



Andrea Stoddard <27starfish@gmail.com>

Comments on Amending Land Use designation

1 message

Brad Bender <wallacad@vermontel.net>

Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 4:46 PM

To: shelley Taylor <staylor8665@gmail.com>, Andrea Stoddard <27starfish@gmail.com>, Dave Powers <dpowers88@gmail.com>, Greg Heaton <gheaton@vermontel.net>, Janice Arnold <danbytownclerk@vermontel.net>, Farm FiskHaines <FiskHainesFarm@outlook.com>
Cc: Bradley <wallacad@vermontel.net>

I have not been able to attend the Hearing or the upcoming meeting where you will act on the above matter. I have, however read the minutes of the Hearing and offer the following, which includes much of what I mentioned at the Select Board Hearing on the matter last year when the very people who attended your recent Hearing, very rudely paid no attention to what I offered and walked out of the meeting room when I started to speak because they did not want to hear facts.

The acreage involved is so small that considering the total acreage of the town it amounts to a pimple on a fly's behind.

No evidence of violations for the existing quarry was presented, nor could it be since no violations exist. I am a contiguous land owner to the existing operation and have only once experienced a problem which was immediately resolved. If others claim damage why did they not submit claims? Also I do not comprehend why people claim that this tiny expansion will ruin the Village Center--where is the evidence for that? We need to deal with facts, not opinions.

I do not understand why anyone would feel it necessary to state how long they have lived in town. Does that grant some privilege that I am not aware of? We in this country and state operate as a Representative Democracy, which grants decision making power to those elected to various offices, and the process is set down. It does NOT include a town vote on decisions made by Boards who follow the process of holding informational meetings, hearings, etc. If a Board makes a decision that aggrieves a large number of people, then they have the right to submit a petition signed by 5% of the registered voters to be placed on the Town Meeting ballot to see if the decision will be repealed. Not before.

Someone came up with the fiction that real estate values are dropping on South Main Street which is totally untrue as values have soared in the Village Center over the past 10 years. One property on South Main doubled in value in just 2 years. Just about every real estate advertisement that I see includes drone pictures of the property and shows the surrounding area, so I don't believe anyone who claims to be ignorant of this operation that has been in existence for half a century.

Limestone and marble have always been part of the town's geology and I see nothing wrong with mining it. The benefits to the town are clear, especially since we have more miles of unpaved road than any other town in the state. The material is local and easy to transport. The owner is local and has always been generous with the prices given to the town because he too pays local taxes. It is also the most environmentally friendly way to go since it cuts down on the distance trucks travel, the diesel fuel consumed and carbon produced.

For those who have once again taken this as an opportunity to launch vicious personal attacks against Tom Fuller, Jr. it seems that they should take some time to reassess Tom's actions that have benefited the town over the last 40 years or more. Look at the derelict properties he purchased and beautifully renovated. Look at his countless hours working with Dr. Ross Hall and me to completely rebuild a malfunctioning and failing community water system. Does anyone really think he is going to do something to damage that? And let's not forget his actions when disaster struck during Irene and 2 years ago when there was a landslide on Brook Road. It was he who operated his own equipment, solved the problem and never charged the town one cent. Please show us a specific list of his evil, unethical wrong doing if you can.

Sincerely,

Bradley J. Bender