

TOWN OF ALNA

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Melissa Spinney, 1st Selectman
Doug Baston, 2nd Selectman
Greg Shute, 3rd Selectman

23 October 2019

Via email and 1st Class mail

Ms. Jami MacNeil
Environmental Specialist III
Bureau of Land Resources
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
jami.macneil@maine.gov

Mr. Jay Clement
Senior Project Manager
US Army Corps of Engineers
Maine Project Office
442 Civic Drive, Suite 350
Augusta, Maine 04330
Jay.L.Clement@usace.army.mil

Dear Ms. MacNeil and Mr. Clement:

I am writing at the request of Jeffry Spinney, a citizen of Alna who has a regulatory matter pending with your offices. Mr. Spinney has asked the Board of Selectmen to document to you his physical address and the legal status of his access to it, based on town records. As Mr. Spinney's wife is our 1st Selectman, I have been asked to respond to this request.

As background, Mr. Spinney forwarded correspondence from one Allen Philbrick, a non-resident landowner in Alna. It appears that Mr. Philbrick believes that Mr. Spinney's home is on the Angier Road, and cites restrictions on the use of that road that would, if accurate, bear on Mr. Spinney's proposed uses.

Mr. Philbrick is incorrect; Mr. Spinney resides on the former Reed Road, which was discontinued by at our annual town meeting on March 29, 2007. The discontinuation warrant article read as follows:

To See if the Town will vote to approve the Order of Discontinuance of the Reed Road lying between the Golden Ridge Road and property of Jeffrey A. Spinney a/k/a Jeffry A. Spinney (Tax Map 4, Lot 21A), retaining no public easement whatsoever except as is necessary by Jeffrey A. Spinney a/k/a Jeffry A. Spinney , his heirs and assigns to access his property (Tax Map 4, Lot 21A), provided however that the road abutter(s) shall have no obligation of any kind to maintain the retained easement. The Order of Discontinuance has been filed by the Selectmen with the Town clerk and would discontinue the Reed Road lying between the Golden Ridge Road and property of Jeffrey A. Spinney a/k/a Jeffry A. Spinney (Tax Map 4, Lot 21A), and its present public easement, except as retained for access to the Spinney lot.

The vote was unanimous.

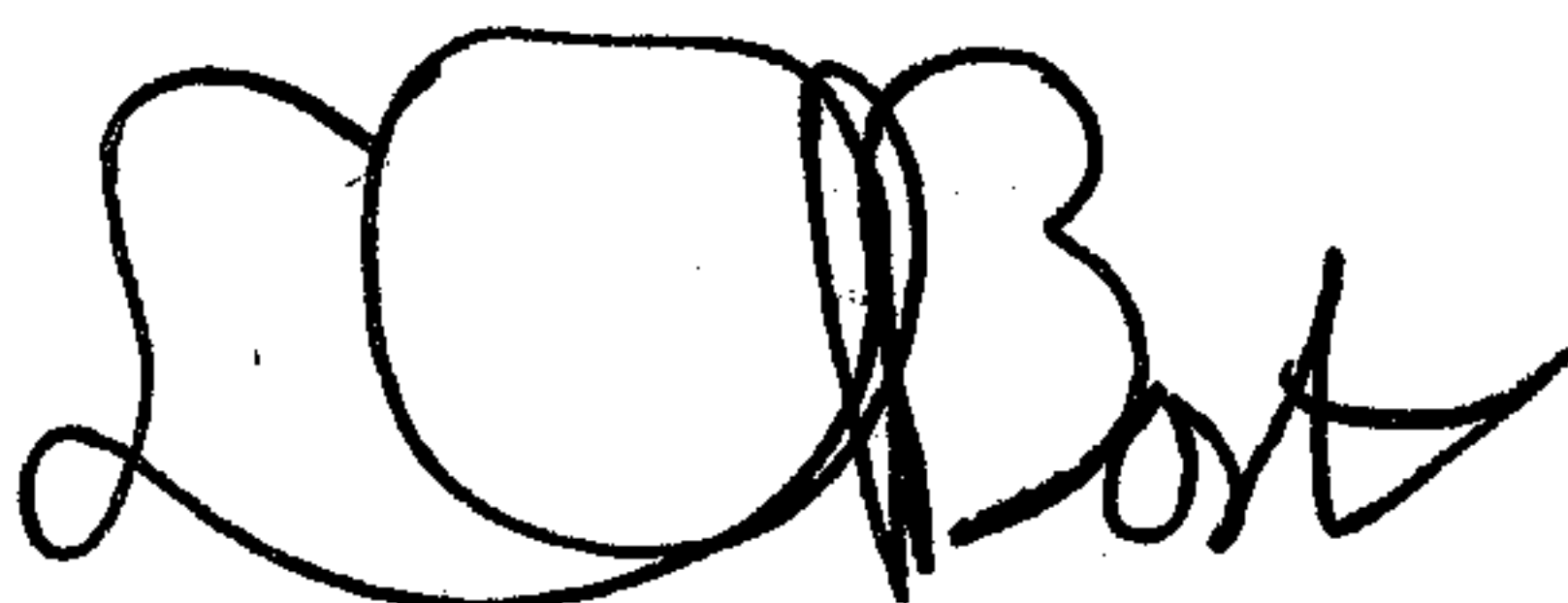
Mr. Philbrick argues his interest in this matter is due to his long attachment to the town of Alna. While doubtless he is sincere in his belief, I have lived in this town for almost thirty-five years, serving in public office for much of that time, and before this correspondence I had never heard of the gentleman. An informal survey of local people over the last few days came up likewise blank as to his identity.

This is relevant only because in opposing Mr. Spinney's application, Mr. Philbrick questions the integrity of Alna's board of selectmen and planning board, presuming in advance that the members will be biased towards this project because Mrs. Spinney serves on the one board and Mr. Spinney on the other. I find it astonishing that someone who purports to have some connection to our town would, in absence of any local action on this application, indeed without any evidence at all, casually malign the integrity of our volunteer citizen boards – composed of local people he almost certainly has never met. And he does so in a public document for all to see.

I also must personally respond to his attack on Selectman Melissa Spinney, who he identifies by name. I have served as a selectman with Ms. Spinney for five years, and for three of those years she has been our first selectman. I have found her in every instance to be a woman of impeccable integrity who has served this town and its citizens tirelessly and well. I meet and work with her almost daily and she has never once, even in passing, made any public reference to her husband's application.

I have no opinion one way or the other on the outcome of this proposal. But however it is decided, it will have the greatest impact on the people who live, work and recreate in Alna, and their views – both pro and con – should be paramount. I am confident that your agencies will make your determinations based on the law, regulation, and objective data, and will disregard any testimony based on inuendo and conjecture. I encourage you to weigh Mr. Philbrick's comments accordingly.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Douglas Baston', written in a cursive style.

Douglas Baston, 2nd Selectman
Town of Alna

cc: Jeffry Spinney