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Resident requests review

By TERRENCE S. MCAULIFFE

Middlebury resident Raymond Pietrorazio formally petitioned the town's Conservation Commission and Planning and Zoning Commission to consider requiring comprehensive environmental reviews of proposed warehouses and distribution centers, with particular attention to cumulative air pollution from diesel truck emissions.

In a November 9 letter to both commissions, Pietrorazio, a licensed combustion specialist with decades of professional experience, requested that environmental reviews examine the combined effects of emissions from proposed developments and existing pollution sources in the surrounding area.

Pietrorazio identified several existing sources of emissions, including Interstate 84, Waterbury-Oxford Airport, the CPV Towantic power plant and the Algonquin natural gas compressor station. He expressed particular concern about concentrations of fine particulate matter and nitrogen oxides near residential neighborhoods and schools.

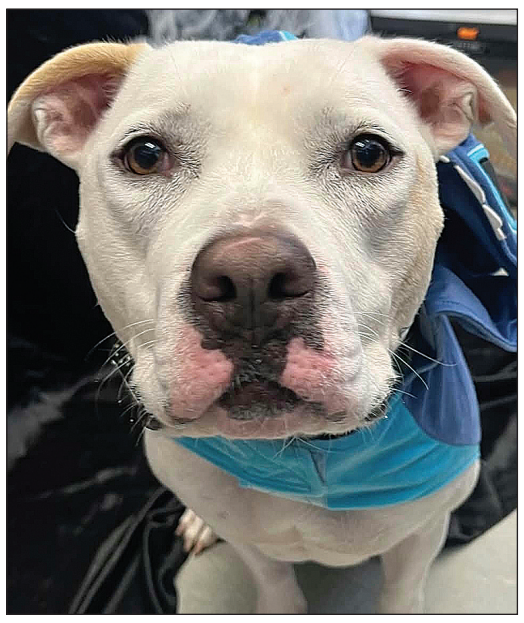
His petition proposes requiring developers to fund independent air-dispersion modeling to estimate the effects of additional emissions. He also requested consideration of related environmental concerns, including truck traffic, noise, traffic safety and lighting.

Under Pietrorazio's proposal, the Conservation Commission would evaluate the environmental findings and provide written recommendations to the Planning and Zoning Commission for consideration during the development approval process.

The petition follows an earlier request by Pietrorazio for a town ordinance addressing cumulative air pollution. In his latest correspondence, he said First Selectwoman Jennifer Mahr and Town Attorney Dana D'Angelo had responded to his town ordinance request by suggesting changes to commission regulations might be a more appropriate approach.

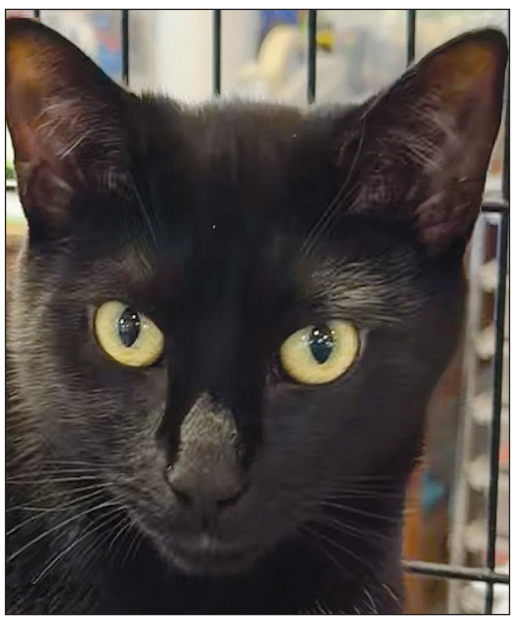
Pietrorazio maintains that existing regulatory procedures do not adequately address the combined effects of multiple pollution sources when new developments are proposed. After submitting the petition to both commissions, he provided a time-stamped copy to the first selectwoman's office. No action by either commission has been reported as of press time.

Adopt a Rescue Pet



TAYLOR

Taylor is 5 and fully vetted. Dumped in March 2024 and adopted for a year, she came back due to no fault of her own. She needs a pet-free home but loves kids and adults. She's stressed and wasting away here. If you want a forever best friend, please meet her. Her adoption fee is waived. Apply at www.brasscityrescue.org.



STORMIE

Stormie is a mini house panther with a sweetheart personality. This gorgeous 3-year-old girl is all shiny black fur, bright eyes, and sweetness. Black cats are too often overlooked, but this little beauty deserves her turn to hear, "You're coming home with me." Come meet Stormie. Apply at WhiskersPetRescue.org.

Pup's biting isn't acceptable

DEAR PAWS CORNER: I have an Australian Shepherd, Drogo, who is just under a year old. He's super smart, very energetic and responds very well to training. He's been very well-behaved until recently, when he started jumping toward my boyfriend and play-biting at his hands. I've worked with Drogo for months to stop this behavior with visitors, and even paid for a professional trainer. He knows my boyfriend, so I don't understand why he suddenly started targeting one person. What can I do? – Jeannie G. in Boulder, Colorado

DEAR JEANNIE: Give the trainer a call to let him know about this new behavior. My first thought is that Drogo, who's passing through his "teen" stage, is testing boundaries with your boyfriend – and you.

Paw's corner by Sam Mazzotta

This isn't unusual, especially with a super energetic, bright and observant dog. Drogo may be figuring out the hierarchy within your household, learning who's the boss and who's a member of the pack – and how far he can push them.

Play-biting is an instinctive form of play, but it isn't acceptable behavior. Reinforce Drogo's basic obedience training so that he responds to your commands. Your boyfriend should participate in obedience training as well, learning basic commands, so that Drogo responds to him in the way that you want him to.

The trainer should also have some supplemental advice to reinforce what you and Drogo learned from them.

Further, because Drogo is still energetic and probably a bit spazzy (like a typical teenager), make sure he gets more activity every day – time outside running, longer walks on a leash and more one-on-one training time. Scatter some puzzle toys around the house to keep him occupied and to burn off even more energy.

Send your tips, comments or questions to ask@ pawscorner.com.

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