

From: Donna Springer [mailto:donnaspringer57@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2015 2:32 PM
To: Rep. Conroy, Theresa
Subject: Bill HB 6494- Blasting concerns

Dear Representative Conroy,

Thank you for introducing a bill that will hopefully provide some rights and recourse to residents who sustain damage from blasting.

I would like to share my experience with you

I live in an Active Adult Community in Milford. Adjacent to our complex is a Howard Johnsons Motel on the Post Road. The owner applied and received clearance to blast the site. No one can tell us what is going into the site or why the elevations need to change. We only know that they were granted a 2 year permit to blast and crush stone on site.

Before they began blasting, the construction company sent over Shoreline Blasting to talk to our complex to explain what would be happening and how we could be assured that if damage occurred there was a process and recourse. This company talked to us and told us that they would, with our permission, come into our units and take photos to record all existing cracks, settlement etc. This, we were told, would be the baseline so that if we noticed any new cracks or increases to existing cracks they could refer to these photos to determine if the blasting may have been the cause.

My unit and several others border the construction site. My back yard is literally 30 feet from site. Since the blasting began and the dust and cracks began, I have brought several people from Milford Public Health over to my unit to see just how close the construction is. I just moved in that summer and had the entire unit professionally painted so I know there were no cracks. I, along with many other residents did allow Shoreline to come and take photos so we felt comfortable that this would give us some reassurances.

When we discovered cracks, we contacted Shoreline. They sent a gentleman out from their Insurance Company to look at our cracks. They concluded that the woman who took the pictures "did a poor job" and that the cracks could not possibly be from blasting as they installed devices in the ground to monitor the strength of the blasts and none of the blasts measured high enough to cause any damage.

So they threw this employee of their own company 'under the bus'. We all found her to be quite thorough. If she did do such a poor job as they stated, then who trained her and why did they tell us at our meeting that they had been in this business for years??

They are supposed to sound an alarm before they blast to alert us. This "alarm" is so inaudible that you must be home with nothing on (no TV, no washing machine, nothing) to even chance to hear it and I have no hearing issues. They were given set hours of operation starting at 8 am.

They have consistently started at 7 and 7:30. They were to hose down the mountains of rock so that as they crush it the dust is kept to a minimum (especially since we are in a high wind zone) We brought the state in (Mr Schnell) and he has visited the site on several occasions as they are also crushing rock on site without ensuring they wet down the piles to reduce dust. We are in a high wind zone and many of the residents are elderly with medical issues. You can actually see clouds of dust floating over to our complex on windy days.

When I asked Mr. Schnell what is the process by which the State enforces Public Health Laws (is it one verbal warning, then a written and then a fine) I was told there is not set process. That the \$25,000 a day fine they can levy but he couldn't tell me what it takes to get it applied. The workers know that the state won't be at the site on weekends or before 9am so they have been quite free in operating as they want in these times. They actually told us to keep an eye on things and report!

Please check with Mr. Schnell from the State as well as Milford Public Health as we have registered multiple complaints for the dust, the blasting etc. The noise, damage to our units, disruption to our quiet enjoyment of our residences has never been addressed either locally or by the state. The dust from this site was so intense that no one could open their windows all summer and decks had to be swept daily. We did show this to Laura Miller from Milford Public Health. She has been very sympathetic but apparently has no power to impose any fines. Something should be in place to protect homeowners, especially elderly ones as is the case with most of the residents in my complex.

I can not attend this meeting but I would appreciate your feedback from it.

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Donna Springer