11/6/2024

From Brett Donham

The Selectboard appointed a Ad-Hoc Committee to draft a revised Mining and Blasting Ordinance. In the event, they drafted a Blasting Ordinance only but not its companion, a revised Mining Ordinance. The two are tightly related. And this Blasting Ordinance needs to coordinate with and reference the Town's existing regulations regarding mining. In reviewing this draft, I urge the Planning Board to reconcile this new document with the Town's existing regulations regarding mining.

Section 1:

A. ,The first 2 sentences are not necessary and don't add anything.

Section 2:

A. Divided responsibility for administration could be a problem, especially given Alna's troubled history with past CEO's

Section 3:

B., 12] Location of the water table in the proposed blast area.
13] Location of proposed ground water monitoring wells.

Section 4:

D. What is the difference between detonation and blasting? Add to Definitions section of Ordinance.

Remove "between sunrise and sunset". In the summer sunrise can be as early as 5:00 and sunset as late as 8:00.

I.1. Add the word "blasting" after the word "no".

Sections 13: Definitions

Definitions are customarily placed near the beginning of an ordinance. A number of these definitions have no reference to anything in the text. For instance, there appear to be no limits on the amount of noise generated in blasting.

As a point of information, the loudest noise from the quarry to someone who lives a little over 1 mile away is the persistent grinding sound of the rock crusher.