

March 3, 2026

Dear Select Board,

Thank you for the work you've done in these past many months to create a true viable mining ordinance for our town. I appreciate having been able to attend so many meetings and listen and watch the process of how the ordinance has come together, and to send my comments to you all. I was happy that a lot of my neighbors wrote in with questions and concerns as well, and that the Board and the author addressed those concerns.

I have one last recommendation. It is more or less a punctuation issue, but could cause confusion.

Under Article IV, Section I - Registration of Existing Operations, #3 reads:  
"Evidence of right, title, or interest in the affected land, such as copy of a deed, lease, or operating agreement."

This reads as though a deed is optional. This seems risky. I think it would be reasonable to request a copy of the complete deed outright, and then require a lease or operating agreement in addition for a case where the operator is not the property owner. Deeds often have restrictions, and while those restrictions are usually enforced by the person who wrote them in, they could affect an abutters without their knowledge of said restriction.

I'll use myself as an example. My deed states that I CANNOT have a sand or gravel pit. I am certain that the person who wrote that into my deed is long dead, but it is still there and could negatively affect my neighbor. Even though it is not technically the job of a municipality to enforce deed restrictions, the fact that so many of our town ordinances are at their core land use issues, it would be more responsible to simply require a copy of the deed and its covenants outright.

If someone thinks they no longer have to abide by deed restrictions, there is always an appeals process!

Thank you,  
Helen Rasmussen