

Seth's Minority Report

I feel that I was fortunate to serve on this committee with such a diverse, caring, hardworking, and intelligent group of people. We have spent hundreds of combined hours thinking, studying and looking at gravel pits and our town's use and need for gravel.

I have come to recognize that our town needs lots and lots of gravel and we need to make up for years of neglect of our dirt roads. We need to resurface and rebuild countless miles of our roads. I also realize that the gravel we need is coming from further and further away and fuel costs may continue to rise.

However, as a neighbor of a potential town pit, I feel that the need we have does not justify the loss to the environment in my neighborhood or in any neighborhood in Underhill. The noise of 8 weeks of opening a pit, the potential 2 to 6 weeks of crushing for 20 to 40 years, the noise of back up alarms, and the diesel plume of an 800 KW generator is nothing that I should be asked to live near.

The potential savings is hard to pin point at this time, but some of spreadsheets have shown anywhere from \$12 to \$50 per household in savings if the town owns its own pit. As a portion of our tax bill yearly, this is "peanuts"; this cannot be pitched as some big tax savings, it just is not true.

The notion that our area is running out of gravel is a rumor, not a fact. Most towns do not own their own pit and therefore will need to continue to purchase gravel on the "open market". This need will spur future development of pits in the private sector; this is a basic economic principal of our society and it has worked very well.

If our town has its own pit we take away the potential for private enterprise to prosper and create jobs. Our government's role is to provide safety and oversight, not to enter into industry. We are a small town with limited management resources and we should not feel that we are well suited to run a pit. Even though this potential pit would be for "town use only" does not remove the fact that it is a business.

I still feel that the Albertini option should be thrown out. Mona's findings that the money spent on the plans for the potential pit was "misused" should not be swept under the carpet. In a sophisticated business setting this would have voided the contract and new terms would have had to be established.

The only way I could agree to a long term pit is if we can find a spot that physically does not affect any neighbors. I also embrace the "short term hill top removal option" or the "win, win co development option."