

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

June 23, 1983

A Gravel Removal Hearing was held at the Town Hall to ~~review~~^{consider} the application of J. J. Cronin Co. at 7:30 pm. Present were Marian Chittim, Ann Freeman, Michael & Bonnie French, Arthur Gagnon, Dorothy Johnson, Hilda Johnson, Barbara Stewart, George & Elsie Strong, Harold Strong, Mrs. Dawson and Roland Sallada. Mr. John Cronin was present with legal representation, Hedley Pingree, and Robert Todd, surveyor. Mr. Ted Fredenburg, manager for J. J. Cronin, was also present. Sel. Chairman Ted Olson read the application which described the location of the new pit as opposite from the pit now in use. The application asked for the removal of 83,000 yards to be removed in a twelve-month period, July 1, 1983 to July 1, 1984, working hours being Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 4:30 pm. Sel. Olson then read the Town Gravel Removal Ordinance which was passed at the Town Meeting of 1972.

Arthur Gagnon asked for a copy of the Gravel Removal Ordinance. He then asked to see maps of the operation. Bob Todd displayed topographic maps for all to inspect.

Hilda Johnson expressed concern about the brook that runs through the property. Mr. Todd assured her that the operation would not affect the brook in any way. He said the closest they would come to Riverdale Road would be from 300 to 400 feet. Everyone present expressed concern about the damage to roads, the dust caused, the danger to children and dogs and the fact that it would depreciate the value of property along the route.

Michael French reported rumors that the Goffstown police warn the truck drivers when the scales will be used. Hedley Pingree, Esq., attorney for J. J. Cronin and also Judge for Goffstown Courts, remarked that this rumor was wrong and impossible. He also stated that Mr. Louis George, an abutter to the pit, asked to go on record that he has no objections to the permit.

Arthur Gagnon showed concern regarding the speed that the trucks traveled and the fact that they seemed over-loaded. Again the brook was mentioned. Mr. Pingree assured them that the brook would not be disturbed.

George Strong asked why the sharp curves have not been straightened out to accommodate 10-wheelers.

Elsie Strong wanted to know why Mr. Cronin wanted to open another pit. Mr. Cronin replied that he needs the particular material in this area and it would not involve using any more trucks than in the past. He said they do not work on Saturdays. In answer to questions, he explained that his crew works at the pit on Saturdays but they do not do any hauling.

Mrs. Dawson asked how many years he expects to use this new pit. Mr. Cronin replied that he hopes to be out of there in a year.

Dorothy Johnson asked what they plan to do with the land after the project is finished. Sel. Mansfield advised that the Town Gravel Removal Ordinance requires that the property be graded and seeded.

To stress her concern for the safety of these trucks traveling the road, Elsie Strong reported that one truck dropped a large rock which she hit with her car. She claimed she reported this to the Goffstown police but nothing was done. Mr. Cronin was upset and emphasized that when any problem arises, would they please call ~~him~~ him directly. He promised the matter would be taken care of promptly.

Arthur Gagnon wondered why there is no gravel yield tax the same as on timber. Sel. Mansfield explained that this is a State matter. He said the land on which there is a gravel pit is taxed higher than other land.

Barbara Stewart asked for details on the present operation. Mr. Cronin replied that he has 8-9 trucks making approximately 8 trips daily.

Mrs. Dawson asked if Riverdale Road was a scenic road. It was voted a scenic road but this operation does not violate any of the conditions.

Harold Strong at this time spoke up. He agreed that everyone here had legitimate complaints. The Town has a "permit system" and there are others who would like to remove gravel in this area. He remarked that he feels Mr. Cronin runs a good operation and ^{has} never noticed any of the truck drivers speeding.

Barbara Stewart asked if the trucks are covered. Mr. Cronin replied that all trucks are covered. She then asked if any gravel pits in town have been graded at the close of an operation. The answer was only Mr. Byam's off of Route 13. Arthur Gagnon asked if ~~this~~ the condition of this pit was considered re-claimed. Sel. Mansfield said that 3 or 4 acres have been graded with the balance of the acreage left open for Mr. Byam's personal use.

George Strong asked what specifications the Selectmen would recommend for this ^{new} operation. Robert Todd read the basics which had been agreed upon.

Arthur Gagnon then asked if any of the properties in this area have received a tax depreciation because of the existing gravel removal. The answer was "no".

Sel. Olson read a letter from Mr. & Mrs. Jay Marden asking to be put on record to be in favor of the application. Sel. Olson stressed that if there are any problems would they please call Mr. Cronin.

Elsie Strong asked if the Selectmen can over-ride anything said by abutters. Sel. Olson said "yes", whereupon Michael French interjected "money talks". Sel. Olson asked if he would care to elaborate on his statement to which he replied "no". Sel. Olson asked if anyone has objections with the manner in which the hearing is being conducted please stand. There were no objectors.

Elsie Strong asked how long Mr. Cronin planned to operate the first pit. He replied that he has no idea. It depends on business.

Ted Fredenburg of New Boston, who works for the J. J. Cronin Co., also suggested that if anyone had a legitimate problem to please call.

Dorothy Johnson asked if the grading could be requested to be done properly. Sel. Mansfield said this condition would be included as one of the specifications.

Hilda Johnson complained about the damage to the road in front of her house due to the trucks. Harold Strong described locations of the damage and made suggestions for repair.

The Hearing adjourned at 9:15 pm

Later this evening, following deliberation, the Selectmen voted to grant a Gravel Removal Permit to J. J. Cronin for the removal of 183,000 yds. in the new gravel pit. Conditions and bond will be set at a later date.

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Following the Hearing at the town hall to consider the Gravel Removal application of J. WJ. Cronin, the Selectmen returned to the office for regular business.

John Bunting and Jim Dodge came in to check over the 1981 building permit application of Maurice Whipple which had been referred to the Board of Adjustment. The problem seems to be the location of a hydrant.

Building permits were approved for Leonard Sandford and Peter Gallup.
Meeting adjourned at 11:30 pm.