

July 4th Weekend, 2006

Didion Milling Pushing Us Onto the Ethanol Roller-coaster Once Again

As many of you are already aware Didion Milling, doing business as Grand River Distributors, is making their second attempt to site an ethanol plant near their present milling facility. Didion has petitioned Columbia County to rezone 10 acres abutting the Village in the Town of Courtland from Agricultural to Industrial with the intent to produce ethanol. This is only a first step for Didion.

Although Didion had hoped to fast-track their petition through the County Board, members of the Board recognized that the residents of Cambria are the ones who will be most affected by any action the County takes. The County Board voted on June 21st to slow Didion's fast-tracking down and are giving Cambria more time to be heard on this issue. The County Board will take up the issue again on July 19th.

As you remember in April 2003, in record numbers, 60% of Cambria voters said "NO" on the question of allowing Didion to build an ethanol plant "in or near" the Village of Cambria. In response to Didion's latest efforts to build an ethanol plant the Cambria Village Board passed a resolution on June 5th, 2006, informing Columbia County of our "strong opposition" to Didion's application to the County for permission to build an ethanol plant just over its border in the Town of Courtland.

Now, this past Friday evening we learned that Didion has put forward a "Developers Agreement" for the Village to sign-off on to allow them to go forward with their ethanol plant. As of noon Saturday the 1st of July, the Village office had not received a copy of this agreement. The Village legal council has not seen this agreement. Most of the citizens of Cambria certainly have not seen this agreement. And we note that the agreement is on the agenda for the Monday, July 3rd Village Board meeting and may be accepted for consideration at this time.

The timing of this move by Didion is highly troubling. Why spring this on Cambria on a Friday evening before a holiday weekend? Why place it onto the Board agenda on Monday the 3rd when many people are off enjoying a well-deserved holiday?

The Didion rezoning request is far from a done deal as some would like you to believe. The County Board is still considering the rezone and could deny it outright. And in the unlikely event that Didion is granted the rezone, they still face the considerable burden of applying for the Conditional Use Permit required by the County before they can proceed with an ethanol plant.

It is not time for the Village of Cambria to even consider this Developer's Agreement with Didion!

Come to the meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, July 3rd to make sure that the Village Board President and the Village Trustees know that you do not want them to continue with any consideration of the Developer's Agreement. Demand that they wait for the County Process to run its course before any action is taken.

If you can not make it to the meeting on Monday the 3rd be sure you call or send a message to your Village representatives.

Your friends and neighbors,
we are,

Cambrians for Thoughtful Development

For information, documents and much, much more please visit our web site:
<homepage.mac.com/oscura/ctd/ctd.html>