

Todd Dumais

From: Olin West <olinwest@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 14, 2022 11:29 AM
To: Todd Dumais
Subject: [EXTERNAL SENDER] Sycamore Lane Renaming

I am following up on our conversation this week. I am the owner of the property at 4 Sycamore Lane. I received the notice about the proposed renaming of the street. While I believe it's very important to recognize our diverse history, I am NOT supportive of this proposed name change for the reasons below which are not in order of importance::

- 1) The Sycamore Lane name is historic in its own right and is part of the Prospect Avenue Historic District and in the National Register of Historic Places. Have these authorities been consulted and what are the implications of a name change?
- 2) Disruptions to utilities, mail, legal documents such as mortgages and GPS navigation.
- 3) The application incorrectly states that there is 1 address on Sycamore Lane, mail is actually delivered to at least 3, 4 and 5 Sycamore Lane. This has an impact on more people than the application considered.
- 4) Based upon my research, Peleg Nott has no ties to the properties on Sycamore Lane. There should be a historic reason to rename Sycamore Lane which the application does not demonstrate.
- 5) Renaming a small street is a trivial measure, if we are serious about restoring Peleg Nott's name to history, we should find some landmarks that are worthy. Peleg Nott was a Governor, renaming the West Hartford Town Hall building would be a much better and more visible way to achieve this.

I would request that this be shared with the appropriate people

Best Regards,

Olin West

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KARL & MURIEL FLEISCHMANN

1055 Prospect Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06105
Tel: (860) 983-5502
email:kfleischmann@snet.net

May 18, 2022

West Hartford Town Plan and Zoning Commission

Via email to todd.dumais@westhartfordct.gov

Re: Proposed renaming of Sycamore Lane

Ladies & Gentlemen:

We have received notice of the proposal to change the name of Sycamore Lane to Peleg Nott Lane. We understand the laudable motivation for the proposal – to recognize an enslaved man who lived and worked nearby in the 18th Century – but we disagree that recognition should be accomplished by changing the name of this street.

Our reliance interest

My wife and I have lived at the corner of Prospect Avenue and Sycamore Lane for 50 years. At the southwest corner of our property there is a small carriage house which has since 2003 served as a study/office where I run my business affairs. The address of that structure is 6 Sycamore Lane. I receive business and personal mail there, including bank statements, financial statements, prescriptions, periodicals, FedEx and UPS deliveries, Amazon packages, checks and bills. It would be burdensome and potentially ineffective for me to notify numerous institutions, companies and people of a change of the street name. I like the current name which brings to mind the trees which beautify our property and this neighborhood. Friends visiting us have grown accustomed to driving along Prospect and looking for the Sycamore Lane sign as the signal of where to turn in and park in the street alongside our home.

The doubtful standing of the proponent of a name change

Isaias Wooden is a scholar-athlete at Kingswood-Oxford High School who has researched the history of Peleg Nott as schoolwork. He has determined that Nott was enslaved by Jeremiah Wadsworth and labored more than two centuries ago in the area in which we now live. While Nott once had a connection with the area, as a person long dead he has no interest in it now. It may be doubted whether he would want to be perpetually associated with the probably hateful-to-

him place of his enslavement. Nor has Wooden a connection with this area – he lives three miles away. Although Wooden would like to see Nott remembered he can assert only the tenuous claim that Nott once worked near here. Neither Nott nor Wooden has the current, concrete, continuing and substantial interest in Sycamore Lane that my wife and I have.

Changing the street name would not bring Nott to current notice

From my own observation I can affirm that Sycamore Lane carries little automotive traffic and that I myself am probably its major pedestrian. Other pedestrians include the few people who walk their dogs from Prospect down Sycamore Lane to reach the quiet of Sycamore Road. To place an unfamiliar name on a street sign would provide them with no information of any significance about Nott. And the number of people who drive or walk here is so small as to be inconsequential.

For all these reasons we request that the Town Plan and Zoning Commission disapprove the application to change the name of Sycamore Lane.

Very truly yours,

Karl Fleischmann
Karl Fleischmann

KF:hs

Robert Gosselin

From: Robert Gosselin
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 3:41 PM
To: Robert Gosselin
Subject: FW:Request to rename Sycamore Lane

From: kosto@comcast.net <kosto@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 1:56 PM
To: Todd Dumais <Todd.Dumais@WestHartfordCT.gov>
Cc: Karl Fleischmann <kfleischmann@snet.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL SENDER] Request to rename Sycamore Lane

19 May 2022

West Hartford Town Planning and Zoning Commission

Commissioners,

As the primary home owners on Sycamore Lane for almost 50 years, my wife and I write in opposition to the proposed name change for our historic street. We are sympathetic to the students desire to memorialize the name of an enslaved

resident. As a former member, with Greg Andrews, of the West Hartford Historic Commission years ago, I was involved in the placement of the multiple historic markers scattered throughout the town. I am familiar with the goals and process involved.

The idea of changing a name of a street in the historic Prospect Hill District of the West Hartford Village is without street resident support. For that matter almost all of the petition signers live in other parts of town.

For our family in our mid eighties, changing the street name would be a major inconvenience, requiring notifications to multiple commercial and governmental entities.

We urge you to reject the application and leave our Sycamore Lane as is.

Bernard and Gale Kosto

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19 May, 2022

To: Town of West Hartford Planning and Zoning Commission.

Re: Renaming of Sycamore Lane

Dear Commission,

I am a friend and neighbor who lives just around the corner at 11 Sycamore Rd.

While I write to register my support for the idea of recognizing and commemorating the historic ills which happened in West Hartford (as in virtually every other town, city and state in our country), I do not support uprooting the identity of our neighborhood. In changing the street name, the burden of changing virtually every piece of identification, car registration, insurance policy, health insurance, etc., falls completely on just a few residents. This is wholly unfair and should be thrust on no one.

My suggestion is to instead commenoratively name a busy intersection, square or park in (or near) the Center. It can be in a well-traveled spot where many people on foot will take a moment to read a plaque/sign/monument and understand our history better. The choice of Sycamore Lane, the shortest street in town, where few people will see or understand the significance of a name change, seems ill-advised.

I admire the thought and energy behind the proposal, but let's find a better place for it.

Thanks for your consideration.



Steve Owens

c/o Todd Dumais, Town Planner

Robert Gosselin

From: Robert Gosselin
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2022 11:29 AM
To: Robert Gosselin
Subject: FW: Proposal to change Sycamore Lane to Peleg Nott



From: Douglas Hyland <hylanddouglas@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 1:40 PM
To: Todd Dumais <Todd.Dumais@WestHartfordCT.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL SENDER] Proposal to change Sycamore Lane to Peleg Nott

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen My wife Alice and I live near Sycamore Lane in fact right around the corner and have for 20 years. When giving directions from the south to 1075 Prospect Ave West Hartford we tell people to go past Sycamore Lane and ours is the nearby brick house. When we have guests we ask them to park on Sycamore Lane as it is unlawful to park on our side of Prospect. It would be inconvenient and confusing to change the street name. I understand the enslaved Mr Nott did not live or work here but miles away elsewhere in West Hartford. I do not think the change would bring recognition or even notice to him but merely inconvenience those who live in the neighborhood. I would suggest the the petitioner lobby to change the name of his own street and spare us this problem. Or perhaps the student could write an essay on slavery in West Hartford and publish it or arrange a day at his school focusing on the enslaved. There were all to many enslaved people in this region and I do not think it wise that we set this precedent or soon there will be dozens of streets with new names before too long. Sincerely, Douglas Hyland. 1075 Prospect Ave West Hartford Ct 06105 ----

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Robert Gosselin

From: Stephen Blake <stephen.p.blake@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2022 11:31 AM
To: Todd Dumais
Cc: Brian Pudlik; Robert Gosselin
Subject: [EXTERNAL SENDER] Application to rename Sycamore Lane
Attachments: Sycamore Lane name change proposal - Google Docs.pdf

Dear Mr. Dumais,

As homeowners living on Sycamore Lane, my wife and I object to the proposal to change the name of Sycamore Lane to Peleg Nott Lane. A letter with my reasons for objecting is attached.

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Stephen Blake
Harini Hosain
1049 Prospect Ave
West Hartford, CT 06105
(860) 371-8261
Stephen.p.blake@gmail.com

May 25, 2022

Town of West Hartford Zoning Commission

todd.dumais@westhartfordct.gov

Dear Members of the Town of West Hartford Zoning Commission:

My wife and I have received notice that an application has been made to change the name of Sycamore Lane. We object to this proposal and ask the Zoning Commission to reject this application.

The notice indicates that there is only one address on Sycamore Lane, this is false. There are four properties that adjoin Sycamore Lane, and there are 4 separate addresses currently in use on this road. To change the name would impose serious and unnecessary costs and inconveniences on these residents.

The applicant for this proposed change does not have any connection with this street, nor is any evidence supplied that would indicate that the name "Peleg Nott" has any connection with Sycamore Lane beyond a vague claim that Mr. Nott lived and worked somewhere that may have been near here. I do not find this to be a compelling reason to impose a name change on the residents living on Sycamore Lane.

While the proposal to honor a man who lived in slavery several centuries ago may be laudable in the abstract, the practical affects on current residents outweighs any potential benefits to the town.

There are other ways to recognize the work of Peleg Nott besides burdening the residents of Sycamore lane with a name change. Beach Park is an undeveloped town park located near here that could be renamed, for instance, or a historical marker could be erected in an existing public location giving the public information on the history associated with Mr. Nott. Either of these could be done without imposing unnecessary costs on existing residents.

We strongly object to this proposal and urge the Zoning Commission to reject the application to change the name of Sycamore Lane.

Sincerely,

Stephen Blake

Harini Hosain