

I have been watching the evolution of this Mining & Blasting Ordinance since the beginning about a year ago. The process that goes into creating an ordinance takes an extreme amount of time including research, discussion, looking at the ordinance from all angles, more research, Q & A processing from constituency, attorney review, completing each component with precise wording and grammar for the final written draft. With that I say THANK YOU to our Planning Boards - current, past and future because they are looking out for the interests of Alna, the land and the people, --our village.

It is a small village and we have very limited resources. Many of us have chosen to live here or remained here because of the amazing beauty of the area, the open spaces, the natural habitat, the Sheepscot River, the peace and quiet.

Unfortunately, there are many things we cannot control which evoke change like the weather ^{with} continued raising temperatures, years of draught, extensive rains and flooding, ^{and} Covid which brought a large influx of people into Maine, Lincoln County and Alna. Growth and change beyond our control in our small town of less than 800 persons, one of the smallest towns in Lincoln County both in population and space.

We have no public facilities to support higher density in growth areas, there is no water and sewer facilities and none of ~~of~~ the other services offered in larger communities (public works, schools, parks and recreation.) Our natural resources are limited ~~note~~ approximately 60% of the soils have low or very low potential for septic systems including 10% of the town land is in wetlands and approx. 20% is in flood plains.

The Sheepscot River is an important asset to Alna, the state and the nation with its geologic, ecological and scenic values, plus its fisheries habitat and recreational value. The town has worked hard over the years protecting the land along the waterways, and now we are looking to protect our land with healthy appropriate ordinances going forward. This Mining and Blasting Ordinance is a good start.

And as it is noted on the draft

This Ordinance is declared a necessary public purpose:

- A. To preserve public health, safety, convenience and general welfare, and to prevent public nuisances;
 - B. To protect property values and ensure a fiscal base for public services;
 - C. To ensure efficient public services;
 - D. To prevent and control environmental pollution;
 - E. To protect historic resources;
 - F. To protect plant and animal species and wildlife habitat;
 - G. To protect the quantity and quality of the Town's groundwater and the waters in the Sheepscot River and its tributaries;
- and
- H. To preserve the natural beauty of the Town.