

May 29, 2020

Dear Mr. Jim Fisher & Manheim Borough Council Members:

You have my permission and I am requesting that you read this letter at the next Manheim Borough Council meeting. I will not be able to zoom on that evening.

I have read the ongoing discussion on the "Little Town of Manheim" Facebook site regarding Landis Homes, and did not feel it was appropriate to make any additional responses there. However, I am encouraging any members of the Council, especially those under the age of 65, to read this request carefully.

Raybestos Manhattan (Raymark, or "The Asbestos" as it was called) provided a place to work and an income for hundreds of families in Manheim to be supported. However, if the truth had been known about raw asbestos, and more research done at the time, many lives could have been saved in this community. In addition to much suffering from the effects of asbestos by the workers, did you know that family members also had to have years of scans done to their lungs. Simply because, women washed all the clothing of the family together and those tiny particles of asbestos were brought home every day on shoes and clothing for many years.

The truth about asbestos and the fact that the "dump" on North Hazel street was used by Raybestos Manhattan is something many are afraid to speak of. There are many painful memories involved with watching loved ones suffer from a disease that possibly could have been avoided. Many could have seen their children and grandchildren grow, and my Dad could have fished with his kids just one more day. The pain in talking about the asbestos at Raymark is rooted somewhat in the fact that men worked there to support their families. If you allow digging in the old "dump" site, construction workers could possibly be endangering their families if they take asbestos fibers home on their shoes and clothing. If you are interested in reading available research, there is much published on this topic of disturbing contaminated soil.

I am not familiar with the current legalities of building in a "brown" zone and I do not know if the attraction to build there is because of tax incentives. What I am wondering is, is it worth it for a nursing home to build here and possibly cause cancer to the workers, the children in the neighborhood that might walk there, and others? Does Manheim Borough want the possibility of some day dealing with ongoing litigation related to asbestos fibers?

I ask your careful consideration in this request from Landis Homes. Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns. Please do not disturb this site.

Sincerely,

Anne Umberger McFarland, MCHS class of 1973

Retired MCHS teacher and Penn Township resident