



STATE OF VERMONT

AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation
Department of Environmental Conservation

Department of Environmental Conservation
Water Quality Division
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MAY 27 2004

May 25, 2004

William Bryant, Town Administrator
Town of Waitsfield
9 Bridge Street
Waitsfield, VT 05673

Re: **Tucker-Howard property site visit 4/20/04. Possible municipal gravel pit**

Bill,

I concur with your letter to me dated 04/26/04 concerning the above referenced project and offer the following additional comments for your consideration if the town should proceed:

1. The forested existing flood plain should be protected to help minimize channel adjustments.
2. A riparian buffer should be established to help protect the stream from rapid channel adjustments. I would recommend a 100' minimum riparian buffer.
3. Stream crossing structures should not be allowed on this reach of stream, which will promote meander propagation, which could cause undesirable channel adjustments.
4. The gravel pit should be excavated to allow as much vegetation as possible to grow in the gravel pit.

These suggestions are being made to help avoid a situation where the stream could course through the gravel pit due to channel adjustments.

If you have any questions with regard to this letter, please give me a call.

Sincerely,

Christopher Brunelle
Stream Alteration Engineer



TOWN OF WAITSFIELD

April 26, 2004

Chris Brunelle
Stream Alteration Engineer
Dept. of Environmental Conservation
111 West Street
Essex Jct. VT 05452

RE: Tucker-Howard Property Site Visit 4/20/04, possible municipal gravel pit

Dear Chris:

I am writing to follow up on our site visit in Waitsfield last week concerning a property that the Town has a right of first refusal on and is considering for purchase for a municipal gravel pit. An unnamed tributary of the Mad River runs through the property, and we were interested in your observations about the planned gravel extraction and stream protection issues. Selectman Paul Hartshorn, Road Foreman Mike Ricker and myself enjoyed walking the site with you and found your input most helpful.

The Town has been purchasing gravel for the past 10+ years from Roxbury. The Selectboard has been interested for many years in purchasing a property for a Town gravel extraction operation as a way to both reduce taxpayer expense and to procure better material for our roads. The Tucker-Howard property has been of interest because of its location and its historic use as a gravel pit. Your visit will help us to refine our estimates of how much gravel may be accessible for extraction, which will be useful in determining if the project is feasible.

It is our understanding from your comments, that it would be appropriate for us to cut the existing grades down to within two feet +/- of the flood plain elevation near the stream. This would allow for continued flood management areas and provide a stream buffer for protection of other riparian values. As a municipal operation over many years, it is likely that small portions of the gravel could be removed at a time and then the areas restored as the operation moves on to other sections. You also made us aware that other permits such as Act 250, wetlands, etc. should be looked into for possible jurisdiction.

Once again, thank you for meeting with us. Please let me know if our understandings are incorrect in any way.

Sincerely,

William Bryant
Town Administrator

c:Howard-Tucker gravel ANR stream 4-04

