



GUILFORD PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

P.O. Box 199 • Guilford, CT 06437
www.guilfordpreservation.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2012 – 2013

HARRY HASKELL
President

ELLIE GREEN
Vice President

ANNIS HOMER
Secretary

JOE CANIPELLI
Treasurer

NANCY ARNOLD

HOWARD BROWN

RUSSELL CAMPAIGNE

DENNIS CULLITON

ELLEN EBERT

KATHERINE FRYDENBORG

SHIRLEY GIRIONI

BILL MACK

JOE NUGENT

SHARON OLSON

ROBERT VAVASOUR

JUDIE FINE

DEBORAH SPALDING

PAT LOVELACE

JAN MAIALE

March 2, 2013

Mr. Raymond Bower, Chairman
Guilford Planning and Zoning Commission
Town Hall South

Dear Mr. Bower.

The GPA opposes the proposed amendments to the zoning code **#273-58L (6)** and Section 273-2 Definitions for the following important reasons:

- 1. The proposed change is in direct conflict with Guilford’s long-standing Zoning Code #273-58 (section 5)**, which provides a list of the signs that “shall not be permitted.” It states that “no flashing, cycling, intermittent, light reflecting, revolving, moving, continuous strip lighting or image display signs (LCD, LED, etc.) will be permitted.” This code was formulated and based on two years of study and extensive public input and support. The intent of this regulation was testified to by the Town’s Zoning Enforcement Officer at the August 15th, 2012 public hearing meeting and affirmed by a member of the study committee at the same hearing.
- 2. The proposed change is in direct conflict with the letter and spirit of the Town Plan of Conservation and Development**, which establishes that all construction is to be “consistent with the character and scale of the community.” This proposal is not only inconsistent with the character of Guilford, it would set a dramatic precedent for the entire state of Connecticut. At the hearing in August, the applicant admitted that no such LED signs have been approved in any town in Connecticut except on limited-access highways. It is significant that the Branford Planning and Zoning Commission overwhelmingly denied this applicant’s proposal for the same amendments.
- 3. It is in conflict with the spirit of the Commission’s regulations on lighting**, which strive to protect neighboring properties from light pollution and to protect the night sky. We believe these amendments will create significant light pollution for nearby residences. In spite of the applicant’s previous assertions regarding light control, one of the



GUILFORD PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

P.O. Box 199 • Guilford, CT 06437
www.guilfordpreservation.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2012 – 2013

HARRY HASKELL
President

ELLIE GREEN
Vice President

ANNIS HOMER
Secretary

JOE CANIPELLI
Treasurer

NANCY ARNOLD

HOWARD BROWN

RUSSELL CAMPAIGNE

DENNIS CULLITON

ELLEN EBERT

KATHERINE FRYDENBORG

SHIRLEY GIRIONI

BILL MACK

JOE NUGENT

SHARON OLSON

ROBERT VAVASOUR

JUDIE FINE

DEBORAH SPALDING

PAT LOVELACE

JAN MAIALE

main reasons for their seeking the changes is increased visibility, and therefore brightness.

- 4. It will create traffic hazards and exacerbate traffic problems at billboard sites.** The bright and rapidly changing signs would be a distraction for drivers and a safety problem. The proposed changes will dramatically increase the total number of advertising messages per square foot of billboard, and greatly increase the number of bright and changing LED billboards in Guilford over time.

Guilford attracts residents and businesses because of its reputation for charm and its natural, cultural and historic resources. It would be a shame to undermine the efforts of previous Planning and Zoning Commissions to upgrade the character of Route One, after countless hours of public hearings, considerable expenditures by the Town for professional studies, and the input of many Guilford citizens. It would also be a shame if Guilford became the first of 169 towns in Connecticut to approve such billboards along roads like Route One.

Thank you for your consideration.

Harry Haskell

President