

2/6/2026

To the Selectboard, and Town Clerk, Alna, Me.

My comment is with regard to Article IV registering existing mining operations within the first 180 days.

As the town's volunteer archivist, I am often asked about helping home owners learn about the history of their properties and all the changes on the property leading up to the present. How many acres did they have, was there ever a barn? Was the site a boat yard?, a shingle mill?, a store? a gravel pit?, etc.

Early records don't always provide clear answers because records were kept differently in past decades.

I have looked at our present building permit application to see what questions appear on that form with regard to the kinds of questions I'm often asked about the past. Our building permit application is quite thorough, covers all types of building and asks all the basic questions of size and location, what occurred before and what impacts could be anticipated in the future.

By contrast the draft ordinance process to register an existing mining operation doesn't require the basic data of how large an existing operation might be, and how many acres it covers. Whether an active or inactive site, the changes over time to the land can become lost if they are not described and recorded.

What is needed is a clearly documented size in acres of a mining operation that presently exists. It provides a baseline for comparison so that in the next couple of years or in twenty years from now, when an issue arises— as they always do, one can determine if and/or when, and by how much - a property has changed as a result of mining operations.

Respectfully submitted,

D. Conboy