Gmail

PZ Clerk <pzclerk@townofnewlebanonny.gov>

Public comment on Tilden Project

1 message

Katie Fowley [redacted] Mon, Aug 17, 2026 at 12:17 PM
To: pzclerk@townofnewlebanon.com

August 17, 2026

Dear members of the Planning Board,

As a renter in New Lebanon and a high school teacher, I acknowledge the need for affordable housing and groceries. However, I believe that the scale and speed of Tilden Project poses serious environmental and safety concerns.

The project has grown from 28 units to a 41 unit 60,000 square ft. monstrosity. I am concerned for my friends and community members who abut the property and have legitimate fears about how a project of this size will affect both their drinking water and the nearby wetlands. The 3.2 acre lot simply can't support a project of this size.

I am also concerned that this project is happening too fast. The developers are trying to reassure us that tests have been done, and that we can trust their engineers. However, a 72 hour test on the impact on well water is not sufficient for a project that will have lasting effects on residents and the environment, especially with the accelerated changes brought about by climate change–from flooding to drought. How will this project affect our drinking water in 10 years? Growing up with a father who was an environmental lawyer, I often heard stories about the toll of hasty development and disregard for regulations–contamination and pollution that upended people's lives and caused irreparable harm to environments. Access to safe drinking water is a fundamental right. We need more time to study the environmental impacts of this project, from the pollution created by the construction to the ongoing effects of such a large project. We need independent testing, and we need to slow down.

In summary, I acknowledge the need for affordable housing and groceries, but I do not think this is the way. As a community, we could design something better that is truly affordable, such as not-for-profit housing or a sliding scale grocery store. I ask that the Planning Board deny the Tilden Project as it currently stands.

Sincerely,
Katie Fowley
[redacted]