

Vote Rationale for Purchase of Gravel Pit

I will not sign a Purchase and Sale Agreement for the purchase of the Gilsum gravel pit for the following reasons:

1. The Purchase is a Violation of the Trust of the Town Meeting. I believe that the Gravel Pit Study Committee lead the Town Meeting to believe that we could purchase and operate the Gilsum pit with an annual expenditure of town funds in an amount less than or equal to the amount presently spent for sand and gravel. This was true when we believed that we were spending \$50k/year for sand and gravel, but is no longer true now that we know we spend \$34k/year. This question should go back to the Town Meeting for a vote.
2. The Price is Too High. The Select Board has offered to pay a purchase price that exceeds the appraised value of the property by more than 15%. The price offer was periodically increased without having any knowledge of the existence of any competitive bids.
3. All Financial Projections Assume an Energy Status Quo for Many Years to Come. Purchasing a gravel pit in a distant town forces a continuation of a dependency on oil that will become unsustainable. We should be considering alternative methods for maintaining our roads that make use of locally sourced materials.

David A. Shea 10/14/15