

On Wed, Jul 17, 2024 at 10:49 AM brett donham <bdonham.arch@gmail.com> wrote:
Good evening Nick, Steve, and Coreysha,

I have recently been exposed to Covid so thought I should not come to your meeting. I hope one of you will read this publicly.

My comments have to do with the Ad-Hoc Mining Committee and particularly with the process by which it is going about its work. I don't believe the current process will create public confidence in its work and in its end product, if there is one. Since the Committee is the creation of the Selectboard, I recommend the Selectboard take corrective action to assure that the final product is one that the Town Meeting can support and the Planning Board can execute.

I believe the initial premise behind the creation of the AD-Hoc Mining Committee was problematic. That premise was to throw out the Proposed Mining Ordinance that failed passage at the March 2024 Town Meeting and draft a new Ordinance from scratch rather than revise the Draft Ordinance to correct the objectional features. This approach requires a new group of folks unfamiliar with issues related to mining to perform in 3 months work that a highly experienced group needed 12 months to perform. The Selectboard member driving this new approach stated on several occasions that he had not read the original Draft Proposal.

Another problem with the Ad-Hoc Committee's approach is that they are addressing only blasting and not mining as well. The two are part of the same activity. They take place together. Both have impacts that need to be addressed in the same document.

The governance structure of the Ad-Hoc Committee does not confirm to the Town's accepted standards;

- No Public Comments are accepted
- No minutes are kept and posted. The Moderator has someone [not a Committee member] take minutes, but he says they are private, for his use only.
- One Committee Member does not sit at the meeting table with the others, but rather sits at the perimeter of the room, adding comments, drawing conclusions, being argumentative, and generally speaking out of turn. It appears as if he is trying to lead the Committee to conclusions he has already reached which are that blasting and mining are harmless activities.
- Among the members on the Ad-Hoc Committee there are some serious conflicts of interest and some Alna Ethics Code violations. These have been spelled out in detail in a Letter to the Editor in the Lincoln County News. Does the Selectboard plan to address this?

My recommendation is to revise the mission of the Ad-Hoc Committee and ask them to describe the concerns they have with the Draft Mining Ordinance that came before the

Town Meeting and ask the Planning Board to address those concerns with a Re-Draft and further public hearings with a goal of bring a new proposal to the March 2025 Annual Town Meeting.

Thank you.

Brett Donham

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