

Dear Wilton Zoning board and Planning Board.

10/13/19

As a Wilton resident I am writing to express my concern and dismay about the proposed Asphalt plant for lot B10 near Goss Park.

I know this proposal was granted a variance 30 years ago. Usually we have to suffer the consequences of wrong decisions and don't have the opportunity to decide on another course. We are lucky that the buyer of the Quinns first proposed plant fell through and that they therefore did not take advantage of the variance they got in 1988 and 1990. We are now given a second chance as a town to undo the mistake that was made in granting the variance way back then..

I say this because a lot has happened in these 30 years that shows that we would have regretted having this industry in Wilton. There is much more research and evidence about the toxic fumes, visible or invisible, that these plants spew out and the resulting illnesses that occur; there is a lot more evidence of the fire dangers (while the fire chief says we are equipped to deal with these a fire would also require a 1/2 mile evacuation and untold chemically toxic fumes) and some towns have shown that housing values and therefore town tax income in the neighborhood may be affected. Wilton is also a different town now with a different ZBA.

What hasn't changed is the wishes of the Wilton community to celebrate and protect our rural nature as the gateway to the Monadnock region.

I understand that the variance is about the height, but really the height dictates whether such a plant can or cannot be built so the decision to grant or not grant this variance must take into account that the two: height and batch asphalt plant, go together. Saying yes to height is saying yes to the asphalt plant, whether the height is visible or not or whether the fire ladder is long enough or not.

The real question on the table is does the Wilton community want an asphalt plant less than 2 miles from its schools, from its downtown and next door to its swimming hole?

The conditions that must be met to grant a variance to a town ordinance that was voted into law at a town meeting are spelled out in RSA 674:33 2009. These conditions have been more clearly articulated in the years since 1988. They clearly allow the Zoning Board to make a decision to continue to protect us from what is an undesirable and potentially harmful industry.

I ask you to look at this proposal in light of all the new information that was not available or on the table 30 years ago and deny the requested variance.

Respectfully,
Glynn Graham
608 Abbot Hill Rd
Wilton

Glynn Graham

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BY: