

June 15, 2021

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Planning and Zoning Public Hearing

RE: Proposed HOD Project – Laning Oaks, 295 Laning Street, Southington, CT 06489

Regarding possible Health and Safety issues and Environmental Impacts

My name is Sandra McKenney, I live at 304 Laning Street with my husband, George who is a retired business professional and VietNam Veteran. Before my retirement, I had a successful art business in Southington for 30 years. We are both lifelong residents and the 304 Laning Street property has been in my family since 1955.

This is the second time I have spoken before this Board of Commissioners, the first was to voice my dismay at the placement of the entrance to this proposed housing project. I will continue to express serious concern, based on “common knowledge” and our own personal experience. It is difficult at best to see traffic coming from either direction at the crest of the hill on a clear day. But, this is further exacerbated by rain, snow and darkness. I would invite you to view our mailbox and the 25mph traffic sign, both victims of someone who could not make the crest successfully.

Regarding the safety issues (in the proposed development) with Fire and Rescue, I would encourage the commissioners to **recall** what actually happens to “a street” or “an area of a street” when the call goes out for fire or rescue. It is never just a fire truck that must maneuver into position, they bring with them, the fire chief’s vehicle, EMS, ambulance, and often police. It is not just one vehicle that can successfully operate from a curb (especially, depending on the location of a fire hydrant).

The proposed “emergency exit” that dumps into the church parking lot, doesn’t even make sense, it bisects two personal apartment driveways. It also introduces a safety concern for those times when activities occur at the church or there are children playing and/or cars moving in the parking lot.

Thank you for allowing me to share our concerns regarding the overall health of the surrounding natural environment. As you know, Loper Street was rezoned

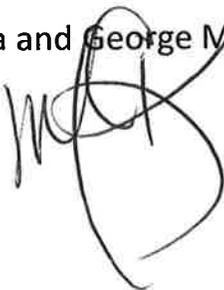
from farmland to R20/25 to accommodate the building of multiple single family homes. These homes back up many of the properties on Laning Street. Clearing the farmland and removing much of the natural environment has had a significant impact on the wildlife, pollinators and American songbirds. There has been a significant increase of wildlife that frequents our property. And a decrease in the variety of species that we are accustomed to seeing. All due to the changing environment. A very sad truth.

Our property has been designated a National Wildlife Federation Habitat and Bird Friendly Zone since before 2000, which means that we not only provide a healthy environment for wildlife and birds, but monitor thru Cornell Labs, Cornell University, the health and safety of our environment. It is of utmost importance to protect the natural environment that remains as a legacy to the future. With this in mind, George and I do not want our property rezoned to accommodate one development or one developer's needs, and I am confident that our neighbors on Doral Drive, feel the very same way. My fight is for wildlife and its survival, their's is for the health and safety of their families, their drinking water and the issue of not being built upon.

Many of us feel like we are being pressured into something that we all know will damage our home environments. That is the fight for health and safety. It is totally unrealistic to expect neighbors to agree to/or support a development plan that benefits no one in the existing area and causes great damage to what remains to a very fragile natural environment. I would implore the commission to vote to reject this proposal. And leave the property undeveloped in this small segment of the Town.

Kudos to the Lady from Doral, who did all the leg work....what a difference you made.

Sandra and George McKenney

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sandra and George McKenney', written in a cursive style.