

May 3rd, 2016

Roger Lane, Dane Co. Zoning administrator; (and ZLR committee members):

To keep you updated on Town Board of Deerfield actions, here is a brief report on the April 11th, 2016 board meeting:

The board first passed two simple changes to our blasting ordinance that the *quarry had requested*. First, we changed the definition of “blast area” to only include the actively mined area, so that the quarry would not need to fence their entire property, but only the active area. Second, we added a provision for when Town Board members, or a designated inspector, come to the quarry, that they must notify the operator in charge, and be accompanied by a miner for safety reasons.

Next the board passed a provision for protecting historic buildings (such as St. Paul’s Liberty Lutheran Church) by limiting maximum PPV at such buildings to .2 PPV. The board did this after holding a public hearing on March 29th, where 80 people attended. The quarry’s hired expert was given 15 minutes to present arguments, and an unpaid Professor of Engineering (Roxann Engelstad) was given 15 minutes to present the church’s side of the argument. (By the way, Atty. Sweeney’s contention that Dr. Engelstad has been able to talk in front of the Town Board meetings over several months *for hours* [emphasis mine] is simply not true. She has had no special access to speaking time.) Everyone else was given 3 minutes to speak. It was only after carefully considering all the presented information that the board acted, (and it passed a limit of .2 PPV, not the .12 PPV that the church had wanted).

For the record, the Town Board’s representatives have met with the quarry’s representatives twice in recent months, once in December, 2015, and again in February, 2016, and have listened to their concerns. And the church’s representatives have met with quarry owner Jon Halverson three times, once in September, 2015, again in December 2015, and again in March, 2016. Since no solution was forthcoming from those meetings, the board acted in the best interests of the residents and their property.

It is disingenuous now for the quarry owner and his lawyers to portray both the church and the board as uncooperative simply because the quarry team has not gotten the results they wanted. The board followed proper procedures, and acted fairly, and reasonably.

Please feel free to share this with ZLR committee members as you see fit.

Bill Roelofs (appointed fill-in board member for February, March, and April)