

November 20, 2024

Alna Selectboard
Chair, Alna Planning Board

Subject: Feedback on errors/typos in final draft of Blasting Ordinance posted to town website

Dear municipal officers,

As a follow-up to the 11/14 Selectboard meeting last Thursday, I have thoroughly reviewed the final blasting ordinance draft coming from the mining committee and offer the following list of typographical, formatting, and substantive issues for you to consider adjusting prior to any finalization for a town warrant and vote. In my opinion, the most important of these observations is number 4.D. which if the current language stands, is contrary to the discussion and decision of the mining committee, and may jeopardize passage at town meeting.

Comments in order of the Draft ordinance sections:

1.B. Remove extra space at beginning

4.A. To whom must an applicant provide a valid permit? Consider clarifying this in adjusted wording.

4.D. There was significant discussion around hours of blasting and drilling and the committee including Crooker Construction agreed to 8am-4pm - NOT sunrise to sunset or the longer of the two as appears in the draft. This provision should be adjusted to reflect the decision of the committee. If the wording stands as is, it may jeopardize passage at town meeting.

4.I.1. Remove extraneous spaces.

5.B. Remove extra space between "to perform"

13.C. This term is not used anywhere in the ordinance. Consider removing or perhaps more appropriately add the word "blast" before each instance of "site" throughout the ordinance to make it clear that this is the term being referred to.

13.G. This term is not used anywhere in the ordinance, but the abbreviation Db is used, so perhaps add (Db) to this definition and/or add the word to each reference of Db where used throughout the ordinance.

13.I. This term is not used anywhere in the ordinance. Perhaps consider adding the words "minimize flyrock" to section A of the draft ordinance as I believe the intention for this term was to have blasting minimize the occurrence of flyrock as a by-product of blasting.

13.L. This term is not used anywhere in the ordinance, but the abbreviation Hz is used, so perhaps consider adding (Hz) to this definition and/or add the word to each reference of Hz where used throughout the ordinance.

13.M. This term is not used anywhere in the ordinance. Perhaps consider removing or determining where it is appropriate.

13.Q. This term is used in only one area of the ordinance.....the definition of flyrock (see above). Consider removing and/or incorporating in a blasting application (what is the secured blast area going to be?) or other appropriate adjustment to the draft ordinance.

Thank you for considering these observations in a final version for consideration at town meeting.

Jeff Philbrick

Alna