

Officials want to end use of property for truck parking



A photo provided by Ulster Town Supervisor James Quigley shows the front end of tractor-trailers parked at 91 Wildwood Lane in the town of Ulster, N.Y. PHOTO PROVIDED

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TOWN OF ULSTER, N.Y. >> Town Board members plan to take Zeki Guclu to state Supreme Court in an effort to end the use of an eight-acre property along the Lower Esopus Creek from being used as a parking area for the front sections of tractor-trailers.

Supervisor James Quigley said during a meeting Thursday, June 1, that activity on the 91 Wildwood Lane property is out of compliance with zoning codes. He is also questioning use of a part of the property that fronts U.S. Route 9W, where the trailer sections have often been parked not far from Glenerie Falls.

“He is conducting a contractor storage yard in an R-30 ... residential zoning district and, under the town code, he is required to have a special Town Board permit,” Quigley said.

Gulcu has the property named on the U.S. Department of Transportation website as the business address for Wildwood Waterfalls Trucking LLC, with the company operating three

motor cabs using two drivers. The company reports its vehicles travel 74,500 miles annually.

“The Building Department will be issuing notices of violation and preparing the legal papers for the town attorney to file a lawsuit ... for a violation of the town zoning code for operating a business without the proper permits,” Quigley said.

He added that Gulcu’s use of the Route 9W pull-off parking area creates complications because it is in the town of Saugerties.

“I can’t send my police officers up there to do anything about it,” he said. “He’s got five or six trailers parked there over the weekend. DOT told me that temporary parking is restricted to 24 hours or less and I was also told that state police will not enforce highway law. We’re trying to bring law enforcement in to correct this situation.”

Use of the Wildwood Lane section for hauling company vehicle parking has been troubling for neighbors. They contend that Guclu has been actively clearing the site for four years and has been bringing in fill that they say needs to be tested for construction and demolition material. Among photographs provided to the Freeman are trees that have apparently been discarded along the banks of the Lower Esopus Creek as well as a residue in the water that neighbor Mark Martucci contends is oil coming from the trucks. During a telephone interview Friday, Guclu, who purchased the property in November 2018, acknowledged using the property to sometimes park his cabs overnight but contended that most of the time he uses a rental location at 1046 Kings Highway in Saugerties. He also said he believes that the complaints are centered around the inability of people to access the Lower Esopus Creek by crossing his property, which has 1,263 feet of frontage that includes the Glenerie Falls, which has previously been a popular summer cooling-off area.

“I have neighbors (with) one person that’s been harassing me non-stop,” he said.

Guclu also said the fill material was brought in as part of home construction that he has been planning for the property.

“The town gave me a permit to build a house,” he said, “so I have my building permit right on the pole. I’m using my trucks only.”

Guclu added that the trailers being parked on the Route 9W cutout are there infrequently and only use his own 61-foot section of the 400-foot-long pull-off area. He acknowledged that his vehicles have been driven over property owned by other people on each side of his section but said he would park vertically to the road if necessary to avoid trespassing.

“When I go home sometimes I leave my truck there and then go to work,” he said. “I don’t park my truck regularly there.”