

To the Dane County ZLR and Town of Rutland Board:

I am writing to register in opposition of the new quarry on Center Road in the Town of Rutland. My opposition is focussed on General Standard 2, which is not satisfied.

Standard 2 of the Town of Rutland Comprehensive Plan 2005-2024 (Comprehensive Plan) outlines the requirements for conditional use permit applications. See <https://town.rutland.wi.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Rutland-Plan.pdf>. Importantly, the plan states that “[t]he uses, values and enjoyment of other properties in the neighborhood already permitted shall be in no foreseeable manner be substantially impaired or diminished by establishment, maintenance or operation of the proposed conditional use.” See Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan further states that Rutland “[r]esidents value the quiet and the sense of community this rural character offers.” One part of this rural character is pedestrian and bicycle travel, as stated in Goal Three of the Comprehensive Plan. Rutland has three goals with respect to pedestrian and bicycle travel: (1) Increase opportunities for pedestrian and bicycle travel, (2) Increase pedestrian and bicycle safety, and (3) Increase the number of miles of bike routes. See Comprehensive Plan. The quarry CUP application does not meet Standard Two and is not aligned with the goals of the Town of Rutland.

Rutland already denied the CUP at issue for failing to meet Standard 2. In 2020, the Town Board stated that the “current quarry does impair and diminish the uses, values and enjoyment of other property in the neighborhood.” See Town Board Action Report-Conditional Use Permit.

Nothing has changed since the 2020 CUP denial. The “values and enjoyment of other properties” continue to be “substantially impaired or diminished” in a “foreseeable manner” by the quarry. See Comprehensive Plan. Before the 2020 CUP application and for the 29 years I have lived on Old Stone Road, I have enjoyed sitting outside, listening to what nature has to offer, and breathing fresh air. I enjoyed walking on our quiet roads at all times of day without having to dodge dump truck traffic. I could take the stroller out without fear of being run off the road. Now, dump trucks from the quarry go up and down our road every 5-6 minutes. I have to listen to trucks shifting gears (6 times within the 1/8 mile span of road where I live), loud engines, squeaky brakes, back-up beepers, blasting, and constant loud banging when trucks are loaded. The diesel fumes are noticeable in the air, especially during the hot, muggy, summer days. Walking on the roads has become hazardous. When two dump trucks pass each other on the roads there is no room for pedestrians or cyclists. The ditch is the only place to go. When dump trucks pass by on the same side of the road, the blowback is enough that pedestrians have to brace themselves, and cyclists have to hang on to avoid being blown off the road. Walking with a stroller is no longer an option. These changes have severely impacted my value and enjoyment of my neighborhood.

Clearly, these intrusions are foreseeable and attributable to the quarry. It is foreseeable that a quarry will “require heavy equipment” to “transport[material] to and from the site.” See Rutland Website. With our town’s narrow roads, it is inevitable that bikers and pedestrians will have to go off the road and into the ditch to avoid the trucks. That reality is not in line with Rutland’s goals to increase bicycle and pedestrian traffic and safety, and is not compatible with the values of this rural community.

Figure 1: Two passing dump trucks.



There is no room for pedestrians or cyclists on the road when these trucks are present.

Thank you,
Robyn Wood
Old Stone Road