

Comments from Chris Cooper 11/2/2025

This is a much more careful and detailed reading of this proposed ordinance that I was interested in giving it. I did read about halfway through, and gave up when it began to feel nearly as frustrating as reading the original mining/ blasting ordinance that voters rejected.

I think most reasonable people feel no great worry that gravel extraction has, is, or will ruin or degrade the quality of life in Alna. And of those who do so worry, much of the opposition is centered on traffic, dump trucks, and road usage generally, which we do not and cannot regulate.

I find brother Spinney's objections and suggestions for improvement thoughtful, reasonable, proportionate, and offered without profanity or personal attack or innuendo that caused a couple members of the blasting committee to demand that I "remove him", which of course I had no authority to do on a committee appointed by the selectmen, and which I wouldn't have, if such power were vested in my limited office, as his opponents were equally guilty on those counts.

Finally, consider this important truth. Few persons read all of the original mining ordinance beyond those pit owners and associated who would have been affected by its passage. Nevertheless, they voted against it. The reasons most often advanced to me were: complexity, bureaucratic language, overly-intrusive, unnecessary considering lack of perceived problem or threat. And, almost always, **TOO DAMNED LONG! I'd say that applied to this document as well, it being nearly the same length. Cut it in half and it will have a chance.**

Henry Thoreau: "Simplify." That good advice is more relevant now than it was then.