

From: [Meghan Greer](#)
To: [DeCarli, Jeremy](#)
Subject: 53 Long Hill Road zoning change
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2021 7:53:02 PM

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Mr. DeCarli, My name is Meghan Greer, my family recently sold what is now 53 Long Hill property in the historic district in Middle Haddam. We owned the 17 acre parcel for over 50 years always with the intention of keeping it as raw land or, if sold, low density housing. When we put it on the market it was swept-up immediately, certainly the buyer had it on his radar.

I write to you in anticipation of the upcoming planning and zoning meeting to discuss changing this parcel from residential to commercial status. This is very disheartening and a huge disappointment that the town is considering this request especially in an "historical district" of all places!

When the offer came in, first day on the market, we looked-up the buyer. When we saw it was listed as a business name we feared the worst. We inquired as to our rights and our lawyer assured us if we reversed the sale the buyer would surely sue us! Yes, this is within ones legal rights and how sad when the buyer knowingly wanted to change the face of a town in which he does not even reside.

Is there no recourse for a town with an "historical district" designation to deny the application to go from residential to commercial? How does real estate within an "historical district" even get considered for a zone change?! Especially a commercial zone change! What is the criteria for "historical" and how does commercial fit if remaining "historical"? These are concerning questions, in my opinion, and ones to be considered before the irreversible decision is made to change the face of your beautiful town.

I lived in Newport RI within an "historical district" for over 20 years. The criteria set forth by the city government was very strict and resulted in a truly preserved setting. From my first-hand experience the "historical" status is a two-way street, people who live within such a designation abide by the imposed guidelines (because they value the aesthetic) and in-turn expect it to be upheld. It would seem, although I cannot claim to know, that the board has a say in what they want to protect and that their hands are not entirely tied.

Unfortunately the sale has already taken place and the town is scheduled to consider this zone change. It is a shame that a business owner can threaten to sue people/towns in order to make plans that suit them to turn out in their favor. Where is the town governments allegiance to the existing residents who, some, have lived there for decades? I speak on behalf of my family, who albeit are no longer in Connecticut, conserved the land for over 50 years based upon the value of preservation.

I am aware of towns in Connecticut that, gratefully, have visions and stand by them. East Hampton is on the cusp of making an irreversible decision that will inevitably change the face of such a quintessential and timeless New England community setting.

I truly hope a decision that works for all and not just some or one can be the result.

Sincerely,

Meghan Greer

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