

2/17/26

Good Morning Select Board,

After listening to a lot of other folks comment at the public hearing on February 5, reading a few follow up comments that have been posted, and having read through a few iterations of the ordinance, I've concluded that I believe we should simply prohibit any and all NEW mining and quarrying operations. We prohibit mineral mining, so why not sand and gravel?

The ordinance is written to make the application process and requirements very "burdensome" for any new mining operation. But still, someone could meet that burden, and the most likely to meet that burden is an operation like Crooker. So rather than have that high bar be met, when the majority of residents do not want another operation of that size and scope, it seems to me we should just prohibit new operations altogether.

There is plenty of possibility remaining for the existing Crooker operation and the existing smaller operations.

Also, like many I was surprised to see the new inclusion of the "one time 25% expansion" give away. If there is a need to align the mining ordinance with the Site Plan Review, then it seems we could add another item to the town warrant by making a small amendment to the SSRO by revising the language to read "a one time expansion of 25% OR 2 acres, whichever is smaller."

I do agree with many who have said the application process should be handled by the CEO or the Planning Board, it is beyond the purview of the town clerk.

Thank you for taking my comment!

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