

Dear Select Board:

Thanks so much for all the effort you're putting into drafting a new mining ordinance. I know it's a complicated task.

I have two comments on the latest draft. In sum, I'm concerned that not everyone will be subject to permits, which may create problems in the long run.

For example, new commercial mining operations under 2 acres and quarries under 1 acre would both be exempt from permits. I think by requiring permits for everyone, the Town of Alna would be treating all landowners fairly, and it would ensure some level of protection for abutting residents or others living nearby who might be impacted by noise, environmental issues, and land value. Many other towns require such permits across the board; it's a way to both educate landowners and ensure that proper environmental practices will be followed. If the ordinance is clear, then there's no reason why the permitting process must be onerous. Similarly, if new or expanding mining operations must apply for permits every five years, then why doesn't that apply to current operations? I think it should. It is both easier and more equitable in the long run, to have everyone treated the same.

Thanks for considering my thoughts, and for the work you do for the town.

Regards,
Carol

Carol Gardner