

Feb 17 2015

Thanks to Selectboard Eddie, Earl, & Lewis & Robbin

You might figure here comes that old hippie from up in the Center. I might get going about talking to trees or ~~cutters~~ ^{to the} animals. ~~Maybe~~ I might sing a few verses of the bluegrass tune "Down By the Green River". But I won't go there.

Halifax is an area rich in history. Since I have been working w/ Cliff for several years maintaining cemeteries I have come across more old foundations w/ center fireplace footers, stone culverts, mill sites, huge barn foundations, retaining walls and one stone bridge still in everyday use. We should make a great effort to keep this history intact.

I am a firm believer in ones right to do with ones property what one wants. Yet the world is getting smaller, people living closer to each other than before and everything we do has an impact especially on our neighbors.

This project which as presented is a 60 acre industrial site containing a 40 acre stone quarry. Scaling off a topographic map the western edge of this proposed quarry approaches within approximately 2200' of the Pond on Deer Park. I don't think most of ~~us~~ us can visualize the size of this proposed site.

This is not anything to compare to diorama a foundation and putting in a drive

40 acres is huge and has a huge impact especially on neighbors. The imprint of this quarry is like digging 871 (2000' sq') foundations, all in one spot!

These mountains have drawn in many people for the closeness to the silence of the Natural world. Most everyone I spoke with cherish the times when one hears the snow falling, or the sound of a summer breeze in the trees. Some bought property around our "conservation district" to enjoy the serenity of the Land, with the idea that this area is protected! What do we tell them?

If this quarry were to become a reality I certainly anticipate a devaluation of properties close to the site. This would lead to a loss of revenue for the State of VT and the town of Halifax.

How do we make this up? I don't believe anyone in the center or in W. Halifax would support an ~~tax~~ increase in the tax rate to make up for the decline in assessments. Any taxes on the finish product are not ending up in Vermont. What is the value of 40 acres of stone over 50 years I would only guess probably millions. We are not talking peanuts here. Ashfeld Stone doesn't only manufacture soup bowls or salt shakers.

Most people's largest investment is their home. If some folks decided to move on their return may be less than anticipated. What do we
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The issues of property rights is not just black and white. As a community we must consider everybody and encourage people on both sides of the fence to discuss the issues involved. We probably have more in common than we realize.

The revenue issue must be figured out and if not then Am with Nancy Reagan.
"Just say no."

I submit this petition to the Selectboard with a partial list of Halifax voters who also see ^{only} costs involved with the proposed quarry and no benefit to our Community our Town or the State of Vermont.

Leave our mountain right where it is.

Thanks for hearing me out!