

Dear New Canaan Planning and Zoning Commissioners,

My name is Jennifer Buczkiewicz and I live at 1258 Smith Ridge Road. I spoke at the December meeting and my husband and I sent a letter in April.

I want to thank our neighbors who have spent countless hours and resources dealing with the impact Grace Farms has on the neighborhood.

Recently I've spent a lot of time thinking about how unfair this situation is to my family. Grace Farms touts their ability to offer a "place of grace and peace" to the wider community. In our many meetings with Grace Farms they have acknowledged our concerns about safety, privacy, and lighting, but as we heard from their attorney, due to the topography there isn't much that can be done for my family. We listened to their ideas about applying an adhesive film on our windows, planting in our septic field and wetlands, and splitting our property in half with a huge hedgerow of trees. I think you can understand our reasons for turning down these ideas.

Grace Farms won't allow us to enjoy our own property as a "place of grace and peace" so we are turning to you. Steve Palmer closed the path this winter and it has meant the world to us. The public on the path was routinely unpredictable and disruptive. The footbridge is about 175 feet from our property line and, due to their height and the topography, the proposed trees to be planted on Grace's property won't screen us from strangers for many years.

Another concern is that no expert can accurately predict how potential buyers will react to Grace Farms when it comes time to sell our home. We feel certain that buyers attending an open house will not react well if they see and hear people on the path. So if the path is left open that fear will also hang over our heads indefinitely.

I doubt that Grace's attendance figures have been affected by the path closure but having it closed has meant the world to one New Canaan family. Mine.

It's also unfair to expect my family to monitor the behavior of the people on Grace's property. I tried once to discuss via email with Grace Farms our concern that the public was not obeying the "Path Closed" signs and was told I didn't follow protocol. I live in a neighborhood where people still drop notes in each other's mailboxes as a way of communicating; true neighbors shouldn't have to adhere to a protocol.

The people who use the path are not our neighbors. Closing the path should keep the public far enough away that they aren't intrusive or threatening and we

should have no reason to alert the security office. We have an unfortunate expansive view of the far side of their property and I can tell you I have never seen a member of their security, and when the day comes that we need them they won't be able to get to us fast enough.

Lighting of that massive glass structure will always be an issue and while they claim to understand, I was dismayed at last month's P & Z meeting at the "year round at closing" plan. That seems to say that they will simply continue to turn the lights off as they see fit.

No matter how you decide to let Grace Farms operate we will have concerns in the future on whether they follow the conditions of their permit, as well as how they are enforced.

In conclusion, I also want to thank each of you for the time and effort you have spent on this application and its many variations. I hope that you will keep us in mind as you deliberate on these issues and grant us the "place of grace and peace" that we so desperately deserve from our property, now and in the future.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Buczkiewicz