

Dinah Federer wrote to the Sheboygan City Council today documenting being deceived by Kohler in Oct. 2016, into selling her home to a couple she was told were from Manitowoc. It was Kohler's first house purchase on its path to creating its contentious annexation play in Wilson. Read her letter:

Dear Council Members,

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Dinah Chaudoir Federer. My husband Don and I previously owned the home at 5721 Sherwood Dr. in the Town of Wilson. We sold our home in January 2017 under what we now know were duplicitous circumstances. I feel that, before you vote on Kohler's proposal, you need to know about those circumstances so that you can make a truly informed decision. My husband and I are long-term residents of the town of Wilson. We are vehemently opposed to annexation and to yet another golf course with its predictable negative impact upon the Town and the environment. We would never have sold our home to Kohler Company if we had known they were the true buyer! We would never have supported annexation of Town lands.

We put our home up for sale in October 2016 precisely because we wanted to get away from Riverdale golf course with all of its spraying and chemical usage. Furthermore, the golfers utilizing Riverdale golf course were often ill-mannered and did not respect private property boundaries. We do not need more of that in the Town of Wilson.

Paul Gottsacker (Kohler realtor) toured our home a couple of days after we put it on the market. He told us that he was looking at the house for his clients who were from Manitowoc. He said that his clients had been interested in the Koeller property but, since that had not come up for sale yet, they were interested in ours. Since both homes were quite handicapped accessible, we thought perhaps they had special needs that could be met by either of our homes.

Despite periodic questioning, we were never told who the purchaser was. The original offer was signed as "Paul Gottsacker or assigns". At the time of closing Paul came to the meeting. When I point blank asked him who the buyer was, his answer was "I'm not answering any questions so don't bother asking." Again, had we known it was the Kohler Company and that the purpose was for annexation we never would have sold to them.

We were not allowed to make an informed decision. But you CAN!

Do you really want to take the side of a company that chooses to do business in the dark rather than acting with integrity and transparency? Is it really fair and proper for elected officials to side with a multimillion dollar company rather than the residents of the community? Remember, you were voted into office. You have been charged with representing the people not a corporation. The only one to benefit from this annexation is the Kohler Company.

The residents of the Town of Wilson are vehemently opposed to annexation and to the golf course. We are the ones that live here. We are the ones who will have to deal with the increased traffic, the loss of the forest lands, the increased use of pesticides and their effect on our environment and water supply.... all for a golf course that no one in the town will be able to afford to utilize. How is this fair? How are you doing your job by taking the side of Kohler company?

We were basically tricked into selling our home to Kohler for this obnoxious landgrab. We would never have done it purposefully or consciously. However, if you vote for the annexation and the golf course

you will be doing this knowingly and purposefully misrepresenting the residents who will be most affected by this very dirty deal. Please consider your vote very carefully. All of Sheboygan will be watching!

Thank You!
Dinah

We appreciate that Dinah and her husband are speaking out on this deceptive behavior. We need to ask the City Council members how much more information they need to decide this annexation play has been tainted with morally reprehensible behavior on Kohler's part. The City has not been representing the people in its dealings with the Kohler Company. Please send your comments to the City Council at growsheboygan.com