

Edward Wazer  
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February 10, 2014

PDR of Mountain Dairy

Dear Council Members,

It is my understanding that the Council is facilitating the purchase of development rights for Mountain Dairy properties. The bucolic views residents enjoy because of this farm are undeniable, nonetheless the long-term consequences of this decision must be pondered. Regardless of what Mansfield or the State of CT does, Mountain Dairy will not exist forever. The business may last another few years, or 25 years, regardless, the property will be sold someday. If the PDR locks up very large pieces of land, then only the very rich will be able to afford it. Parcels that are not small, 10 acres or less, or are required to be working farms that produce food for the community, will be out of the financial reach of those that wish to produce food.

The PDR system has been applied for decades and many of the properties are now horse "farms"; these farms have little direct benefit to the community. How can the Council work to ensure that our local farms continue, and expand, the production of food for the local community? The state of CT is aware of these issues, please request the state provide alternatives to locking up very large parcels that will be out of the reach of today's young farmers.

Thank you,



Edward Wazer

February 10, 2014

TO: Betsy Paterson

FROM: Paul M. Shapiro

Re: Conflict of Interest

I have determined that I am required by the Code of Ethics to recuse myself from deliberation and voting on a matter that is currently before the Town Council. This memorandum is required by Section 25-7 (C)(2) of the Ethics Ordinance.

The Town Council has, for some time, been considering an open space acquisition. At the most recent executive session on this potential acquisition, I learned that an attorney who is representing a party in a proceeding that is related to the acquisition is someone I have had a professional relationship with. I have done contract work for this attorney between 2008 and 2011. I never discussed the open space acquisition with the attorney and had no idea that he represented anyone in connection with this matter.

I believe that my professional relationship with the attorney may be seen as incompatible with my responsibilities as a member of the Council. Accordingly, I am recusing myself from further participation in or voting on this open space acquisition.

cc: Board of Ethics  
Town Clerk

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