



PBchairalna &lt;pbchairalna@gmail.com&gt;

**letter re: proposed mining ordinance**

2 messages

Carol Gardner <carol.gardner@outlook.com>  
To: "pbchairalna@gmail.com" <pbchairalna@gmail.com>

Wed, Jan 24, 2024 at 8:37 AM

Dear Planning Board:

I urge the Alna Planning Board to include a clause in its new mining ordinance for assessing fees for a class B mining operation. This is not to single out Crooker; rather, it would model how our town would treat any class B commercial mining operation.

From my limited perspective, a full cost-benefit analysis would seem to show that the town of Alna is paying more for the Crooker pit than it realizes in benefits. Here are questions I'd ask: does the operation bring the town of Alna revenue apart from the dollars assessed in real estate taxes (in Crooker's case, \$2369); do those taxes reflect the value of the land before or after mining; do they reflect the changing values of surrounding properties after mining; how many Alna residents are employed at the operation, and what taxes do they pay to the town; how much do employees spend at Alna businesses; what is the cost of the company's heavy vehicles on Alna's roadways over time?

Perhaps operations such as Crooker are already assessed additional fees above what individuals and families pay. But to pay so little in taxes for rendering acres of the town unusable for other purposes seems unreasonable. I would therefore suggest levying a tax, or percentage of a company's annual profits realized from Alna operations, that enables the town to recover some of the hidden costs of large, commercial mining operations.

Apart from my suggestion above, I agree with the content of the proposed mining ordinance, and think it will be a valuable tool for Alna. I thank the planning board for the effort you've put into this work on residents' behalf. We appreciate your work.

Best,

Carol Gardner

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[Redacted]

PBchairalna <pbchairalna@gmail.com>  
To: Carol Gardner <carol.gardner@outlook.com>

Mon, Jan 29, 2024 at 6:37 PM

Hi Carol, Thank you for your comments. I will share them with the rest of the board.

Cathy Johnson  
Chair, Alna Planning Board

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