

1 **TOWN OF CHESTER**
2 **SELECTBOARD MEETING**
3 **March 22, 2023, Minutes**

4 **Board Members Present:** Arne Jonynas, Lee Gustafson, Peter Hudkins, and Arianna Knapp at
5 Town Hall; and Heather Chase via Zoom.

6 **Staff Present:** Julie Hance, Town Manager, at Town Hall; and Susan Bailey, Recording Secretary,
7 via Zoom.

8 **Visitors Present:** At Town Hall (See sign-in sheet attached); and Cayala, Wendy's iPad, Samantha
9 Snedorf-Bailey, Joy Slaughter, Scott Blair, Lori Quinn, Wendy Germain, Evans Parks, and SAPA
10 TV via Zoom.

11
12 **Call to Order**

13
14 Town Manager Julie Hance called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance.
15

16 **Agenda Item 1, Reorganization**

17
18 Julie asked for nominations for Chair. Lee made a motion to nominate Arne as Chair and Arianna
19 was seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. A vote was taken, and the motion
20 carried. Arne thanked them for their confidence in his abilities as Chair. Arne noted the full room
21 and said it was great to see so many in attendance. Arne asked for nominations for a Vice Chair.
22 Peter nominated Lee and Heather seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. A vote
23 was taken, and the motion carried.

24
25 Arne welcomed the two new members, Arianna Knapp, and Peter Hudkins.
26

27 Arne asked for nominations for a Clerk, whose responsibilities include taking minutes in executive
28 session. Arne noted it's often new members. Lee nominated Arianna and Peter seconded the
29 nomination. A vote was taken, and the motion carried. Arne noted that fellow member Heather
30 Chase, who is also Chester's State Representative, was joining them by Zoom from the state
31 capital.
32

33 Everyone voted in favor of holding meetings on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:30
34 p.m.
35

36 Arne noted they had been using Vermont League of Cities and Towns' Rules of Procedure for
37 Municipal Boards. Lee moved and Peter seconded to readopt the VLCT Rules for meetings. A
38 vote was taken, and the motion carried.
39

40 **Agenda Item 2, Approve minutes from the March 1, 2023, Selectboard Meeting**

41 Lee made a motion and Peter seconded it to approve the March 1, 2023, minutes. There were no
42 changes, and the minutes were approved as written.
43

1 **Agenda Item 3, Citizens' Comments/Answers from Previous Meeting**

2 Jeff Holden, a lifelong resident, and his family having lived in Chester for five generations, had
3 never spoken under citizens' comments but thought too many people keep quiet. He had concerns
4 over a candidate for the Police Advisory Committee. He is no longer a Selectboard Member nor
5 in the police department, so he has no conflict of interest. For the good of the community, he
6 thought there needed to be no bias or agendas for members of the committee. In 2018 while on the
7 police force, he had a complaint lodged against him. The complaint said he engaged in
8 unprofessional conduct while attempting to serve a subpoena. His sergeant reviewed it and
9 determined that Holden didn't violate any policies or rules but that was not accepted by the
10 Complainant. The Chief also reviewed it and wrote a report that again was not accepted by the
11 Complainant who then went to the Town Manager, again. An outside investigator was then hired
12 at a cost to the taxpayers who came back with a 90-page report. Holden said he was unable to
13 comment during that investigation, yet the Complainant made comments at public meetings which
14 he did not think should have been permitted. Of the three-page conclusion, two lines said, "Based
15 on the evidence in this case, it is my opinion that Officer Holden did not violate any law or any of
16 the Chester Police Department policies." He said part of his gripe was Chester paid to have the
17 investigation done and because someone didn't get the results they wanted; it was never put out to
18 the public. He did not think that was right. He thought because the investigation was paid for, the
19 results should be published good or bad. He said the Complainant wanted two other police officers
20 fired which were investigated and nothing was ever found. The person then made a complaint to
21 the Attorney General's Office against the then Town Manger. The AG's office found no cause.
22 Another complaint was made to the AG's office, and they again found no cause. Holden said if
23 this person did not have an agenda, he wanted to know what they considered an agenda. He didn't
24 think this type of person should be on the police oversight committee.

25
26 **Agenda Item 4, Old Business**

27
28 Report given by the Town Manager:

29
30 Solar

31 Julie still had not heard back from Greenbacker but would continue to try to make contact. She
32 submitted to Senators Sanders and Welch for possible federal funding to assist with the project.
33 Arne asked if there was another avenue if Greenbacker continued to give them the runaround. Julie
34 would reach out to legal counsel to inquire. Peter asked if they could increase their taxes based on
35 their appraisal number if they're not going to negotiate with them. Julie said it was a question for
36 the assessors. Heather didn't think they should start talking about their negation stance unless they
37 were going into executive session and to warn it properly to give them the ability to negotiate a
38 better deal when they get to the table.

39
40 Library

41 Two rather large grants are opening that are specific to libraries. Julie had met with the librarian,
42 Pamela, and Steve, who is the facilities director, and identified several capital improvement
43 projects, including the sprinkler system, dehumidifiers in the basement, and other items. She will
44 submit the capital needs assessment next Friday, which is the first step. It opens them up for
45 eligibility to apply for the funding and will keep the board posted.

1 Yosemite

2 The Bruhn Grant, which is for a project from \$50,000 to \$100,000, has opened and the next step
3 would be handicapped access and this grant applies to that. The ramp and the fire escape project
4 would fall under this, and the grant will be submitted next Friday.

5
6 Ambulance

7 They had discussed for years about regionalization efforts and the State has put forth a bill that
8 will allocate money for Rescue, Inc. to do a pilot program. Rescue, Inc. has reached out to Chester.
9 Chester's call volume is too high to be covered by another town but there is an opportunity to be
10 part of a regionalization program for other communities. Discussion is just beginning, and they
11 will come back to Chester with a plan. If Chester doesn't like the pilot program, there is no
12 commitment to continue with it. It may be a great opportunity for Chester and surrounding
13 communities and a way to generate ambulance revenue for Chester. Julie will keep the board
14 apprised.

15
16 Student Representative

17 Julie and Lauren Fierman, Superintendent of Schools, have had a couple of conversations about
18 having a student representative on the Selectboard. They are also looking for student
19 representatives for the school board because the current two are seniors. Julie and the
20 Superintendent will develop a plan about what their role or function will be on the Selectboard, as
21 they will not be voting members, and Julie will come back to the Selectboard with more
22 information. Arne suggested having a representative on the Citizen Advisory Committee too. Peter
23 suggested one on the Planning Board, too. Arne agreed the more that younger people are involved
24 in government, the better for everyone.

25
26 Peter asked if they had a negotiation policy. Not that Julie was aware of. Heather stated that one
27 of the reasons to go into executive session was to discuss financial negotiations that would put the
28 town at a disadvantage for holding it in public.

29
30 Arne thanked the Emergency Services Departments and the Town Highway Department for the
31 good job done during the recent storm and power outages. He noted that Chester was lucky to have
32 them.

33 **Agenda Item 5, Discussion: Julian Quarry**

34 A jurisdictional opinion handed down by the National Resource Board regarding activity that is
35 happening at the three quarries in town, two being on Route 103, and one behind the old depot,
36 was included in the members' packets. There is also one on Chandler Road. The three quarries
37 are all operated by the same place. The report indicated that a lot is going on that probably
38 shouldn't be and have not been following Act 250 regulations. Arne stated that one of the quarries
39 is not even supposed to be operating since 2008. He thought they were flaunting the law and
40 violating their Act 250 permit and doing business their way, which greatly affected the neighbors.

41 The affected neighbors gave a PowerPoint presentation (attached hereto) revealing examples of
42 noise pollution, dangerous, blasting, pollution of the Dean Brook and visual expansion of the
43 quarry operations which have been detrimental to their peace, tranquility, and property values.

44 The State of Vermont Act 250 Board has been working on a solution to their concerns for 3 years
45 and issued a jurisdictional opinion 2-324, Julian, Chester dated March 6, 2023. They wanted to

1 point out things unaddressed by the State. Dean Brook pollution had been reported to the State of
2 Vermont Water Resources with no action noted. They also contacted the Vermont Fish and
3 Wildlife Department with no action taken. Heavy equipment traveling from Route 103 to Route
4 10 to Chandler Road with no visible registration for several years. They weren't aware of any
5 action taken by local or state law enforcement or the Department of Transportation.

6 Two or three years ago they met with the Julian Family, along with their foreman, who asked what
7 they could do to make them happy, and they replied to abide by the Act 250 and local rules. They
8 have not seen them comply.

9 (PowerPoint presentation given.)

10 Some of the neighbors that spoke were Barry Goodrich, Jim Wells, Roberta Alexander, Hugh
11 Quinn, John Novac, and Cara McAllister.

12 They are unable to garden and enjoy the outdoors due to the noise pollution, and as a result, some
13 are leaving Chester. Jim Wells thought a hydro hammer was never intended to be used because it
14 had not been evaluated. Leslie Thorsen said the state had reviewed it and it was clear from the
15 permit record that hydraulic hammering was not contemplated during the permitting of the North
16 and All Stone quarries. At the time, applicants represented stone would be removed using a
17 combination of blasting, drilling, and an excavator with a bucket. Hugh Quinn, who lives nearby,
18 said Chandler Road Quarry was not part of the original Act 250 permit because it wasn't owned
19 by Julian and has since been purchased by him and was within the radius of his other quarries that
20 it should be included in the business operations under the Act 250 permit. Dump trucks go all day
21 long, about one per hour, from Chandler Road to Route 103. Several 18 wheelers go between
22 Chandler Road and the Route 103 quarry every day which make a ton of noise and traffic, and they
23 speed on Route 10. John Novac noted the brook was as white as paper from the quarry's actions.
24 Novac complained about the previous police chief's failure to do anything. Novac noted that there
25 was a complaint in Connecticut because of what they did to the wetlands there. Novac felt there
26 was nothing he could do about it and said that Planning said it slipped by them. He doesn't trust
27 any of the local government or police. Novac said the quarry owners were breaking the law every
28 day and everyone lets them do it. He thought they had dumped tainted dirt from Connecticut on
29 the road. They complained that blasting was done without warning and have lived with it for over
30 2 ½ years. The debris has damaged the railroad tracks and landed close to a storage propane
31 facility. There was concern about it causing a train derailment.

32 Cara McAllister said they had someone painting at their home on a ladder and they blasted, without
33 warning, and it frightened them.

34 They thought 90% of the rocks were going out of state.

35 It was noted that the Fairfield, Connecticut case against Julian included 12 felony counts of illegal
36 dumping of toxic/hazardous materials, forgery, larceny, bribery, and conspiracy. That is the
37 company that is operating in Chester. Fairfield is seeking \$3 million in damages for these
38 environmental crimes.

39 John Novac complained that they played loud music that was lousy and in Spanish and they were
40 Mexicans. He had emailed their Fairfield, Connecticut office and asked them to stop playing the
41 music loudly and after that, it appeared they played it louder. He didn't think they cared.

42 One of the neighbors said when the previous owner owned the quarry, they had a blast and sent
43 the State up to test her well to confirm they hadn't damaged anything. The first blast this company

1 did knocked things off the shelves of several buildings. Her entire home shook. They got another
2 company to come in and blast and they don't warn or direct traffic on the road when blasting. They
3 even blast on Saturday mornings. He pays fines and carries on. She hated to leave Chester, but
4 they couldn't live there anymore.

5 Leslie Thorsen read from the jurisdiction opinion and said records received from mine safety and
6 health administration about inspection and citations for mine safety and health administration
7 violations between 2018 to 2022 verify the use of stone saws, rock splitters, stone chisel,
8 excavators, front loaders, and a crushing plant at the North Quarry.

9 After the stones came down onto the railroad tracks employees stacked them away from the
10 railroad track. The picture did not come out. They appreciated it but train derailments were an
11 issue.

12 The neighbors told the Selectboard they are looking for legal support from the Town of Chester,
13 strict adherence to existing permits, assignment of a central contact person for issues, and local
14 monitoring and inspections and observations. They asked if the town has the resources to test the
15 water and soil at the Chandler Quarry, who is responsible for the annual engineering site review,
16 and the status of the required reclamation plan at the North Quarry.

17 Arne thanked them for their presentation and comments. He said it was a serious problem and
18 wasn't aware these issues existed. He hoped on their end, they would look into areas where they
19 had control to see what they could do. Arne thought they may have some say in regulating or
20 helping things along. Arne noted that according to the documentation from the National Natural
21 Resource Board, it has been going on for a long time and they have completely disregarded
22 regulations. Arne wasn't sure where they turned to for all the answers. He knew the town had dealt
23 attorneys about Act 250 and that may be an avenue to help. Arne thought for the entire state there
24 was one enforcement officer for Act 250. Arne got the impression that the company must have
25 deep pockets and didn't care about what was happening.

26 Jason and Andrew Julian of Julian Materials said they weren't formally notified about the meeting
27 and learned through the grapevine what was going on. It was important to them, so they wanted to
28 make sure they were there and listened. They noted they employ 45 people with families who live
29 locally and support local businesses. They said their office is there with 3 people working in it and
30 nobody stopped in and said there was a problem or complaint, or they would have addressed them.
31 They have a large investment in Chester. They have attorneys, consultants, and engineers who
32 have been working on it for the past several months. They said there were a lot of factual and legal
33 problems with the Jurisdictional Opinion they were addressing at the meeting. Their attorneys
34 advised them they will notify and update the Selectboard as it moves along. Julian uses the largest
35 blasting company in the country, and they follow all the guidelines and contact the fire department,
36 roads are shut down on Route 103 in both directions, and they have a seismologist monitor, and
37 the blasts are controlled. Regarding out of state trucks, they said all their trucks are registered in
38 Vermont and registered with any IRP program. Arne told them he thought they had a serious
39 problem. Arne noted he wasn't a lawyer but there were some serious issues affecting a lot of
40 people. Arne understood the number of people they hired was good for the economy but not
41 following the guidelines on an Act 250 document raised some obvious red flags. Arne asked them
42 if that had occurred to them. They responded saying their attorneys and engineers are addressing
43 it and they weren't going to comment on it at this meeting. They noted the quarries on Route 103
44 had been operated as far back as the early 1900s. Arne said they have a quarry that was closed in

1 2008 and they responded that their attorney was evaluating it.

2 Peter said he is on the Planning Board and had been on the DRB and noticed a lot of town permits
3 were missing. He thought Act 250 would require local permits. Peter wanted to see the one for
4 Chandler Road for manufacturing things there and bringing them out. He also wondered if they
5 had a permit for a building and a quarry, as he was unaware of them having that.

6 Arianna asked them if they were operating a hydraulic hammer. And they were. Arianna said it
7 was their understanding it wasn't permitted, and many people were disturbed by it. She said as
8 owners, they had the opportunity to make a nice gesture. If they were operating a machine that was
9 clearly disturbing the residents and they were standing behind lawyers, they could make a gesture
10 and not wait for a lawyer. Arianna said if it was a two-way street, waiting for their attorney was
11 not coming down the street.

12 Heather asked if Connecticut was an accurate representation of what was happening. Julian said
13 not at all. They have been in business since 1907 and had a perfect track record and never defaulted
14 on a project. He said there were two sides to every story, and it was an ongoing case, and he wasn't
15 going to comment. Arne warned they should stick to the topic of what is going on and how it
16 affects Chester. Heather asked what the hours of operation according to Act 250 were, as the
17 permits were specific. They said the hours were 7 to 5 Monday through Saturday.

18 Lee said he used to be in the environmental business, and they could hide a lot of what their
19 responsibility was, and he wasn't saying they were doing that but said there were a lot of frustrated
20 people in the room that were directly impacted by what they were allowing to happen.
21 Realistically, if they wanted to make a goodwill gesture to Chester and invite the people who have
22 spoken to address them to show they do care. Lee said the State is normally slow to act or react
23 and they could be sitting there three years from now having the same discussion. Lee suggested
24 people contact the state representatives and senators and ask them to make the time to do the
25 investigation. The Julian brothers said they would prefer to sit down with people in the community
26 and hear their concerns and were in the area every other week. Lee told them he appreciated them
27 walking up to the microphone to take the heat.

28 Barre Pinske thought it was quite a presentation and he hadn't seen that type of pitchfork and
29 torches presentation in a while. He could respect where they were coming from. His business is
30 along Route 103, and he has to deal with a lot of traffic, but not so much from the quarry. He
31 thought it was the type of not in my backyard type of thing they were dealing with. He is friends
32 with the Julian family and said they are good people who want to do well in town and thought they
33 had been portrayed in a way that doesn't reflect how he knows them. He thought if they gave them
34 the chance, they would step up to the plate. He thought some of the things brought up were unfair
35 and he didn't know how much fact there was to them but if people wanted to make comments in a
36 public forum, they could. Barre respects both sides and thought they should be given a chance and
37 not thrown under the bus.

38 Heather said she would reach out to the state senators tomorrow and asked Julie for the names of
39 those in attendance.

40 Arne thought it was very important that they start a dialogue between their company and make it
41 work. The Julian brothers agreed and that's why they had engaged attorneys and engineers.

42 Mike said they tried 2 ½ years ago and had the Julians in his family room and the question was
43 what would make them happy and he told them to abide by the Act 250 permits and the town

1 regulations and since then he along with the neighbors have seen the quarry operation make a total
2 mockery of the State of Vermont Act 250 and every rule and regulation the town put forth.

3 Rene Melanson is the closest landowner to the North Quarry. The noise ruined their life there to
4 the point where they had to move. He appreciated the Julians showed up and he asked going forth
5 starting tomorrow morning that they only engage in activity permitted for their two quarries and
6 the North Quarry that was supposed to be completely reclaimed in 2008 stop all activity there.
7 Going forward, only do the operations that they are permitted for, no operations on the Chandler
8 Road Quarry, no operations on the North Quarry, and follow the rules and regulations on the Center
9 Quarry.

10 Heather asked Peter how he would suggest they have Preston review what permits they have and
11 what they don't have. Peter thought because things were in a shuffle that he would let Julie and
12 Preston research it and talk with the town attorney. There are certainly permits missing and the
13 town attorney would be the best to address it. Heather suggested that they follow Peter's lead. Arne
14 agreed to act, and they would sit down with counsel to see what can be done. Arne said they need
15 to press their senators, representatives, and possibly the Attorney General. Heather said she would
16 be having that conversation in the morning with the senators. Arne said it would be a learning
17 experience to see what can and can't happen.

18 Julie asked for authorization to bring an attorney in. Lee recommended having Preston review
19 permits and get the attorney if needed. Heather suggested it stay on old business so they could get
20 an update and a tally of the cost.

21 John said he had knowledge and had nothing wrong with the Mexicans coming here to work and
22 the company bought a house to house them, so they weren't supporting any families in the area
23 and he wanted these people out of the state. Arne didn't want to hear about the nationalities of
24 people working and what was happening behind the scenes. John said they weren't supporting
25 families here.

26 Arne thanked everyone for coming out and voicing their concerns and said they would do what
27 they could on their end.

28 (8:04 – 8:11 brief recess)

29 **Agenda Item 6, New Business/Next Agenda**

30 Peter wanted a housing committee on a future agenda. Julie said it wouldn't be ready next agenda
31 but could provide an update under old business.

32 Lee said they received the Town of Chester conflict of interest in their packet, and he thought a
33 couple things would be interesting to discuss. Julie had included it due to the new members and it
34 was mentioned in the Citizen Advisory Committee Policy. Arne thought it would be a good
35 discussion since there were new members and there was something that pertained to it. Julie, would
36 it include in the next agenda.

37 **Agenda Item 7, Open Session Interviews**

38 Interviews for the Citizen Advisory Committee:

39 **Leslie Thorsen** gave her thoughts for a mission statement for the committee. She said the mission
40 is to foster a collaborative partnership between the community and the Chester Police Department
41 including working together to solve problems and provide public safety through fair and impartial

1 policing. She was the Chester Town Health Officer for 15 years and acted professionally and
2 negotiated many issues between landlords and tenants and thought she did well. She is an operating
3 room nurse and was on a leadership team in a smaller hospital. She loved the youth of the
4 community and was an E.L.F. (Environmental Learning for the Future) mother. She did that for
5 all her three children from Kindergarten through the sixth grade. She volunteered for the ski
6 program until COVID. Leslie felt she had a commitment to the community. She recently received
7 a Masters of Restorative Justice. She has good ideas about restorative circles and wants kids at the
8 high school to voice their concerns. Lee asked what her opinion was of the police department
9 currently. She didn't know but was happy they were starting fresh and could work together as a
10 team. She knew there was a mental health issue going on in the community and that was often an
11 issue where someone gets hurt. She doesn't want the police hurt. She wanted to see a police
12 embedded social worker because they are more knowledgeable to deal with mental health
13 situations. She wasn't sure if VLCT policies worked well for smaller town. Citizens' complaints
14 against officers aren't at top of her list. Lee asked if there was anything specific that she wanted
15 police to be doing and she wanted to know what they were doing, and the website didn't reflect
16 that, but some town's do reflect it. She wanted to bring in restorative justice. She said Julian Quarry
17 was a good example of restorative justice. Sitting in a circle wasn't so much placing the blame but
18 giving them an opportunity to do the right thing. She suggested a restorative justice circle at the
19 high school with kids. She explained a restorative justice circle is hearing what everyone has to
20 say and healing a harm and she would focus on that.

21 Arne announced that Carrie King, who was next on the list, had withdrawn her application.

22 **Susan Bourne** said restorative justice has been around for 15 or 20 years and was well organized.
23 She was a previous member of a restorative justice board. Lee asked how a circle would look in
24 Chester. You could have circle with any age group, and it's based on the Native American pow
25 wow circle from Canada. In the circle, you speak your concerns. She gave the example of the
26 young woman who has been racially profiled and would be a great opportunity for those who have
27 spoken about her to come together and share their feelings and see how they can come to some
28 common ground. She wants to represent seniors on the committee. She's been in Chester for 7
29 years and lives in the Senior Circle. She wants to see sidewalks addressed, because they are a
30 safety issue for pedestrians. She noted the other day the police were directing traffic and she
31 appreciated it. She wants to start a senior center in Chester. She is concerned about seniors bullying
32 other seniors. Personal interactions disappeared with COVID so it would be wonderful for seniors
33 to interact with school children in a safe supervised manner. Arne noted Susan had submitted her
34 name and withdrew but put it back and wondered why. She said fear because people may not like
35 or respect her, and meetings tend to run past her bedtime. Chief Williams talked to her and
36 encouraged her to reconsider. She realized it was silly to hold herself back if she had something to
37 offer. If someone doesn't like her, it's their issue. Lee asked her opinion of police department. She
38 thought it had new direction and just considering this committee was a step forward. She has seen
39 the police more active recently. She hoped they could help with speeders and sidewalk etiquette.
40 Susan also thought the cross-training among emergency services was great.

41 **Vincent Buckholz** has been in Chester for five years and is a licensed independent clinical social
42 worker who can diagnose and treat mental health illness. He went to Westminster, VT elementary
43 school. He is 57 and a father. He has a medical background and has worked with death and dying.
44 He has had a lot of exposure to the socioeconomic disparities that are happening all over. He
45 thought restorative justice was interesting. He has been involved with mental health liaisons with

1 the police department and community in Brattleboro and thought something similar would be
2 important to the Chester community. He would offer his services as a listener with no judgment.
3 Lee asked his opinion of the police department and what would change. His general opinion was
4 they were open and ready to listen.

5 **Roy Spaulding** is the owner and operator of Spaulding Service Station in Gassetts. He has lived
6 here his entire life and is the fourth generation running his business. The committee working, to
7 him, was more of an up hand for the police department and town and shows what the police
8 department does on the good side. D.A.R.E. was the best program Chester ever had. Lee asked his
9 opinion of the Police Department. Roy sat on the board that helped pick the new chief and thought
10 they had a good system going. He thought the cross-training of departments was good for the town.

11 **Wendi Germain** was born and raised in Springfield. She and her husband bought a house in
12 Chester 25 years ago. She was excited to hear about restorative justice, as she has been a restorative
13 justice practitioner for 20 years and a trained mediator. When she worked at the Justice Center in
14 Springfield, she worked with the police department there and was successful in helping to get
15 programs started and found the work very rewarding. She is part of the mental health agency and
16 respected Vincent Buckholz for offering his services and thought the community could benefit
17 greatly from it. The police often must deal with mental health issues but don't have the training or
18 knowledge. She has a ton of respect for police social work programs. Having a committee and the
19 connection between police and community could be a huge benefit for information sharing and
20 suggestions. Lee asked her opinion of the PD. She said they had been at a disadvantage for a long
21 time and had been understaffed and blamed for things that weren't necessarily their fault. She
22 thought they had an opportunity now to reinvent themselves. She said they were doing the best
23 they could and if things could be put into place to support them, they would be more effective.

24 **Larry Semones** has lived in Chester for 10 years. He was introduced to Chester in 1968 when his
25 wife brought him here for the first time and her family has lived here for multiple generations, so
26 he knows the history of Chester. He grew up in Southwest Virginia and spent 4 years in the military
27 where he met his wife. He's lived in Baltimore, Central Pennsylvania, and has worked in sales in
28 healthcare and management. He's a straightshooter and can work toward a consensus. He thought
29 the police department was on the up and up and that nobody realized how much use they would
30 get out of the emergency services building. It has become a center and was positive resource during
31 the storm. He attended a meeting last summer where they were talking with citizens about the
32 police department. From what he sees on Facebook, he believes some have unrealistic expectations
33 of the PD. He wanted to see people monitor those in the community who are in need. Lee asked
34 what he saw the role of the Police Advisory Committee. Larry thought they should listen, question,
35 and decide what is the best and makes the most sense and it was necessary to go in with an open
36 mind and do what is best for the town.

37 **Frank Kelley** had reviewed the information about the Police Advisory Committee and believed
38 he had knowledge and skills that could be beneficial and valuable to the committee. He has been
39 a resident of Chester for 25 years. He has worked with the police in a variety of ways. As a teacher,
40 he has had the pleasure of meeting many families in town and working with them through good
41 times and bad. He has been part of the D.A.R.E. and L.E.A.D. (Law Enforcement Against Drugs)
42 programs that are presented to the fifth graders at Chester-Andover Elementary School, and they
43 have provided good information for the children on how to keep themselves safe when faced with
44 challenging situations. He interacted with Chester PD when kids were not having a good day and
45 struggling to be successful at school. He has seen the benefits of appropriate interventions through

1 his career as an educator. Chester PD has also provided valuable services to his family by showing
2 affective policing involves awareness, compassion, and respect. He thought some may see the
3 police as a threat based on their experiences and thought the committee could help share the
4 message that Chester PD is doing their best to support every person who lives in or visits Chester.
5 He said the PD did a good job with the L.E.A.D. program this week. Frank did not have any
6 specific things and came in as a learner. His friends asked that he let everyone know the Facebook
7 postings by the police department were appreciated and wanted them to continue.

8 **Samantha Snedorf-Bailey** has been living in Chester for the past 3 years and felt she could be a
9 valuable asset. She doesn't have any political experience but has personal experience as a person
10 of color. Given Chester's demographics, she could provide insight that may be needed. In Chester
11 and the surrounding area, she has received negatively charged encounters. In the first, she was
12 kind of denied service and in the second, she was seemingly accused of stealing, which she can
13 only assume was based on her race. While it didn't deal with the police department, it wasn't
14 impossible because racism is difficult to predict. Her experience with the Chester Police
15 Department has been fantastic and she thinks they are sweet. While her mom was here, they offered
16 to take a picture with her. Sam loves seeing them around. The incident from a few years back
17 involving the black man who was stopped and wrongfully accused is always in the back of her
18 mind and puts fear in her heart as a person of color. She wasn't insinuating there is any racism
19 there. They could touch on topics involving racism and she could offer her opinion with
20 confidence. There was a situation where she felt like a woman was accusing her and in the
21 woman's mind, she wasn't. Sam thought people can say things they don't intend to be racist but
22 are received that way. As a mixed-race woman, she thought she could contribute. She wants
23 Chester to continue to remain safe as it is a gorgeous lovely town. Lee asked her opinion of the
24 police department. She said in the country she is from, there is no such thing as a police department
25 like this and she loves seeing them at the crosswalk at school. She hoped speeding could be
26 addressed. She feels safe and thinks the board is a good community resource. Sam thought the
27 committee was opening their arms and would make the police more accessible to everyone. Lee
28 asked if there was anything she would change, what would it be. She didn't know of anything she
29 would change but the committee would give them some insight and make sure there are practices
30 in place.

31 **Marilyn Mahusky** has served on the school board and lived in Chester for 30 years and raised her
32 kids here. She is an attorney, so she tends to look at things from that point of view. She read the
33 report done several years ago by the consultants about the police. Her son said it was a good police
34 department but there was room for improvement. She thought the report provided clear guidance.
35 She was encouraged by the new police chief from his interview in The Telegraph and maybe
36 changing the way policing is done in Chester by having more contact and interactions with the
37 community. Part of her impetus for wanting to do this is the Human Rights Commission Complaint
38 from several years ago. She didn't think they could be naïve as a community and needed to be
39 aware that what goes on nationally goes on in our state and community. She thought this committee
40 could help identify concerns and help with training. In the past, she has represented victims of
41 crime and people who were involuntarily committed to psychiatric facilities and noted they often
42 have negative interactions with the police. She thought that perspective could be helpful because
43 it's two-fold. One being there is a negative interaction but then there's also recognition of the value
44 police bring to the community and there are times people need police. We want our police trained,
45 sensitive, and prepared when the situation calls for them to respond. She doesn't have strong
46 feelings about the Chester PD and has had very little interaction with them over the years. The one

1 time came home and her backdoor was wide open and they came quickly and made sure she was
2 safe. It ended up that her daughter had left the door open. She thought she could bring professional
3 experience and commitment to the community and help channel ideas people have. She thought it
4 could be a productive organization and it wasn't their job to change things but to look at how the
5 work is done, interact with the chief to make changes and improvements, and be a sounding board.
6 It isn't their job to rewrite how police do business but it is their job to support them as a community
7 so they can do the best job. Lee asked what her understanding of the Human Rights Commission
8 Complaint case was. She said a BOLO (be on the lookout) was issued by a neighboring community
9 for a black man with dreadlocks driving a red car and a similar car was identified by Chester Police
10 and the driver was also a black man with dreadlocks. The driver pulled over and the police officer
11 pulled up behind him without the lights on. The driver got out of the car and there was an allegation
12 the Chester Police Officer pulled out a gun. Afterwards there were comments made by the officer
13 and Chief that could be interpreted as racist. The Commission found there was reason to believe
14 the Chester Police discriminated against this individual and filed a charge and the town engaged
15 in a negotiated settlement, so it didn't go to court.

16 **David Brault** has lived in Chester for the past 30 years and noted it was a great town to live in.
17 He spent 46 years in law enforcement and would still be there if it wasn't for two bouts of cancer
18 and a stroke. He was very saddened and disheartened at what's been going on nationally with
19 police departments with the number of people who have been hurt and complaints made. He
20 thought it was unnecessary and due to a lack of communication between the citizens and the police
21 department and government. His career has spanned law enforcement from the U.S. Coastguard
22 to city police departments to town police departments to campus police departments and in
23 corrections for a year and the Sheriff's Department in Bellows Falls. David has had many different
24 jobs in those departments and enjoyed every minute of it. He thought the committee was very
25 important and that every town should have one. He thought three things were needed: accessibility
26 between the police department, citizens, and the town council; communication between those
27 groups; and accountability by the police department and the citizens. He said the citizens can't be
28 expected to go scot-free but the police department can't be expected to go scot-free and be
29 accountable on their part. He knows and has worked with every police officer in Chester and has
30 enjoyed working with them. He thought the new chief would bring new ideas and views which are
31 needed. David thought the department was doing the best with what it has and the new chief would
32 make it even better. Lee asked him if he thought the department was doing well or was there
33 anything for improvement. He said they are dealing with lack of people, as departments throughout
34 the country are. Young people are seeing officers get shot and hurt and charged with excessive use
35 of force and they don't want any part of it. He said they all have to work together and encourage
36 people to come to Vermont to become police officers and do the job right. Lee asked him how he
37 would see the three things happen that he had mentioned were needed. Without interacting with
38 the other committee members, the only thing he could say at this point in time was it was necessary
39 for the town citizens to be able to come to an oversight committee to express their thoughts and
40 for the committee to listen to their concerns and take them to the chief and town council and find
41 out what they can do to make it better and then circle back to the citizens to find out if they are
42 satisfied with the results. David said if a police officer isn't doing his job, it needs to be brought to
43 the committee to find out why he's not doing his job and what they can do to make him be a better
44 officer.

45 Lee asked if they could invite the Town Manager to the executive session. There was consensus
46 to invite Julie.

1 The board and town manager entered executive session. Heather Chase joined them via telephone.
2 (Executive Session 9:16 – 9:51)

3 Lee moved and Arianna seconded a motion to leave executive session at 9:47 p.m.

4 **Agenda Item 8, Appointment to Police Advisory Committee**

5 Lee moved to appoint the following to the Chester Police Advisory Committee: Samantha Snedorf-
6 Bailey for a one-year term, Vincent Buckholz and Roy Spaulding for two-year terms, Wendi
7 Germain and Frank Kelley for three-year terms.

8 Arne noted they had some good candidates and had to make some difficult choices. He said the
9 candidates were highly qualified and thought they had a diverse group to represent the town and
10 thought the folks on the committee would bring an important outlook to help the town. He thanked
11 everyone who was interested and applied. It is rare sometimes in town politics to get people
12 interested. In this case, it was a hard choice because they had so many. He congratulated the new
13 members. There is a term limit of two terms. He told those who did not make it to stay in touch
14 and they were still allowed to attend the meetings.

15 Heather seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

16 **Agenda Item 12, Adjourn**

17 Lee moved and Arianna seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. A vote was taken, and the
18 meeting was adjourned at 9:54 p.m.

3/22/2023

Sign IA

RENE MELANSON

PRISCILLA MELANSON

Jeff Holden

Wm. HINDSAY

~~Shawn Gumpert~~

~~Jim Schmitt~~

~~Michael McLean~~

~~Steve Deere~~

Pete Tetten

Ray Spaulding

Ray Goodrich

Larry Semones

Barry Woodruff

Jim Sacher

By Neal

ROBERT McALISTER

Karen McAlister

Preston Bristow

Cathy Hasbrouck

FRANK KEYLEY

Ian Baro

Terene Slivinsky

STEVE SLIVINSKY

Michelle McCarty

Shane Protivansky

John Sels

~~Mark Stevens~~

MARK STEVENS

James Wells

DAVID J BRAUCL

Hugh Quinn

Roberta Alexander

Rick Alexander

Susan Bowne

Jim Sels

Leslie Thorsen

SCOTT KILGUS

Vincent Buckholz

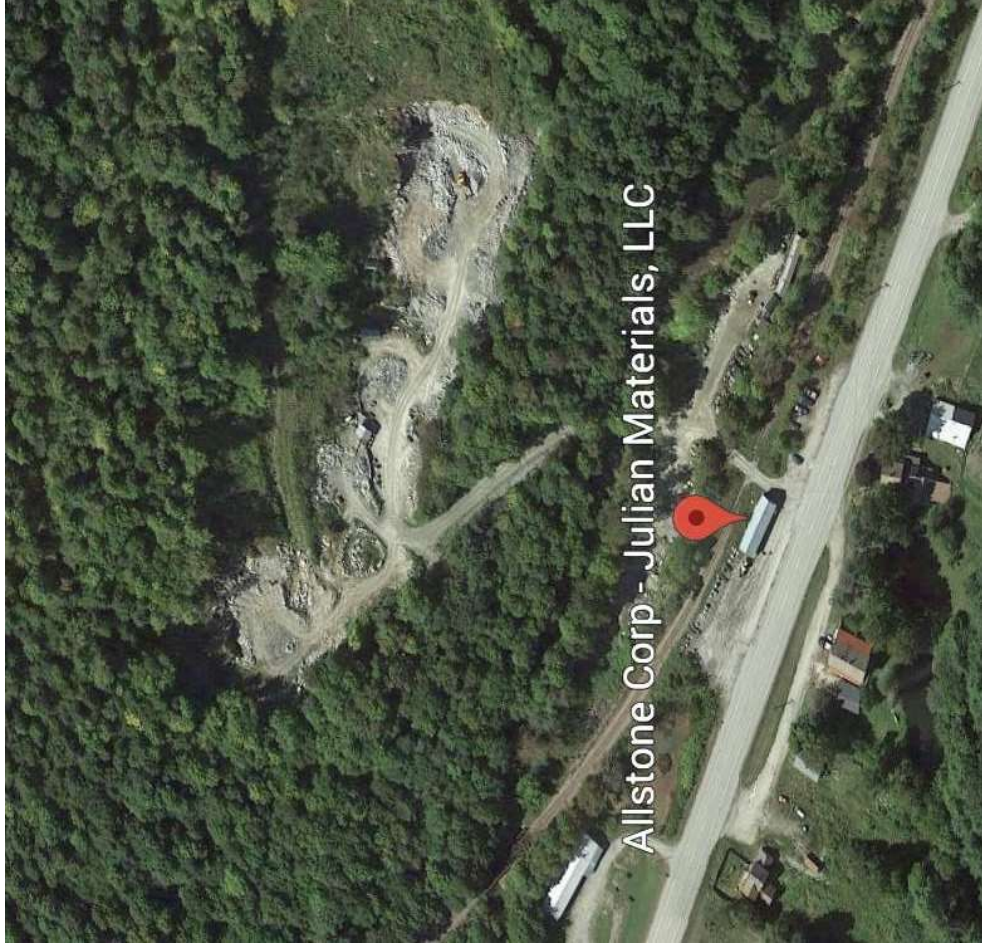
Marilyn Mahuse

Robert Mancuso

Allstone Corp
Julian Materials LLC
Quarry Concerns
(Dean Brook Quarry, Gassetts Village Quarry, North
Quarry)

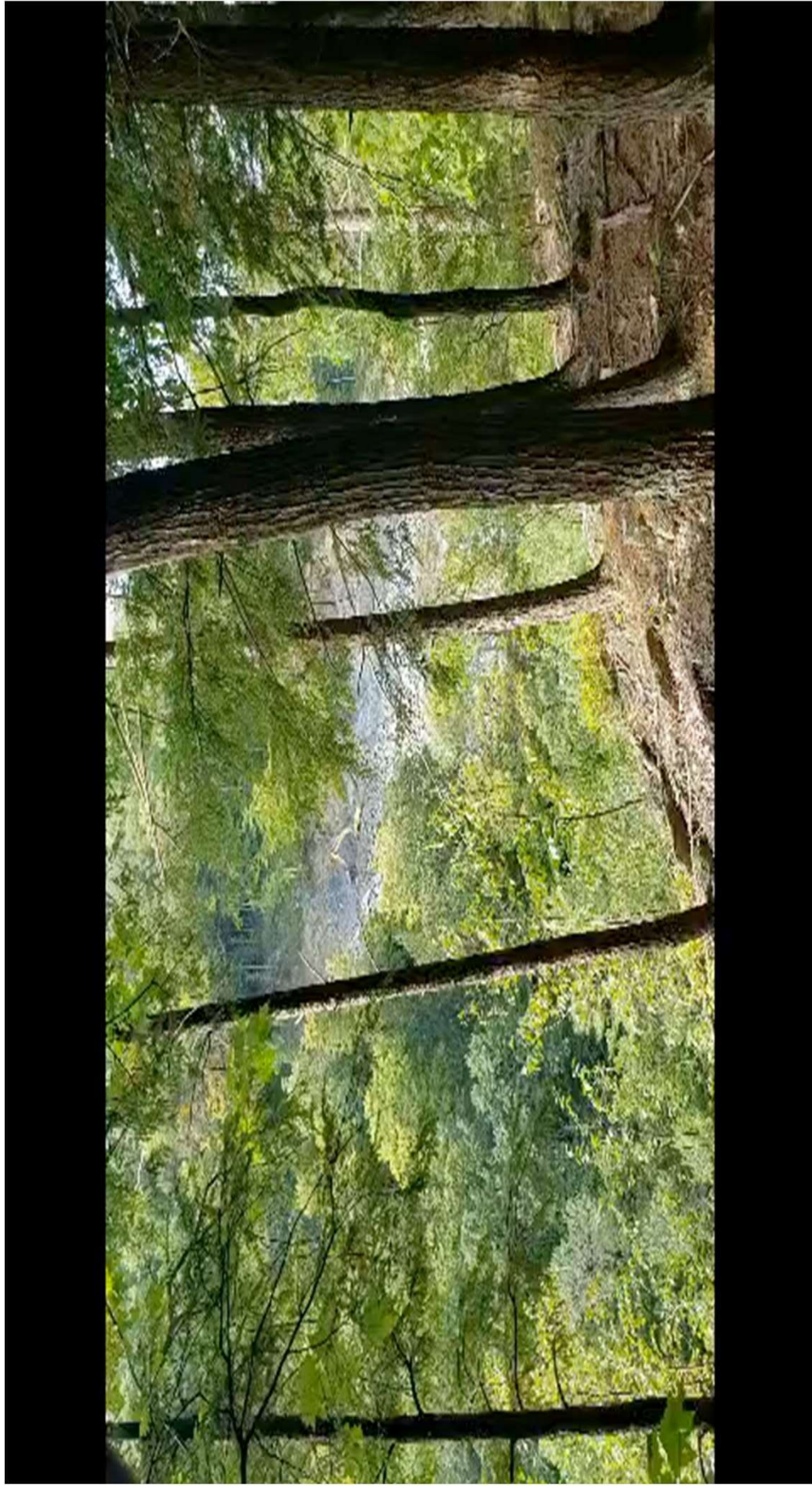


Village Quarry



Village Quarry

Quality of Life?





Noise

Frequency & duration significantly impacts the quality of our daily life

Pounding

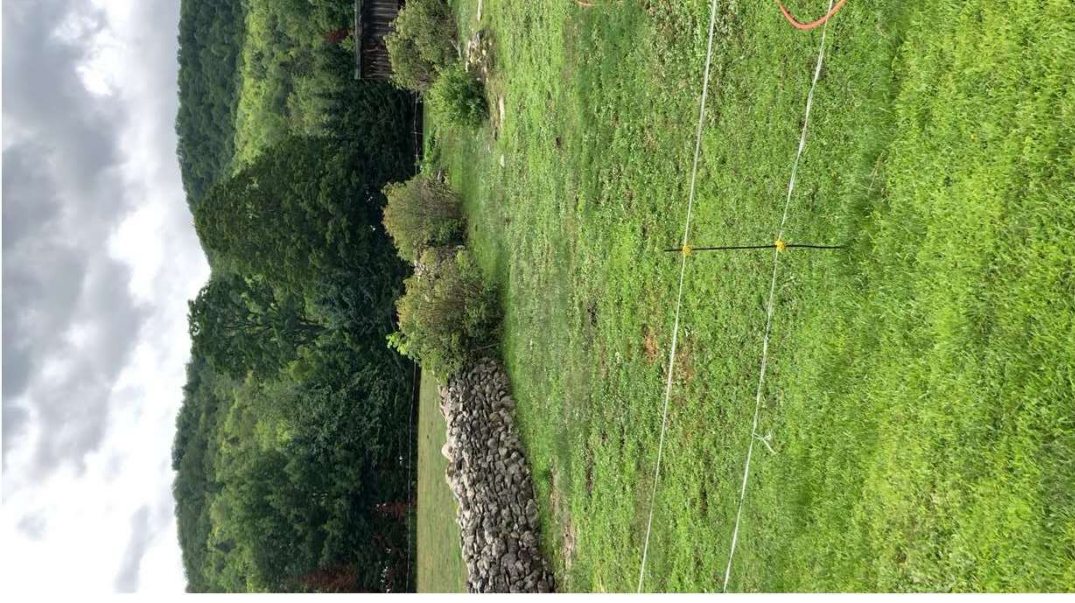
Hammering

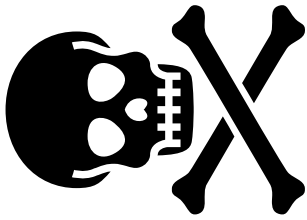
Drilling

Machine Noise

Loading of rock

Blasting





Safety and Environmental Impact Concerns

Blasting

Noise

Vibrations

Blasting dust

Ground pollution

Flyrock on railroad tracks









Waste Dumping

Hazards to surface water
stream and groundwater:

- *runoff
- *rock dust

Erosion





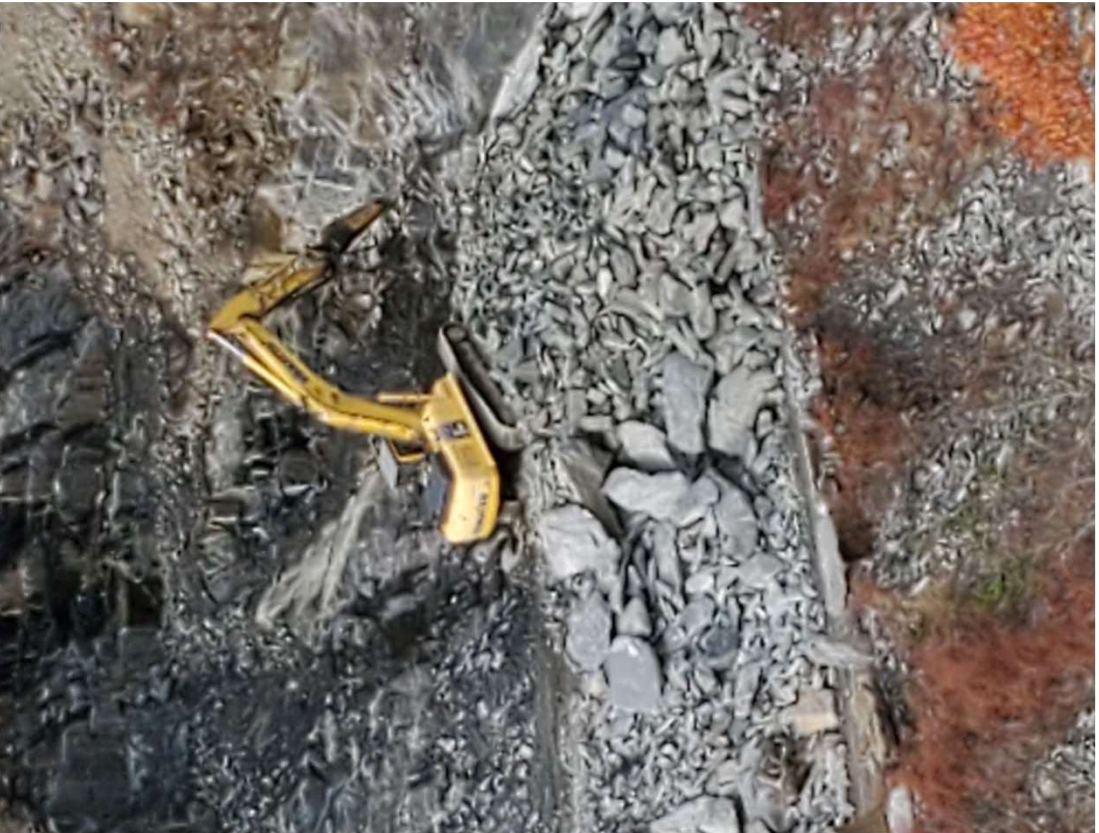












Road Hazards

- Increased truck traffic
- Out of state dump trucks
- Oversized loads





Land Use Permit Violations

This is their permit expectations:

Rock Crusher - 4 weeks per year

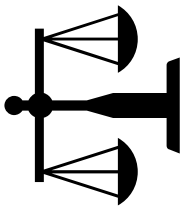
Drilling 20 hours per month/2 days a month

7am - 5 pm

Monday - Saturday

No blasting/drilling on Saturday

Allstone Corp is **WAY EXCEEDING** their permit guidelines **AND** using hydraulic hammering
(See Jurisdictional Opinion 2-324 page 10)



Legal Issues for Julian Materials Corp.

Current: Public Corruption case in Fairfield, Connecticut

12 Felony Counts including:

- illegal dumping of toxic/hazardous materials (under town pavilion park)
- forgery
- larceny
- bribery
- conspiracy

Energy and Environmental Protection, “The threat to human health is serious and ongoing. The worst example

Steps We've Taken

Communicated with Allstone/Julian's

ANR involvement since 2019 with zero resolution

Submitted: documentation photos, videos, data base

Request for Jurisdictional Opinion - *Rendered 3-6-23*

Contacted Civil Core of Engineers



What are we looking for from the Selectboard?

Legal support from the town of Chester

Strict adherence to existing permits

Assigned a central contact person for the issues

Local monitoring, inspections and observations

Questions We Have

Does the town have resources to test the water and soil at the Chandler Quarry location?

Who is responsible for the required yearly Engineering Site Review ?

What happened to the required reclamation plan at the North Quarry?