

From: Contact form at Sutton MA [mailto:cmsmailer@civicplus.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 9:19 AM
To: jsmith <j.smith@town.sutton.ma.us>
Subject: [Sutton MA] Unified Project (Sent by Janice Berthiaume, janberthiaume@aol.com)

Hello jsmith,

Janice Berthiaume (janberthiaume@aol.com) has sent you a message via your contact form (<https://www.suttonma.org/user/32/contact>) at Sutton MA.

If you don't want to receive such e-mails, you can change your settings at <https://www.suttonma.org/user/32/edit>.
Message:

I am writing this letter as a concerned citizen and long-time resident of Sutton. I grew up in Sutton, went to the Sutton Public Schools, raised my children here, and am now spending my retirement years here.

The recent developments in the Unified Project being conducted on Providence Road, have led me to question the future of Sutton for generations to come.

It seems to me, and other residents that I have spoken with, that decisions about the town have been made without, perhaps, the proper procedures having taken place.

I am submitting a list of questions that need to be answered as soon as possible.

- The former owner (Aggregate) of the property in question was not allowed to conduct any more blasting at that site. So, how did Unified get permits for blasting, and who gave them those permits?
 - Was there an environmental impact study done before blasting occurred? If so, where is that study and how can we gain access to it? The effect on ecological systems and surface area drainage need to be considered.
 - Were there any traffic studies done to demonstrate the increased traffic flow on our scenic roadways, and side streets that will be effected?
 - Were any studies done regarding the noise pollution levels of the blasting, and the heavy equipment being used on the site?
 - Were any studies conducted on air pollution quality with so many particulates being dispersed into the air from the blasting? Many people are concerned with the increased dust on their properties, as well as in the air we breathe.
 - Has damage from vibrations of the blasting been documented, so that property owners may be reimbursed for said damages? How can we prove that the damage was caused by the blasting? This damage includes, but is not limited to the following: cracks in walls, ceilings, foundations, chimneys, and fireplaces; damage to the aquifer resulting in problems with well water; possible damage to septic systems due to vibrations, and interference with the drainage levels; the future structural integrity of any homes, businesses, etc.
 - Were any considerations given to the significant change to our landscape the project is creating that alters the characteristics of our small town?
 - We all know that increased taxes from businesses will help our town financially, but couldn't said businesses be developed in other areas away from residential areas? Perhaps directly off of major roads such as Route 146?
 - Better communication about the project must be made to residents. The notifications about blasting appeared on social media hours after blasting. Can that be remedied?
 - If residents are notified in writing about the Town Meeting and Board meetings, could those letters be sent by way of genuine certified mail, that isn't just left carelessly in a mailbox?
 - Could new business be discussed at Board Meetings without that being part of the original agendas? Not being allowed to talk about citizen concerns is NOT the way to run meetings.
 - Could there be a joint meeting of several Boards together to discuss the concerns of residents about the Unified Project? Each board seems to put the responsibilities on the other boards. Can they get together about this?
- Many other questions need to be addressed as well, but I will submit these questions first.
Please respond to our concerns as soon as possible. Thank you.

Please be advised that the Attorney General has ruled that communication via electronic mail in the public domain is not confidential and is considered a matter of public record. Furthermore, all communications (including this one) will be retained for 10 years.

Jennifer Hager

From: Jan <janberthiaume@aol.com> on behalf of Jan
Sent: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 8:49 AM
To: j.smith@town.sutton.ma.us; j.limanek@town.sutton.ma.us; j.hager@town.sutton.ma.us
Subject: Re: [Sutton MA] Unified Project (Sent by Janice Berthiaume, janberthiaume@aol.com)

In further research regarding the Unified Project, please refer to the following:

Planning Board Minutes (1/4/21) - "No drilling or blasting in any area of the pit"

General Bylaws -

Section 5.5 - Granting or Denying Permits A. In granting or denying a permit, in whole or in part, the Board shall take into consideration whether or not the granting of a permit would: 1. endanger the public health or safety, or existing or potential water supplies; 2. constitute a nuisance; 3. result in detriment to the normal use of adjacent property by reason of noise, dust or vibration, or undermining the property;

The routes proposed for truck traffic shall be reviewed and accepted by the Police\Highway Departments to determine safety and road conditions.

New permits shall be limited to an area of five acres. Subsequent permits shall be issued only upon reclamation of the original area

Any area of excavation which is already within the required buffer shall be fenced and screened from abutting residences unless the Board determines that no nuisance or safety problems exist. e. New excavations, constituting an expansion of operations into areas of land not presently being mined, will require permits in accordance with the terms of this Bylaw.

Perhaps these rules do not apply to Unified, but should be reconsidered.

Thank you again for your diligence on this matter.

Janice Berthiaume

-----Original Message-----

From: James Smith <j.smith@town.sutton.ma.us>
To: janberthiaume@aol.com
Cc: Jennifer Hager <j.hager@town.sutton.ma.us>
Sent: Thu, Apr 28, 2022 11:22 am
Subject: RE: [Sutton MA] Unified Project (Sent by Janice Berthiaume, janberthiaume@aol.com)

Mrs. Berthiaume,

Thank you for reaching out and contacting me regarding your concerns. I am going to forward these concerns to the planning board for consideration during the planning board special hearing process. Your questions should be considered during this process. Unified has purchased the Aggregate parcel and other parcels totaling 400+ acres. They have a right to develop that land in accordance with zoning, Town bylaws, state law and other conditions that may be applied. I am also aware of the impact of their work that they are conducting on-site. I will be talking with the leadership of Unified to discuss some of these concerns that I have heard. While they are entitled to develop that land in accordance with the above regulations, as a longtime resident of this town and all your neighbors, are entitled to the quality of life you have enjoyed in the town of Sutton.

Thank you again for reaching out,
Jim

*James A. Smith
Town Manager
4 Uxbridge Rd
Sutton, MA 01590*