

From: [Rod Melanson](#)
To: [Andrew Deci](#)
Subject: FW: Crooker No Rezoning letter re-send (could not find it on town website)
Date: Monday, August 3, 2020 4:11:14 PM
Attachments: [r.brooks_Crooker rezoning letter_June 22.docx](#)

FYI

From: Robin Brooks <robinellenb@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 4:03 PM
To: Rod Melanson <rmelanson@topshammaine.com>
Subject: Crooker No Rezoning letter re-send (could not find it on town website)

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June 22, 2020

Dear Mr. Melanson and Town Planning Board Members,

I am writing to express my strong objection to the Crooker Company's proposal to rezone residential land and relocate their batch plant and headquarters to land they have acquired near my neighborhood. I object to the assertion by the Crooker consultants that the rezoning is consistent with our 2019 comprehensive plan update.

One of the biggest take-aways from that update for town officials is to protect and enhance the quality-of-life for residents in existing neighborhoods. In addition, residents want town officials to enhance pedestrian and bicycle safety, environmental protections, and natural area access. Here are some of my concerns about the rezoning that clarify why this proposal is inconsistent with our Comprehensive Plan:

- Concerns about noise, air, and light pollution from a heavy

industrial facility relocating near two existing residential neighborhoods.

- Concerns about the addition of constant heavy truck traffic at the intersection of Meadow Cross and Rt.196 increasing the hazards of travel along the Rt.196 corridor and side roads such as River Road in Topsham.
- Concerns about wetlands, wildlife, and natural areas impacted by increased blasting, crushing, dust, and debris from the plant.
- Concerns about the stability of the water table and negative impacts to our water quality from the encroachment of the blasting pit toward the field across from the old Flaig farmhouse.

During our Comprehensive planning process in 2018, I attended several charettes, discussions, and meetings with members of the Comprehensive plan committee. During one of those meetings, two neighbors and I received verbal assurances from the Chair and others in attendance that the "Crooker Zone" was just a possibility and not a commitment of the town. **Moreover, they emphasized that the protection and enhancement of existing neighborhoods is paramount, going forward.** Otherwise, we would have pushed for the language "Crooker Zone" to be excised from the document.

I object to the consultants conclusion that the 2019 Comp. Plan revision supports this rezoning effort. You have already heard from a cross-section of citizens, over 300 of whom signed on to petition against the

rezoning.

An additional point I'd like to make is that the housing surrounding the current Crooker facility was built up around plant, not the other way around. My husband and I purchased our home in a planned neighborhood precisely to avoid things like heavy industry, gravel pits, truck traffic, large power lines, and other environmental hazards.

Please protect our quality of life in the Ivanhoe and Pjepscot neighborhoods and do not allow this rezoning proposal to advance.

Sincerely,

Robin Brooks

47 Ivanhoe Drive
Topsham, Maine 04086
207 232-9734 cell



www.robinbrooksart.com

<https://www.facebook.com/taichieasywithrobin/>

"Nothing in the world is as soft and yielding as water. Yet for dissolving the hard and inflexible, nothing can surpass it. The soft overcomes the hard; the gentle overcomes the rigid." ...Lao-tzu

"Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world at once, but of stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach."
– Dr. Clarissa Pinkola Estés

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rmelanson@topshammaine.com

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