

From: Basic, Azra
To: Spratt, Jenna
Subject: FW: Uppers Quarry Opposition
Date: October 5, 2023 3:24:04 PM
Attachments: Quarry Regional file ROPA21003.docx

From:
Sent: Thursday, 05 October 2023 15:18:29 (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)
To: Clerks
Subject: Uppers Quarry Opposition

Hello,

I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed zoning amendment that would allow for an aggregate quarry and asphalt plant to be established on top of fertile agricultural land.

I have written letters to every level of government, attended every top hall, and was a member of the community focus group which recently met twice to discuss the issue. I've include one such letter as an attachment here.

On behalf of myself, my wife, and my two small children, let me say that we wholeheartedly oppose the quarry and do not feel that our concerns have been adequately addressed. I believe the meeting of minimum standards of air quality, noise, vibration, dust, etc. are insufficient to satisfy our concerns.

As our representatives on this body, I implore you to deny this application as it is incompatible with long term priorities for Niagara, and for the quality of life for residents.

There are hundreds, if not thousands, or Niagara residents who share this perspective. We cannot all be there in person or write because of work commitments or a lack of understanding of the process, but I assure you we are all very concerned. I hope you hear and listen to the presentations that will be made by my neighbours and fellow Niagara residents at your meeting.

Please. Vote no.

-Matt Melnyk

Matthew Melnyk
[REDACTED]
Niagara Falls, Ontario
[REDACTED]

January 23, 2022

Britney Fricke, MCIP, RPP (she/her)
Senior Planner
Planning and Development Services Department
Regional Municipality of Niagara
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, PO Box 1042
Thorold, Ontario L2V 4T7

Dear Britney Fricke, and the Planning and Development Services Department for the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

I'm writing to express my concern and opposition to the proposed new quarry, as identified as in the proposal: (Region File ROPA-21-0003)

I am a resident of Niagara Falls and live near where this proposed quarry will be developed. While I will not claim to speak on behalf of my entire community, I would like to inform you that we have collected names and signatures representing hundreds of residents who share some of the concerns I would like to raise here.

In 2019, when Walker Aggregates announced the proposed new quarry, they launched a website (<http://uppersquarry.ca/>) and hosted several town hall style events. These events were extremely contentious. The concerns of the attendees were not adequately addressed, and worse, the representatives from Walker Aggregates approached us with condescension and as though the project was inevitable and that the application process was a fait accompli. This was as concerning as it was insulting.

We hosted two community gatherings of our own and multiple smaller conversations to form a group called 'No New Niagara Quarry' (<https://www.nonewniagaraquarry.com/>) (Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2459884914261830>) and have collected names from hundreds of households and local businesses. We are cognizant of the fact that this opposition is a 'David vs. Goliath' effort, trying to oppose such a massive and influential company in the Niagara region, but we implore you as our elected representatives and publicly funded administrators to hear us and to take our concerns seriously.

The folks who I saw express concern and who attended community meetings were a diverse group of Niagara Region residents. With full-time jobs, caring for small children, running small businesses or being advanced in age, our group does not have the resources or capacity to mount the sort of lobbying effort that multi-million dollar and well-connected company can in this sort of debate.

Our only recourse is to turn to you.

Our concerns are as diverse as the group making them. They include, but are not limited to:

- Transparency
- Environmental impact
- Noise (increased traffic, machinery, and blasting)
- Vibration (risk to property)
- Health and safety, including air quality
- Dust and debris
- Traffic volumes
- Property devaluation
- Visual impact
- Historical and cultural impact

One consistent promise made by Walker Aggregates was a commitment to transparency. Despite that, we were not given notice of the submission of this application and the most recent update to the website at the time of writing (Jan 23) indicates that the project is paused. We are also aware that additional properties adjacent to the proposed Quarry have been purchased, effectively silencing those neighbours (one passed away during the pandemic). This is not transparency.

There were many other accusations and criticisms levied in this discussion but I have refrained from engaging in those as I would like to have in a fact-based, scientific discussion and ensure that our concerns are taken seriously.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns, and to speak to some of the concerns raised by my neighbours and fellow Niagara Region residents. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can further elaborate on any of these issues.

Regards,

-Matthew Melnyk