

TOWN OF PAWLET

Chartered 1761
122 School Street
Pawlet, VT 05761

April 9, 2019

Act 250 Commission
Attention: Study Committee
Vermont State House
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

Dear Commission Members,

For nearly two centuries the quarrying of slate and the processing of the stone into useful building materials has been an economic cornerstone for the Town of Pawlet and our neighboring towns. Most of these quarries have been family owned for generations.

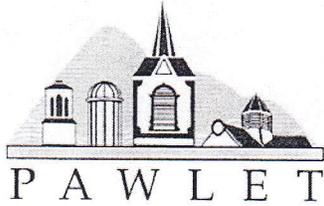
“With the building of the Rutland and Washington Railroad in 1851 through Rupert, West Pawlet and Granville, N.Y., many quarries were opened to mine the prolific slate in the area which was processed into slate roofing shingles, flagging and other products”

Pawlet Historical Society – History by John Malcolm

Still active today and still, in many cases, family owned and operated these businesses contribute to the economy of our Town and to the State of Vermont. But with higher cost of labor, taxes, material and equipment, not to mention the increase of restrictions on operations dictated by heavy regulations, profitability of the local quarrying industry has suffered. And still owners and operators struggle to produce and distribute world-wide an exceptional product that makes Vermont a recognized leader in providing quality stone to the building industry.

The Town of Pawlet salutes our quarry owners and operators for their conscientious and diligent adherence to good practice standards of manufacture and for their strict adherence to the regulations of Act 250. Indeed, the Town is supportive of the role this legislation has played in helping to preserve the natural wellbeing of the environment we all depend on for the quality of our lives and for the futures of our children. However, we must state that without relief or exemption from more restrictive regulations our quarry businesses will become unprofitable and may not survive the enactment of these regulations.

We strongly feel that the state legislature can find a solution that will support responsible environmental controls as well as work cooperatively with the quarry industry, so that the natural environment receives the protection it deserves and the quarry owners and operators can continue to maintain a profitable industry in the State of Vermont while exercising responsible stewardship of the land that supports that industry.



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The Town of Pawlet urges the State legislature to develop a responsible multi-lateral set of environmental guidelines that will satisfy the more stringent requirements of the Act 250 expansion and provide protection for the important slate and stone industry that has benefitted the Vermont economy for the past 150 years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Harry Van Meter".

Harry Van Meter, Chairman
Pawlet Planning Commission

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael Beecher".

Michael Beecher, Chairman
Pawlet Select Board