

Hello, my name is Bernadette Conway and I am one of the organizers of a group called Save Cedar Mountain. This group came about last fall when we found out about a proposed development on Cedar Mountain by Toll Bros. to have a zone change to build condominiums on our beloved Cedar Mountain.

I want to start off by stating I am guilty of taking for granted that Cedar Mountain would always be the pristine, beautiful, undeveloped woodlands that we all know it to be. Having grown up in Newington and choosing to raise my family there, part of that decision was many things, one of them the small town suburban town I felt when I grew up there. Cedar Mountain is and always was an integral part of giving our town that feeling. Everyone who has grown up in Newington knows Cedar Mountain as a landmark, as being a part of the fabric of our community. It is one of the entries to our town and quite a spectacular one.

When we found out last fall that there was a proposal for development, the residents rallied and flooded Planning and Zoning meetings, town council meetings, conservation meetings. A college student started a facebook site titled Save Cedar Mountain that is 3,000 members strong.

Members of our community let our elected and appointed officials know how passionate we are about maintaining that beautiful mountain as undeveloped open space. Of course there are many great reasons for having open space that I can't get into in the limited time I have to speak, but the main reasons are that we feel our town is overdeveloped as it is. Cedar Mountain is really a woodland oasis sandwiched between Hartford, Newington and Wethersfield. It is a part of who we are as a community, a part of our childhood, and and hopefully future.

A lot of residents spend a lot of time hiking, birdwatching and enjoying the tremendous views from the peak of the mountain. We feel this beloved mountain is a part of our identity and who we are.

We are asking that you will convey the 40 acres that are before you today to our town and help us keep this beautiful part of our community undeveloped and open as the residents wish it to be.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of our request.