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Town of East Lyme
Land Use

November 30, 2025

Meadowlark Lane community and concerned East Lyme Residents

To:

East Lyme Planning & Zoning Commission
East Lyme Town Hall
108 Pennsylvania Avenue
Niantic, CT 06357

**Subject: Petition Opposing Proposed Subdivision and Residential Development
Behind Meadowlark Lane**

Dear Members of the East Lyme Planning & Zoning Commission,

We, the undersigned residents of East Lyme, respectfully submit this petition to express our strong opposition to the proposed subdivision and residential development behind Meadowlark Lane. This proposal poses significant environmental, community, and infrastructure concerns that directly contradict both the reasonable expectations of current homeowners and the long-term wellbeing of the town.

1. The land was designated and represented as open space

When many of us purchased our homes, the adjacent land behind Meadowlark Lane was identified as protected open space. Homeowners relied on this designation when making significant financial and personal decisions. Real estate agents and developers consistently communicated that this land was *not buildable*, reinforcing our expectation that the area would remain undisturbed. Changing the intended use of this land undermines the trust residents place in town planning processes.

2. Loss of valued open space and neighborhood character

The open space behind Meadowlark Lane is a defining feature of our community. Residents choose to live in East Lyme because of its peaceful environment, well-planned neighborhoods, and balance between development and natural space. Reducing this open space will diminish the character and charm that makes East Lyme attractive to families, professionals, and retirees. Over-development risks eroding what makes this town unique and desirable.

3. Destruction of wildlife habitat

This area supports a thriving ecosystem, including deer, birds, small mammals, and various native plant species. Developing this land would severely disrupt these habitats, displace wildlife and contributing to long-term ecological imbalance. Preserving green

corridors is essential for maintaining the biodiversity that benefits both the environment and the quality of life for residents.

4. Significant blasting and land alteration required

The terrain behind Meadowlark Lane is steep, rocky, and uneven. Any construction would likely require substantial blasting and excavation, causing noise, vibration, dust, and safety concerns for nearby homes. Such disruption could lead to property damage, structural instability, and long-term environmental impacts. The burden of this disturbance will fall disproportionately on existing residents.

5. Increased strain on local infrastructure and drainage systems

East Lyme already faces challenges with water management, especially during heavy rain events. Adding more houses—and the associated paved surfaces—will increase runoff and put additional pressure on the area's drainage systems. This could heighten the risk of flooding, erosion, and costly infrastructure upgrades borne by taxpayers.

6. Negative long-term impact on community desirability

East Lyme is widely recognized for its excellent schools, abundant open space, and strong community connections. Allowing unnecessary and intrusive development threatens these advantages. If the town continues to approve housing expansion at the expense of open land, it risks diminishing the very qualities that draw families and long-term residents here.

Conclusion

For these reasons, we strongly urge the East Lyme Planning & Zoning Commission to deny the proposal for subdivision and residential development behind Meadowlark Lane.

Preserving this land as open space aligns with the town's values, supports environmental sustainability, and maintains the quality of life that residents deeply cherish.

Thank you for your time, attention, and commitment to responsible planning for our community. We respectfully request that this letter be entered into the public record for the upcoming hearing.

Sincerely,

Li Di 8 Meadowlark Lane, East Lyme, CT 06333 *Li Di*
John March 8 Meadowlark Lane, East Lyme, CT 06333 *John March*
Julie Bryant 2 Meadowlark Ln. E-Lyme, CT 06333 *Julie Bryant*
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Tom Nelan 6 meadowlark lane East Lyne CT
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