

**St. George Planning Board  
On-site Inspection  
Atwood Quarry Road  
August 3, 2020 - 5 p.m.**

The on-site visitation inspection for Wildcat Quarry, LLC began at 5 p.m. Planning Board members present were: Anne Cox, Chair; Ray Emerson, Michael Jordan, Mary K. Hewlett, and Alan Letourneau. (Absent: Jane Brown ) Also present: CEO Brackett, Richard Bates, Eliza Bailey, Paul and Billie Gaudette, David Emery, David Noonan, and Joe Talbot.

David Noonan, the applicant, was present. Joe Talbot of Rockport Granite came later during the on-site visit. Noonan gave a brief history of the Wildcat Quarry and explained how he became involved. Noonan stated that to date, neither Atwood nor Noonan have ever had any kind of a permit to excavate granite. Noonan stated he has proof back to the early 1990s where they have done commercial work with the granite. Noonan stated he wrote a 5-year contract agreement for granite grout recovery and the contractor, Rockport Granite, signed it.

Noonan explained that over the last three years, Rockport Granite has worked on Pete's Peak and has minimized the mountain. Noonan said Bill Atwood has always taken care of the quarry business, but Atwood is gradually letting go, so Noonan is now helping him out.

Chair Cox, "Where is the operation, and can we walk around and see it?"

Noonan, "He (Brackett) said, at that point, I didn't need a permit because I explained to him what I was going to do. He said I don't think you need a permit, and we haven't needed one yet, and I agreed. So that is why I signed the contract."

The Planning Board proceeded to walk the property, starting at the Grout Bank area. Noonan explained that Rockport Granite has already extracted all that can be taken from the grout bank; it is done. Noonan plans to preserve the road which ends at the lobster pound. He wants to fill this area in back to grade, elevate the road above the landscaping so the stormwater can drain off.

E. Bailey, "These tiles here. Have those been wired up to be trucked away and used to sell for landscaping?"

Noonan, "Right now, 90% of the tiled-up granite gets mixed with another quarry (Duck Trap) and it is going to California. They are building houses with this granite. My contractor from Rockport Granite is really a good salesman and deals in granite."

Chair Cox, "Once Rockport Granite has finished taking and flattening this (area), where is he going to go from here?"

Noonan, "Pete's Peak. The tower and cliffs of granite are dangerous, and I want them gone, and flattened, and get the Pete's area safe." He said the objective over the next 2 years is to get Pete's Peak down and flatten the area.

The Planning Board proceeded on and observed another angle of Pete's Peak from the upper end of the skid road. Noonan noted that Pete's Peak used to be 180' tall but 20 years ago, they

knocked it down by one-fourth or less, and in the last three years, Rockport Granite has knocked it down even more.

Chair Cox, "Your objective in two years is to have it leveled?"

Noonan, "No, it won't be level. There is too much hole. I just want to push it off the edge until it is safe."

Emery, "You are not harvesting that material, you are just pushing it in?" Noonan said he was.

Emery, "Two-thirds goes in the hole and one-third is sold?"

Noonan, "The garbage goes in the hole. What he considers (garbage), and the rest he cultivates. That is how he does it for nothing. So, these guys are putting 10s of thousands of work hours in for me for nothing and maintaining my roads just because it is part of what they are doing. The geography of the roads just has to get worked. Been here for years."

Bailey, "When you say one-third is useable, that's the stuff we see that is wired up?"

Noonan, "That is a portion of what we consider useable."

Bailey, "He's not cutting additional granite? He's just using what he finds?"

Noonan stated they pick it up. "We don't cut anything. We are not blasting. We are not making any crushed stone. I told Terry Brackett that if I did decide to crush rock to make roads, at that point I would go to him and see what we need for permits. It costs huge money to make crushed stone and I don't have any. So that probably isn't going to happen."

Chair Cox, "Because that is in your contract with the Rockport Granite."

Noonan pointed out Winrow and said the contractor can only take that area to grade as the granite is easy picking. They drive in with the fork truck, fill pallets and they can work on that for five years. He noted that granite was valuable. Noonan reviewed the map with Emery. Noonan pointed out where the abutting property lines were and explained that where they were standing was not near anyone's property line.

Chair Cox, "So they have already started coming up here?"

Noonan explained that the contractor picked up material called antique granite, as they had a special market for that. But would go back to excavating Pete's Peak area because it was more lucrative.

Noonan explained that they can only take the Wildcat Mound area to grade and the grade is what is there now. He stated he does not want the contractor cutting any trees, making fires, or doing anything and said the contract states that. Emery asked where "to grade" is. Noonan said down on the ground. "If you get off this mountain and walk around, that is what I consider grade."

The group continued up Wildcat Mound. Noonan noted that area is more than 500' from Haskell Point Road and at least 100 feet from any property line. He pointed out the areas marked with orange ribbons and said that is as far as the contractor will excavate, according to his contract.

Chair Cox asked about the orange flags. Noonan pointed out the flagged areas and stated the flag is a minimum of 100 plus feet from the property line. Emery noted that beyond that is the TD Bank property. Noonan said correct and he would not let the contractor near the property line because of the elevation of the granite.

Emery, "Even though we're a few 100 feet, maybe, from Haskell Point Road. (Noonan said we are more than that and 100 plus feet from any property line.) However far it is, have you done any kind of an engineering study to determine whether or not there is any possibility of destabilizing the pile further the other way?"

Noonan, "No. From over 100 feet, I don't see how. I am not an engineer, but we could stand on the ground and look where that orange ribbon is, and it is still going to look like that when they are done. And when we go to grade, I don't think they are even going to get there, it is written in the contract. This is bone at the end if they get here. I don't think they are going to get here. I just did it to cover my bases."

Emery, "I got you. But you understand what our concern is. Those of us who live on Haskell Point."

Noonan, "Not really, I am so far away from all of that."

Chair Cox asked Emery to hold all his questions until the Public Hearing as the Planning Board was just there to look at the site.

Noonan understood Emery's concern because of the elevation. He said that is why he only went as far as he did. Noonan reiterated that he is 100 plus feet from any property line, which should be at any grade level at any angle, and he added, "We should be well within our property lines."

Emery asked if he had any studies that told him what the slope needed to be? Chair Cox said Noonan had said no and asked that Emery bring that question up at the Public Hearing. Noonan said the guys engineered the area a minimum of 100 years ago, and this is the result of what they did. Noonan said we are picking granite up and we have a market for it.

The Planning Board and those present dispersed and the on-site visitation ended at 5:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marguerite R. Wilson  
Planning Board Recording Secretary