learn that this specific type of business is anything but neighborhood friendly -- even from many football fields away. There is not one person on record, who lives much farther than a football fields away (from these data centers) who has anything positive to say about living by them. For starters, they all say they are devastated by the results of the noise pollution that they were told would not exist. Their complaints are endless. Again, they all describe a living Hell.

I implore you to take your time and not allow anything relative to this vote to be rushed. Please give our neighborhood your respect by fully researching the decibel level of noise pollution that we will be subjected to 24/7 in our country backyard(s). Please let your loyalty lie with the families in our Wallingford community who will be negatively impacted on a grand scale. Big business comes and goes, our families are deeply rooted and invested in our town and community. It's very easy for this to be a pro-idea to anyone who's not affected by the serious cons of it. Please protect those of us who are having the cons forced upon on us without our consent. I understand that Mr. Quinn said he's invested time, money, and energy into his plans, however this is our lives and there is no greater investment for us than our children/family and our home in which we live. We're invested in our homes, our daily life, and our quality of life that is being threatened. Why have the plans changed so drastically at the peril to North Farms homeowners; specifically my own home? Again, with 500 acres purchased, why would our leader, Mayor Dickinson, willfully choose and support plans that will harm his fellow citizens the most?

- Since March, when Wallingford started upgrading our utility poles, neighbors have already suffered serious property damage from power surges which were to compensate for the additional electricity that is needed. These power surges resulted in blown out electrical kitchen appliances that the Electric Division then assumed zero liability for (entire kitchen: refrigerator, stove, dishwasher etc). A neighbors house also almost caught on fire from a recent surge. Our power, phone lines, and internet service has already been negatively impacted. When it rains you can *now* hear the power lines buzzing behind us which is very unsettling. How can anyone in good conscience vote "yes" without fully understanding the full scope of potential harm facing our families in our neighborhood? Careful examination of our power grid is critical. How is it feasible for Wallingford Electric to be able to supply our entire town with electricity after supplying these buildings with the amount they will need to function? Is it true that these buildings are going to use more electricity than our entire town collectively already uses grouped all together? There are a lot of serious questions that need to be addressed before a vote is taken, especially if unknown dangers loom around our homes that can directly harm us -- our quality of life, our property value(s), and our health and well being etc. Limiting the amount of buildings would also help Wallingford's power grid, on top making residents happy by placing these monstrosities far away from our residential homes.

As I said in the meetings, our residential road already experiences traffic overuse on a daily basis. North Farms Road has become a speedway. It has become unsafe to utilize for walking, jogging, and biking exercise purposes. Mr. Quinn stated that he sat in his car on North Farms Road and watched dump trucks and tractor trailers going up and down our road. Again, this is a residential neighborhood. This should not be the norm in a residential neighborhood where little kids play and wait for their school bus. No access at all should be granted onto North Farms Road beyond emergency use only. This should be clear without any exceptions beyond the allowance for emergency use only. Will it be stipulated that North Farms Road will not be used during (or after) the construction phases for any use at all other than emergency? Mr. Quinn stated will take 18 months to build each building, this is not a total of 18 months, this is 18 months per each building erected.

I implore you all to deny *any* plans within close proximity to residential homes. My family does not want these buildings anywhere near our home! The newest plans are right behind my house and if approved this will devastate my family and neighbors. As tax paying citizens who utilize our back yard, we are used to birds singing, peaceful sunset views, and the beauty of nature as our home's backdrop. We should not be forced to suffer (24/7) with constant LOUD obnoxious noise pollution, sight pollution from these enormous two-story lit

up monstrosities, potentially dangerous electrical surges that can have dire consequences, and every other unknown and potentially dangerous factor that looms around us. If proper plans are developed that don't destroy our quality of life than this can be a win for everyone, but how cold of anyone to vote yes to put this in our back yard -- if you'd never vote yes to put it in your own.

As I said earlier, big business comes and goes in our town (just look at Bristol Myers). It's our neighborhood families of good and well intentioned people who are deeply rooted here in the fabric that is our Wallingford community. I'm old enough to remember a time when we all looked out for each other, a time when it was easy to do right by one another. I still believe good people look out for other good people, and in saying that, I'm saying that I have faith in all of you to do right by all of us who so desperately need your help. Please take your elected positions seriously and please do not proceed with any plans that even remotely have the potential to destroy our quality of life.

Please feel free to reach out to discuss this letter via email or by phone #860-209-0591.

Thank you for your time.
Respectfully,

Jessica Gannon Polansky
Mike Polansky
(and our children: Michael, Jocelyn & Jesse)