

12/15/25

Dear Select Board,

Apologies for another letter in such quick succession! This is just some additional information regarding two things I commented on back in November - increased noise from Crooker's blasting, and potential engine brake prohibition in town.

First, I had let the Select Board know I've experienced a significant increase in noise and movement this year as a result of blasting from the Crooker pit.

I called Crooker with my concerns, and they sent a person with a seismograph to monitor the blasts from my property. They came for 3 blast events and the dB readings were 101, 105, and 113. The limit is 129 dB for a single blast and 126 dB for two in a day. At least two of these were two blast days. I was told that possible reasons for the increased impact were that they are going at the bedrock wall from a different angle, and also they were trying to reduce impact to other abutters. I believe this is pretty loud and forceful for being about 3/4 mile away. I will be sending a formal complaint to Crooker in hopes they can make an effort to re-direct the blasting going forward.

Crooker does have a call list for the days that they blast, so I will remain on that list, but for now I do not feel the need to continue the seismograph readings. Because of this experience I do have a suggestion, which is to have Crooker provide the Town with the blasting schedule each year so that our Town Clerk can add it to the website calendar. That would be much easier for residents to check than trying to chase down the correct issue of the newspaper since they have to post that a week or so in advance.

Second, I commented to the Board about the excessive noise from trucks (mostly, not always, from Crooker) and especially the noise from engine brakes. **This noise can be regulated at the local level, including on state roads.** Many municipalities in Maine have engine brake prohibitions— Biddeford, Kennebunk, [Waterboro](#), [Eastport](#), Brewer, for example. Others have signage asking for voluntary compliance, like Camden, Bucksport, and Ashland. Every town's situation is different; some are town-wide, some on certain roads, some just for overnights, but for my neighborhood, the noise is nearly constant throughout the weekdays. I appreciated Mike Trask helping me make my point by noting that Damariscotta has a prohibition because the brake noise reverberates off the buildings. This is exactly the case in my neighborhood, except it reverberates off the dense tree lines that create a valley on Rt. 218 at the northern corner of the town.

I'd suggest that the Select Board do some sort of town survey or request for feedback so we can find out where problem areas are and see how to address them. I should stress that in my neighborhood, this is NOT a SPEED problem, and I am not interested in pursuing a speed limit. In fact, that would make the situation worse by encouraging MORE engine brake usage. I am certainly willing to see if something like signs for voluntary compliance helps; my guess is that it might work for a while, but then may be ignored.

In any case, I would ask that the Select Board pursue this, whether as voluntary action or via an ordinance. I have attached here ordinances from three other towns. They are short and sweet, each less than two pages. And please note the fines!! Like the covered loads issue, this would not be difficult for our CEO to enforce at his leisure and could collect much-needed funds to keep up the roads. (I am partial to the [ordinance from Mechanic Falls!](#))

I've also included a news article about a resident in Edgecomb who asked for approval to put up some signs asking trucks to refrain from engine braking on Rt 27. I do not know how it has worked out for her.

Thank you for hearing my comments!

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