

2/6/2026

Dear Select Board:

Here are a few additions I'd like to see to the Alna Mining Ordinance that was discussed last night, 2/5/26.

1. Alna residents who have existing mining operations should provide a full site plan (precise location, acreage and map) when registering their mines or pits. This requirement is essential for knowing what exists in Alna. To avoid lawsuits and complaints, it is essential that it be public knowledge for persons seeking to purchase abutting land.
2. Rather than putting the burden on the town clerk to review such registrations, the CEO or planning board should handle them. They're much better equipped to determine whether the registration meets town requirements.
3. I agree with my neighbors that the town should establish a cap on the size of quarries and pits. While I don't know what the proper size is, I would say the smaller the better. Given public concern, this cap would protect us from large commercial mining operations purchasing land and seeking to establish future mines or pits without significant public input and oversight.
4. I understand that the town cannot assess greater property taxes on a business than a residence and that we must follow state laws. But my paying greater property taxes than Crooker—while I'm not involved in altering the landscape or making it unusable for future generations to use—is patently unfair. Therefore, I'd appreciate your looking into the situation in Whitefield to understand how they've been able to place a more reasonable tax burden on Crooker.

Thank you for your months of hard work on this ordinance, and for all you do for the town.

Sincerely,

Carol

Carol Gardner

238 Golden Ridge Road

Alna, ME 04535

www.carolgardnerwriter.com

<https://www.umasspress.com/9781625348746/the-divided-north/>

207.586.5203