

Moratorium on warehouses begins in Killingly, proposed in Plainfield

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Plainfield — As a 12-month moratorium to pause new zoning applications for large warehouse and distribution centers began in Killingly on Monday, Plainfield is looking to do the same.

The Plainfield Conservation Commission discussed at their meeting Monday proposing a moratorium on new warehouse development at the next Planning and Zoning Commission meeting on Aug. 11.

This proposal comes after several warehouses have developed in Plainfield including Amazon, Uline and Lowes, and most recently, months of negotiations over a proposed 1.1 million square-foot Costco depot center. The Planning and Zoning Commission [passed the Costco development](#) after months of court negotiations in June.

Stephen Randall, member of the Conservation Commission, said they are trying to stop the warehouses from coming in and preserve “The Last Green Valley,” as the area is known for, but there is only so much they can do.

“What part of it is green if you look at Google Earth?” Randall said. We have been strip mining the earth with our gravel bags and we have these major industries coming in...It’s overwhelming.”

What's happening with warehouses in Killingly?

Killingly’s moratorium which began Monday and is in effect until June 30, 2027, will prohibit developers from filing new applications for “distribution centers, fulfillment centers, e-commerce centers, truck and freight terminals” in the town’s general commercial, mixed-use interchange, business park or mill mixed-use development districts,” according to its language.

However, Killingly residents are still actively opposing two warehouse developers that filed before the moratorium began.

Developers of a 1.3 million-square-foot Amazon distribution center, also known as “Project Husky” on Westcott Road withdrew their application after the [Inland Wetlands and](#)

[Watercourses Commission rejected](#) their proposal on July 7. Since the commission denied the application without prejudice, the developer could make changes and resubmit, which they did on July 15 before the moratorium began on July 20.

The new application will be reviewed at Killingly's next Planning and Zoning Commission meeting on Aug. 17.

Another pair of 178,750-square-foot and 297,500-square-foot warehouses at 90 Putnam Pike [has been in discussion for months](#). It is not known what companies would be coming into the developments yet.

John Knuff, attorney representing the applicant Killingly 1 LLC for Putnam Pike, said at the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting Monday night they received design comments from engineering firm Tighe and Bond on the plan and will be responding promptly.

However, the Putnam Pike developments don't have the town's green light until the Planning and Zoning Commission passes it.

Residents came out Monday to urge the commission to reject the proposal, saying that the warehouses do not fit their community needs and listed repeated concerns from traffic and road safety to pollution and the environment.

"Please don't destroy this quiet area with noise, please don't ruin the aesthetics of our beautiful rural area..." Killingly resident Russ Goulet said to commission members Monday night. "Please don't destroy our quality of life."

"We don't need them in our town," fellow Resident Rebecca Rainville said. "We are supposed to be the quiet corner."