

March 15, 2021

Town of Haddam Planning & Zoning Commission
Old Town Hall,
30 Field Park Drive,
Haddam, CT 06438

RE: Proposed Zoning Text Amendment to the Haddam Zoning Regulations - Section 5.6 C.5

Please read this letter into the record at the public meeting on March 18, 2021.

Dear Haddam Planning & Zoning Commission,

I am writing this letter in opposition to the proposed zoning Text Amendment to the Haddam Zoning Regulations - Section 5.6 C.5. This zoning code pertaining to prohibited use in Higganum village was established by this very commission just a year and a half ago in order to “protect the town by helping to maintain a small-town family atmosphere,” as stated by Town Planner, Bill Warner, on June 20, 2019. Among those prohibited use businesses this commission set out to protect the town from were “tattoo and/or body piercing studios”, and for good reason. Tattoo parlors, along with the other prohibited use businesses specified, are noted as being detrimental to economic development and to the long-term vision for Higganum.

For a town with so many depressed signals, from vacant storefronts, empty bank, and a closed school, one would think this commission would seek to attract, not drive away, young families and potential businesses that are not on the “prohibited use” list. For those who say any business in a vacant storefront is good business are clearly mistaken. As noted by real estate experts in a February, 2016 Realty Times article, tattoo parlors are “seen as a detrimental business to home property values and are indicators of lower-income and high crime areas and can drive people and business away.” Not to mention, it was already agreed upon by this commission that businesses deemed “prohibited use”, in which category Goodspeed Tattoo certainly is, are not ones that will help Higganum village attract families and business, and as Bill Warner put it, “help to maintain a small-town family atmosphere.”

Just because Goodspeed Tattoo is a “pre-existing” business in Haddam, does not mean it is exempt from the zoning regulations. They are not “grandfathered in” as some may assume, and as Mr. Warner falsely indicates. In fact, according to the minutes from P&Z meeting on May 16, 2019, in a discussion that prompted Section 5.6.C.5. in the first place, the only businesses on the prohibited use list that are noted as being “grandfathered in” are “existing junk dealers and motor vehicle junk yards.” Tattoo and/or body piercing studios are not mentioned at all in context of being “grandfathered in.” Also, Mr. Warner’s claim that “the use was permitted at the site in 2012 and there is a certificate of occupancy allowing a tattoo parlor at this location” is once again flawed. Yes, a tattoo shop once occupied retail space in this building, prior to

Haddam Zoning Regulations - Section 5.6 C.5 being drafted. That's like saying a methadone clinic (also one of the prohibited use businesses listed in Section 5.6.C.5) once occupied that space nine years ago, so we're going to allow another methadone clinic to rent that space in 2021 after it was banned as a prohibited use business by the P&Z commission in 2019.

This reckless text amendment and the precedent it will set is just one more example of the lack of vision, and more importantly one more example of how Higganum has lost its sense of place. We must remind ourselves of the qualities and characteristics that provide meaning to what makes Higganum, Higganum. When we are willing to inflict harm on ourselves by changing a line of text that is there to protect our beloved village center, we all lose. We lose our sense of place, we lose our sense of vision, and we lose our confidence not only in those elected to protect it, but the belief that Higganum can be what we all know it can be.

Along with current expert guidance from the Connecticut Main Street Center, of which Haddam is now a member, a significant number of people in this community invested a lot of time and energy to define a forward vision during the 10/30/2019 and 11/2/2019 charrette for Higganum Center. Those people, and the vision that was carefully crafted as an output of those discussions are being completely ignored and carelessly overruled by this proposed amendment. The report clearly outlines what it will take to support economic development and the long-term vision for Higganum. As noted earlier and as determined by this very commission, tattoo and/or body piercing studios are quite the opposite. They are seen as rather "detrimental to economic development and to the long-term vision for Higganum."

I want to make very clear, I support small business, and I support East Haddam resident Mr. Smith wanting to continue to establish Goodspeed Tattoo in Haddam. However, what I do not support is Mr. Smith relocating his business to Higganum village, in a location that is currently protected from tattoo and/or body piercing studios under Haddam Zoning Regulations - Section 5.6 C.5., for justifiable cause. In addition, Mr. Warner's attempt to ask the public to evaluate this amendment request by deliberating the difference between a nail salon and a tattoo parlor is incredibly irresponsible and misleading. For starters, are nail salons included in the current zoning regulations as a "prohibited use" business? The answer is no. Nail salons aren't seen as being detrimental to economic development, nor do they drive property value down. In reference to "the times have changed" argument Mr. Warner is also asking the public to deliberate - as a Millennial, I can assure you I am not opposed to tattoos. Why would I be? Obviously, tattoos aren't just for motorcycle gangs. And obviously there are many downtown locations like Manchester that have tattoo shops. What you're forgetting here is "context." In our situation, context is everything. The location, which is the gateway to our town, is protected under current zoning regulations so we can attract, not detract, investment. Driving into Higganum where you have an empty bank, empty school, and then to your left a tattoo parlor & body piercing studio, which as mentioned earlier, is an indicator of lower-income and high crime, can drive property values down, and people and business away. It is sending a very clear, and very real message. Unfortunately for Higganum, it's the wrong message.

In closing, I moved to Higganum because of the very "small town family atmosphere" Mr. Warner and this commission supposedly wants to protect. As a younger member of this community, I worry about the signal this text amendment sends and the precedent it sets. I worry a tattoo parlor will drive young people like myself who are looking to invest in Higganum away. I worry about driving away other business's not on the prohibited use list. And most of all, I worry about the lack of vision and lack of respect for process and fairness by those we elected to protect this town, its character and its potential.

I am asking the members of the Commission to oppose the proposed zoning Text Amendment to the Haddam Zoning Regulations - Section 5.6 C.5.

Thank you,
Mike Karam, Resident of Higganum

March 17, 2021

Haddam Planning & Zoning Commission
c/o Edward Wallor, Chairman
Town of Haddam
30 Field Park Drive
Haddam, CT 06438

Dear Chairman Wallor and Commissioners:

We the undersigned write to you to express our concerns about the proposals before the Haddam Planning & Zoning Commission (“P&Z”) to amend zoning regulations governing tattoo and body piercing studios.

We were disturbed that the P&Z approved the proposed amendment at its meeting on December 3, 2020 after the meeting was held without the required advance notice to the public—and appreciate that the P&Z has re-opened the hearing for March 18, 2021.

We have heard comments in town about the proposals. Those in support express appreciation for tattoo art, personal regard for the owner of Goodspeed Tattoo, a belief that any new business is preferable to an empty storefront, and anger with anyone who holds an opposing point of view.

We acknowledge that these are valid opinions. At the same time, we don’t believe that these arguments should hold sway with the Commission. Instead, we are concerned about the process by which the P&Z is making this decision—and the large implications that this process has for homeowners, businesses and property values in Higganum Village District.

First, we believe it is important to understand the background. For clarity, a review of the application submitted by George Smith, owner of Goodspeed Tattoo, news articles, P&Z meeting minutes and e-mail correspondence from Haddam Town Planner, William Warner, to a group of 15 concerned Higganum Center residents dated December 21, 2020, provides the following facts:

1. Mr. Smith ran Goodspeed Tattoo for 5 years in the Tylerville Village District of Haddam.
2. Mr. Smith’s Tylerville landlord decided that he did not want to renew Mr. Smith’s lease, and, according to P&Z minutes, evicted him from the premises.
3. Mr. Smith decided that he wanted to relocate the parlor in the Higganum Village District.
4. Mr. Smith approached Town Planner Warner. Mr. Warner advised Mr. Smith that he could not relocate to Higganum Village District under current zoning regulations.
5. Mr. Warner further told Mr. Smith that he “would have to apply to P&Z for a zoning text amendment.”
6. Mr. Smith applied for the amendment on October 29, 2020.
7. Mr. Warner explained in the e-mail to concerned Higganum Center residents that “the existing parlor... would be [or, in a possible interpretation, already was] grandfathered.”

8. Mr. Warner indicated that he “worked with [Mr. Smith] to create a very narrow amendment which would be limited to only existing licensed tattoo businesses in Haddam” and that “[t]he alternative would have been to open all commercial zones to tattoo parlors.”
9. Mr. Warner indicated that in his view, “tattoos (have become) more main stream.” [sic]
10. Mr. Smith occupied 310 Saybrook Road on or about the first week of February 2021 and opened for business.

We see six primary problems with Mr. Warner’s reasoning-- which P&Z may have relied on to support the zoning text amendment in its meeting of December 3.

First, Town of Haddam zoning regulations *specifically prohibit* tattoo parlors. (Town of Haddam Zoning Regulations, Section 5.6 C.5.)

Secondly, the proposed amendment conflicts with the Town’s Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). In fact, the proposed amendment allows the tattoo parlor to move from Bridge Road, a highly commercialized road, to the state-designated scenic highway that runs through Higganum Center. Not only has the Town of Haddam invested great time and effort into developing the plan, but Haddam townspeople have invested untold hours into planning meetings, “Connecticut Main Street”, and other workshops, charettes, and “visioning sessions” with high public participation to develop aspects of the plan. These townspeople articulated the Town’s history, the identity that they want to encourage for the Town, and the kinds of business they want to attract. Along the way, they specifically identified tattoo parlors and the other “prohibited businesses” as hindrances to economic development and counter to the long-term vision for Higganum. They did this less than two years ago. The proposed amendment would disregard their efforts and heartfelt contributions.

Thirdly, Mr. Warner’s assertion that the Town and P&Z has grandfathered Goodspeed Tattoo in the past or now can “grandfather” it into the new location in Higganum misapplies the concept of grandfathering. This is simply not how grandfathering works.

Grandfathering is generally a practice that exempts old, established parties, from new rules. Those already established can continue to operate under the old rules and are said to be “grandfathered in” while those who come in or change pre-existing conditions must comply with the new rules.

For example, many jurisdictions have issued rules in recent years that require that houses be set back a certain distance from roads. Old houses were often built more closely to the road. However, old houses are grandfathered in only at their original locations, so a homeowner is not required to pick up and move the old house when the new rules took effect. But if a homeowner decides to move the same old house on a flatbed to a new location in town then that homeowner would not be grandfathered in the new location – and would have to set back the house farther from the road to comply with the new rules.

In the case at hand, when Haddam adopted the prohibited use regulations less than two years ago, Goodspeed Tattoo was allowed to continue operating in the Tylerville Village District. If Goodspeed Tattoo had stayed in that location, it would have continued to be subject to the old rules. It would have been “grandfathered in.” However, when Goodspeed Tattoo applied to

relocate to Higganum, it was not grandfathered in the new location and would need to comply with the new regulations prohibiting tattoo and body piercing studios. That is why the proposed zoning text amendment must be brought before the P&Z. Had Goodspeed Tattoo been grandfathered in the new location, no such amendment to the zoning regulations would have been required.

Fourthly, the proposed amendment goes against sound town planning. Zoning is a method of town planning whereby a municipality designates land in certain areas as zones, each of which is governed by regulations that differ from those governing other zones. Of critical importance here, the State of Connecticut requires that communities devise regulations for new development that apply uniformly, equally and without favoring (or working against) any particular property owner. Connecticut General Statutes §8-2(a). In contravention of this requirement, the proposed amendment would create a new zoning rule that applies to one particular business owner in Haddam in a way that conflicts with both the Town's master plan and the zoning elsewhere in that Village District. This practice, known as "spot zoning", is "the process of singling out a small parcel of land for a use classification totally different from that of the surrounding area for the benefit of the owner of such property and to the detriment of other owners." (<https://plannersweb.com/2013/11/understanding-spot-zoning-2/>)

Mr. Warner's contention stated the only "[t]he alternative [to this proposed amendment] would have been to open all commercial zones to tattoo parlors." (December 21, 2020 email from Mr. Warner). This is misleading; another perfectly viable alternative would be to let the existing regulations stand and continue to prohibit tattoo parlors from Higganum Center.

The proposed amendment is designed to benefit only one business—and a business prohibited in Higganum. We strongly encourage P&Z to comply with State law and to reject spot zoning.

Fifthly, the public frequently perceives that tattoo parlors signal declining commercial zones. We are concerned that a tattoo and body piercing studio in Higganum Center will drive some residents and businesses away from town, deter new residents and businesses from choosing Higganum, and have a negative impact on Higganum property values. This is exactly why those who developed the POCD specified tattoo and body piercing studios as "prohibited businesses." We are *not* concerned if individuals wish to get tattoos. However, we do not see why Goodspeed Tattoo needs to be located in Higganum Center, and in such a visible location. While we acknowledge that adopting this proposed amendment will have a favorable effect for Mr. Smith and Mr. Lloyd, his landlord, we do not believe the benefit to these two individuals outweighs the substantial negative impact to the Higganum community.

Lastly, in addition to the process in which P&Z is making this decision, we have a concern about how it will enforce one. Mr. Warner, Mr. Smith and Mr. Lloyd were all aware of the court appeal in December 2020. Despite this, Mr. Smith opened Goodspeed Tattoo for business in the first week of February or so in clear contravention of Haddam zoning regulations. It would appear that Mr. Smith's approach was to occupy the premises without the required permissions and later claim hardship if P&Z were not to approve the proposed amendment.

We appreciate that the Haddam Zoning Officer posted notice recently on 310 Saybrook Road that the business's presence there is under appeal with the P&Z after another resident raised questions.

Nevertheless, we strongly encourage P&Z to not condone Mr. Smith's action and to dismiss any disingenuous argument now that it would be burdensome to vacate the premises now and relocate.

We have seen over and over how some businesses in town argue that P&Z is unfair to businesses. P&Z is charged with taking into account the interests of all townspeople and business owners affected by zoning changes, not catering to a certain individual or vocal group. We believe it would be unfair to the silent majority of existing homeowners and businesses and would hamper the prospect for the economic revitalization in Higganum Center if the P&Z were to approve the proposed amendment. In a broader sense, we are also concerned that reversing a regulation that went into effect less than two years ago to benefit a few individuals at the expense of the wider community raises a red flag to those interested in investing in a home or business in Haddam as it raises questions about the stability of the community's regulatory environment. We strongly encourage the P&Z to reject the proposed amendment and to work on developing the town in keeping with the POCD, to restore proper processes and procedures, and to strive to achieve a reasonable balance between the interests of all townspeople going forward.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely yours,

Emily Carrow, Higganum
Bill Organek, Higganum
Kathleen Curran, Higganum
Patrick Pinnell, Higganum
Michael Arseneault, Higganum
Nick Smith, Higganum
Mike Karam, Higganum
Sandra McCurdy, Higganum
Gordon McCurdy, Higganum
Marjorie DeBold, Higganum
Gloria Gorton, Higganum
Bill Cowan, Haddam
Lisa Cowan, Haddam
Gerry Matthews, Haddam
Tim Teran, Higganum
Gretchen Teran, Higganum
Joseph Zipoli, Higganum
Liz Palmieri, Haddam
Jason Curry, Haddam
Elizabeth Bazazi, Higganum
Steven Rocco, Higganum
Frank "Chip" Frey, Haddam
Neal Sakash, Higganum
Mary Reilly, Higganum
Ralph Bunn, Higganum
William Thomas, Haddam

Glen Stebbins, Higganum
Stephanie Denkowicz, Haddam
Aydin Caginalp, Haddam
Arthur ("Jerry") Wensinger, Higganum
Madeline Djerejian, Higganum
Mary Hickish, Higganum
Margaret Adams, Higganum
Joseph Dalton, Higganum
Bill Reinwald, Higganum
Hank Murad, Higganum
Robert "Bob" MacDonald, Haddam
Maurice Adams, Haddam

March 15, 2021

Mr. Edward Wallor
Chairman, Planning & Zoning Commission
First Selectman Robert McGarry
Town of Haddam
30 Field Park Drive
Haddam, CT 06438

Dear Mr. Wallor and Mr. McGarry,

I wish to express my opposition to the proposal before the Haddam Planning & Zoning Commission to amend zoning regulations governing tattoo studios and to approve Goodspeed Tattoo's move from Tylerville Village District to Higganum Village District.

In addition to the shared concerns of many fellow town citizens for a number of reasons, of which you are aware, I have specific worries about the nature of the business and how it will be conducted and regulated. Body art studios such as Goodspeed Tattoo are subject to rules and regulations from a variety of state and federal agencies charged with protecting the public health and environment (CTDEEP, CTDPH, OSHA, EPA, FDA, CDC) and I am particularly concerned about the ability for Goodspeed Tattoo to adequately comply. I also question whether Haddam Town Officials and Commissioners are fully aware of all the health and environmental issues associated with the body art business and if so, why they would consider the presence of such a business to be beneficial to Higganum.

I am a career scientist in medical research, thus my major concerns relate to the **Health Risks** for clients, as well as the potential risks to the public health and the environment due to inadequate or improper **Safety Precautions and Hazardous Waste Handling/Disposal**. To facilitate your understanding of these issues, I have compiled detailed information regarding the operation of body art studios. I urge you to seriously consider this information on the following pages in its entirety before deliberating on the above proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Emily Carrow". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the "r".

Emily Carrow, Ph.D
171 Dublin Hill Road
Higganum, CT 06441

Health Risks

Tattoos breach the skin, which can cause the following complications:

- Allergic reactions
- Serious skin infections and other skin problems such as granulomas, keloids
- Serious bloodborne diseases due to contaminated equipment from infected blood including: methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), hepatitis B and hepatitis C, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).
- MRI complications such as swelling or burning and interference with the quality of the image

While there is no direct connection between tattoos and skin cancer, there are some ingredients in tattoo ink that may be linked to cancer. Black ink, the most commonly used color for tattooing, can be especially dangerous because it contains a very high level of benzo(a)pyrene. Benzo(a)pyrene is currently listed as a carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC).

Most tattoo inks contain organic pigments, but also include preservatives and contaminants like nickel, chromium, manganese or cobalt. Besides carbon black, the second most common ingredient used in tattoo inks is titanium dioxide (TiO₂), a white pigment usually applied to create certain shades when mixed with colorants. TiO₂ is also commonly used in food additives, sunscreens and paints. Delayed healing, along with skin elevation and itching, are often associated with white tattoos, and by consequence with the use of TiO₂.

Although research is ongoing at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and elsewhere, there are still a lot of questions about the long-term effects of the pigments, other ingredients, and possible contaminants in tattoo inks. The FDA issued a Safety Advisory on May 15, 2019 warning consumers, tattoo artists, and retailers about using or selling certain tattoo inks contaminated with microorganisms. The FDA has received reports of bad reactions to tattoo inks right after tattooing and even years later. You also might become allergic to other products, such as hair dyes, if your tattoo contains p-phenylenediamine (PPD).

Two recent scientific publications illustrate these points:

1. Tighe, M. , Libby, D. , Dorn, S. , Hosmer, J. and Peaslee, G. (2017) A Survey of Metals Found in Tattoo Inks. *Journal of Environmental Protection*, 8, 1243-1253. doi: 10.4236/jep.2017.811077.

While the practice of tattooing has existed for thousands of years, it has recently begun growing in popularity in the US. With the increasing prevalence of tattoos, the methods and inks involved in the tattooing process have also developed. Tattoos now use many brightly colored inks, often made using metal-based pigments. There is concern that chemicals may be present in tattoo inks in concentrations that may lead to human health concerns either during application or removal of tattoos. Since exposure to metals has been linked to tremors, liver damage, memory loss, cognitive loss, and even death, there is concern about the prevalence of metals in tattoo inks in general. To this end, a survey of 226 commercial tattoo inks was performed and each ink was analyzed for the presence of heavy metals using two different x-ray methods: Particle Induced X-Ray Emission and Scanning Electron Microscopy/ Energy Dispersive Spectroscopy. Fifteen metals were identified in

various tattoo inks by these rapid x-ray methods, including chromium, manganese, nickel, copper, barium, and lead. Conclusions can be drawn about the prevalence of metals in some pigment colors and from some brands. **Among the 226 inks analyzed, 15 metals and one halogen were present above the limit of quantification (LOQ). In order of prevalence, the elements found were titanium, iron, chromium, copper, zirconium, manganese, bromine, nickel, niobium, strontium, zinc, barium, molybdenum, lead, vanadium, and tungsten.** This study showed that 16 elements, including 15 heavy metals, were present in tattoo inks in readily measurable amounts by rapid x-ray techniques. **While a few of these elements are considered nontoxic, a majority of these findings are cause for concern because it is well established that chromium, manganese, nickel, copper, bromine, barium, and lead, all of which were commonly found in tattoo inks, have adverse health effects.**

2. Schreiver, I., Hesse, B., Seim, C. et al. Synchrotron-based v-XRF mapping and μ -FTIR microscopy enable to look into the fate and effects of tattoo pigments in human skin. *Sci Rep* 7, 11395 (2017). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-017-11721-z>

The elements that make up the ink in tattoos travel inside the body in micro and nanoparticle forms and reach the lymph nodes, according to a study published in 2017 in Scientific Reports. It is the first time researchers have found analytical evidence of the transport of organic and inorganic pigments and toxic element impurities as well as in depth characterization of the pigments *ex vivo* in tattooed tissues. X-ray fluorescence measurements on ID21 allowed the team to locate titanium dioxide at the micro and nano range in the skin and the lymphatic environment. **They found a broad range of particles up to several micrometres in size in human skin, but only smaller (nano) particles were transported to the lymph nodes. This may lead to the chronic enlargement of the lymph node and lifelong exposure.**

The hazards that potentially derive from tattoos were previously known only by chemical analysis of the inks and their degradation products *in vitro*. "We already knew that pigments from tattoos would travel to the lymph nodes because of visual evidence. The lymph nodes become tinted with the colour of the tattoo. It is the response of the body to clean the site of entrance of the tattoo. What we didn't know is that they do it in a nano form, which implies that they may not have the same behaviour as the particles at a micro level. And that is the problem—we don't know how nanoparticles react," says Bernhard Hesse, one of the two first authors of the study.

Safety Precautions, Sanitary Procedures and Medical Waste

Medical waste can be a concern in places many people wouldn't expect – tattoo parlors, for instance. Anything that comes into contact with bodily fluids (such as blood, mucus, plasma, etc.) that cannot be sterilized needs to be disposed of as regulated medical waste.

Tattoo parlors and artists are mandated by law to adhere to medical waste regulations for their own good and their clients. All tattoo parlors must adhere to rules set by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC). Tattoo parlors are subject to such regulations because the tattooing process involves contact with bodily fluids, i.e., from repeatedly (thousands of times) inserting ink into the deepest layers of the skin with tattoo needles. In general, any

single-use products or materials that are used in any body art session are considered a biohazard (infectious or contaminated material) under federal and state regulations, and must be treated as medical waste. These include:

- Tattoo needles
- Piercing needles
- Protective gloves
- Protective covers, such as disposable barrier gowns, face masks etc.
- Paper towels
- Gauze/bandages
- Cotton swabs
- Leftover ointment
- Ink caps

Universal rules

Tattoo parlors and tattoo artists must observe universal precautions to all clients. During work, the tattoo artist must wear barrier gowns, gloves, goggles or eyeglasses and face shield to avoid contact and exchange of body fluids. The gloves and barrier gowns, in particular, must be changed after each client.

All implements that will be in contact with the client's skin and blood must be of single-use, or can be completely sterilized.

All materials applied to skin of clients must be from bulk, commercially-packaged, single-use containers only. This applies to dyes or pigments used in tattooing. It must be stored in an area away from toilets or other areas with high-contamination levels.

Make sure to employ barrier protection whenever handling hazardous and sharps waste.

Floor plan requirements and rules for furnishings

There must be a separate work area and waiting area for the customers. The tattoo work area must be constructed to allow privacy to clients. The whole studio must be well-ventilated and have adequate lighting. The tattoo parlor must have a clean and working toilet and a utility sink.

The work area must have a clean sink and basin, with running cold and hot water.

The body art studio must be constructed in a manner that allows easy cleaning. For example, walls and ceilings must be light in color and the floors must not be carpeted (because it absorbs blood).

The furnishings in the tattoo parlor must be made of nonabsorbent, corrosive resistant and smooth material that is easily sanitized. This applies to work tables, countertops and chairs.

Each artist must have his or her own work tables, chairs and own set of cabinets for instruments, dyes and single-use articles.

Guidelines for sterilization and sanitation

Non-disposable devices and instruments must be first scrubbed in hot water and soap, and then sterilized in an autoclave.

Acetate stencils, if used, must be sterilized using an antibacterial solution after each use.

Paper stencils are for single-use only, and must be disposed in the hazardous bin after each use.

Markers used to draw designs onto the client's skin must be single-use only.

A new and sterile tattoo needle must be used in each client. For safety, use forceps to attach and remove tattoo needle into the machine. Never manipulate the needle, clean or used, by hand.

Clean and single-use gloves must be readily available at the workplace. Gloves must be changed with each client, and when it's punctured or cut. Used gloves must be thrown away in the hazardous waste bin.

The work tables and chairs must be sanitized with a bactericidal solution after each client.

Guidelines during and after tattoo procedure

Tattoo artists with diarrhea, vomiting, fever or rash or skin infections are not allowed to perform tattooing procedure.

Before starting the tattooing procedure, the tattoo artists must first inspect his or her hands for hangnails, cuts and sores. All cuts and sores must be bandaged, and fingernails trimmed, before tattooing.

All pieces of jewelry including watches and rings must be removed before tattooing.

Before the tattooing procedure, the tattoo artist must first wash his or her hands with warm water and antibacterial soap using a hand brush. Then, dry the hands using a blow drier.

The tattoo artist must first don intact disposable latex, or nitrile gloves and an apron, or smock. The tattoo artist must change or dispose of these after each use or when torn or punctured.

The needles and tattoo machine tubes must be of single-use only. Use new set of needles and tattoo machine tubes for each client, and after tattooing, they must be disposed in the sharps waste bin.

Only use single-use razors to shave the skin area, and they must be changed for each client. After use, these razors must be disposed in the sharps waste bin.

Tattoo artists may not smoke or eat in the body art studio.

Guidelines for waste disposal

All wipes and bandages must be disposed in the hazardous waste bin.

After the tattoo has been applied, the area must be washed with a single-use towel soaked in an antibacterial solution. Discard this towel into the hazardous waste bin.

Used gloves, ointment applicator, wipes and drapes must be disposed in the hazardous waste bin.

Bandages, wipes and exclusion drapes (if used) must be of single-use only and must be changed for each client. Used and bloody bandages, wipes and exclusion drapes must be disposed in the conspicuously-marked hazardous waste bin.

About waste bins in tattoo parlors

A separate bin for hazardous waste must be located at the workplace of the tattoo parlor. Do not dispose household waste in this bin.

Another separate bin exclusive for sharps must be located at the workplace of the tattoo parlor. The bin for sharps must be solidly built, has puncture-resistant and leakproof walls, and must have narrow mouth and sealable. The sharps bin must be conspicuously marked.

There must be a separate waste bin for household waste in the waiting area and work area. Never put hazardous waste and sharps waste in this waste bin.

Hazardous and sharps waste must be collected and disposed by a licensed medical waste disposal provider to make sure state and federal guidelines are followed.

Other Hazardous Waste, i.e. Toxic Waste

Proper waste management is an essential part of society's public and environmental health. Hazardous waste that is improperly managed poses a serious threat to human health and the environment. [The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act](#) (RCRA), passed in 1976, was established to set up a framework for the proper management of hazardous waste.

A hazardous waste is a waste with properties that make it dangerous or capable of having a harmful effect on human health or the environment. Hazardous waste is generated from many sources, ranging from industrial manufacturing process wastes to batteries and may come in many forms, including liquids, solids gases, and sludges.

The wastes that are classified as "hazardous wastes" are spelled out in Section 101 of [Connecticut's Hazardous Waste Management Regulations](#). Connecticut's regulations, in turn, incorporate [Section 40 CFR, Part 261 of the federal hazardous waste regulations](#) which are issued and enforced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Further, a hazardous waste is classified as **toxic waste** if it contains any of 40 different hazardous constituents at a concentration equal to or greater than a certain amount. These 40 constituents include 8 metals, 6 pesticides, 2 herbicides, 10 volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and 14 semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs). Wastes that are hazardous due to the toxicity characteristic are harmful when ingested or absorbed. Toxic wastes present a concern as they may be able to leach from waste and pollute groundwater.

While the vast majority of lithographic (printing) inks are not considered hazardous wastes under state and federal law, **other inks, including most tattoo inks, are exceptions**. If an ink contains pigments with

heavy metals or is mixed with solvents containing hazardous materials, then proper hazardous waste disposal of that ink becomes paramount. For example: waste ink with chromium, barium, cadmium and lead content; and waste ink contaminated with cleaning solvents, such as trichloroethylene, methylene chloride, 1,1,1-trichloroethane, carbon tetrachloride, 1,1,2-trichloroethane, 1,2,3-trifluoroethane, chlorobenzene, xylene, acetone, methanol, methyl ethyl ketone (MEK), toluene, carbon disulfide, or benzene.

For further information on hazardous waste, visit these links on the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) webpage:

[What is Hazardous Waste \(ct.gov\)](#)

[Hazardous Waste Determinations \(ct.gov\)](#)

March 15, 2021

Mr. Edward Wallor
Chairman, Planning & Zoning Commission
First Selectman Robert McGarry
Town of Haddam
30 Field Park Drive
Haddam, CT 06438

Dear Mr. Wallor and Mr. McGarry,

I write to you to express my concern about the proposal before the Haddam Planning & Zoning Commission to amend zoning regulations governing tattoo studios and to approve Goodspeed Tattoo's move from Tylerville Village District to Higganum Village District. I also write to express my concern about the general direction that Higganum Center is heading. My preference would have been to express my concerns in person at a virtual public meeting. However, at 62 years old, the COVID mortality rate is 14% and I am unwilling to take such a risk by attending the in person public meeting that is being offered.

My husband and I moved to Haddam in 1997. We rented a home on Depot Hill Road for 3 years and then purchased the 1769 Richard Walkley house on Christian Hill Road from the Dondero family who had owned the home for 60 years. We are only the fourth owner of this historic home and property. When we were looking to purchase a home, we could have bought anywhere in the CT River Valley. We chose Haddam because of the excellent schools with Haddam elementary school located just down Christian Hill Road, the historic nature of the town with over 200 eighteenth century homes and its family-oriented atmosphere.

Over the 20 years that we have owned our home we've invested a good deal money in the home and property, and we've received many compliments from several Dondero family members who have stopped by to visit their ancestral home. In recent years, I've been taking advantage of the wonderful recreational activities that Higganum offers, including hiking Swan Hill and cross-country skiing along Higganum cove and the banks of the Connecticut River north towards Middletown.

Fast forward 24 years, the elementary school is closed (I still do not understand why the much inferior Burr school was chosen to stay open), a chain Dunkin Donuts franchise greets visitors driving south on Route 154 and a tattoo parlor has been located at the major intersection of Routes 81 and 154. As one drives south on Route 81, visitors are greeted by two liquor stores, what appears to be more drinking establishments at the Brookside restaurant, and at the Truck Bar and the possibility of a third drinking establishment in the old Alberts Pub.

Is this what our community aspires to? A destination for drinking and partying? If you think that this is not a realistic possibility, please see attached photos taken on Saturday

March 13, 2021. The Brookside was hosting a biker reunion (verbally confirmed by one of the participants) and there was a large event at Truck Bar (note the swing set next to the full parking lot which abuts a residential neighborhood with children), both possibly in violation of Connecticut Covid 19 restrictions.

If I had a crystal ball and saw what has happened to Higganum, we never would have bought a home here. In addition, I am very concerned about the detrimental effect of the tattoo parlor as well as the plethora of establishments that are oriented towards drinking without dining will have on my property values. I would very much like to expand our home to enlarge the kitchen, but I hesitate to spend that kind of money given the general direction of the nearby center.

Higganum Center has much potential as a center for healthy, family friendly, recreational activities such as hiking, bicycling, cross country skiing, kayaking, fishing and swimming. Imagine if there were a high quality bakery where visitors and townspeople could gather post-hiking or bicycling? Or businesses that catered to recreation such as a bicycle or kayak rental shop or a fly-fishing outfitter. In the summer, there a lot of bicyclists that ride through Higganum Center, are we providing a welcoming atmosphere so that they could stop, grab a cold drink and sandwich (beneficial to our beloved Higganum Village Market). Could an antiques/vintage group store open in Scovil building or one of the other empty properties? Or a destination restaurant like the old Glockenspiel?

In summary, in my view, Higganum Center is going in the wrong direction. The change in the zoning law to allow the tattoo parlor will be another blow to Higganum Center, I request that the P&Z commission reject the amendment on the grounds outlined in the letter signed by many members of our community.

Sincerely,

Sandra McCurdy



March 14, 2021

Dear Mr. Wallor and Commissioners,

As a resident of Higganum since 2001, I am writing to express concern and dismay at the opening of Goodspeed Tattoo at the corner of Killingworth Road and Saybrook Road.

I have spoken with others who I know have voiced their concerns over the lack of transparency of this entire process, which resulted in the sudden (literally overnight) appearance of a business which has been prohibited in the town regulations for years. I do not like to be a suspicious person, but the process, which involved the removal of the business from Tylerville to Higganum, smacks of back room deals and hidden handshakes. I do not think that the former planner, Liz West, would have handled this situation the same way.

This is not my only concern.

To say that there is no stigma to a tattoo parlor nowadays is simply untrue. There is still a stigma attached to such businesses, and they do bring down property values. Having such a business amidst several thriving businesses may make it less apparent, but there it stands, adjacent to an empty business in the same building, across the street from a vacant bank, and a "for sale" sign on the building across the street. It looks terrible. It looks desperate, as if the town is saying, "This is the best we can do, but tattoo parlors aren't so bad, trust us."

My husband and I bought a historic home here twenty years ago and have spent tens of thousands of our hard-earned dollars restoring it. We do not have children but have happily paid our (considerably) high taxes to support Haddam's excellent school system. When I read on various websites that it is "unpatriotic" to not support the tattoo parlor, I ask "is not investing your money and taxes for twenty years in a town the most patriotic thing you can do?"

Finally, and most sadly, I think Higganum has lost its way. The town always has had a kind of eccentric, country charm, but now it is looking kind of creepy. To blame it on Covid is no excuse. East Haddam, Chester, Deep River, and Essex seem to be thriving. We, on the other hand, seem to lack leadership that has the town's best interests at heart. I hope you can turn a corner on these developments and have the courage and leadership to change the course of events.

Sincerely,

Kathy Curran