

March 3, 2026

All-

I did a quick review of the draft mining ordinance and offer the following comments for your consideration.

1. Article VI(J)-The language in this section is weak. It should state that the water quality monitoring plan shall be submitted for review and approval by the Planning Board or their designated independent third party reviewer. (water quality will address both ground water and surface waters and review and approval is standard language for assuring it requires more than just submitting a wq plan.)
2. Article VII(1)(B)-Inspections. It should be clarified in Section B if the CEO inspections are announced or unannounced. In my opinion announced inspections are not terribly useful whereas unannounced shows conditions as they exist.
3. Article VII(1)(C)-Review by Qualified Third Party. It would be best to include the language "Independent Third Party" to assure there is no bias involved.
4. Article V.(2)(H)-application requirements. The language Registered Professional Engineer or Certified Geologist should be removed and replaced with Qualified Professional with demonstrable expertise in Hydrogeology. (There are a lot of PE and CG who are well qualified in their field but are not competent hydrogeologists)

Sincerely,

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