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MARCH 2023

Town Says Go Pound Sand

Michael C. Harrison



Richard Ward



John Mason



Robert J. Ieronimo



CARVER, MASS. SAND MINING OPERATION MAKES NEIGHBORHOOD ALMOST UNINHABITABLE PAGES 16-17

Pets, Humans, Struggle to Breathe

MassGOP Leftists Strike Back

The Most Vicious Public Campaign of Personal Destruction Against One Individual That I've Ever Seen in Nearly 30 Years of Republican Activism

by Brian Camenker

MassResistance.org

SPECIAL COMMENTARY

On January 31, the Massachusetts Republican State Committee voted 37-34 to replace conservative Party Chairman Jim

Lyons with the RINO lobbyist Amy Carnevale. The intent was to transform the MassGOP back to the "moderate" (and "swampy") Baker/Romney days – and purge its recently acquired mainstream Republican principles that embar-

ass the GOP establishment.

This vote didn't happen in a vacuum. It followed the most vicious public campaign of personal destruction against one individual that I've ever seen in nearly 30 years of Republican activism. Moreover, these attacks against Lyons were well-organized and clearly well-financed.

The RINO move to remove Jim started in June 2021, when a Catholic state committeewoman made a comment in an email critical of homosexual relationships. There were calls for Jim

to demand she resign for being "homophobic," but Jim insisted she had free speech in the matter.

This led to a huge newspaper and TV media firestorm calling for Jim's resignation, which, according to reports Carnevale helped organize. This also included a public letter from the Mass. GOP House (RINO) delegation demanding Jim's ouster. But Jim held his ground.

But that was just the beginning. A number of phony GOP "organizations" suddenly appeared, regularly flooding activists' email boxes

with hateful anti-Lyons screeds. In an effort to disrupt Lyons' ability to run the GOP, a group of RINO State Committee members refused to attend meetings for nearly a year in order to deny a quorum. According to reports, the RINO GOP treasurer even temporarily disabled the MassGOP's bank account to keep Lyons from paying bills on time.

Then the real hammering came. Day after day in the weeks leading up to the January vote, the Boston newspapers published countless articles brutally bashing Lyons, portraying him as a dangerous incompetent and blaming him personally for every real or imagined GOP problem. This was obviously the work of a professional PR operation.

Also bashing Jim was talk-show host and Herald columnist Howie Carr. Carr's unending, over-the-top, often infantile attacks – on his show, in his columns, and on social media – were incredibly bizarre. It seemed like for months Lyons was the only thing Carr could think about. It's widely believed that a large amount of RINO advertising money had something to do

MassGOP Leftists Reseize Power, continued page 6

www.GodANDCountryNOW.com

John Adams said: "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

St. John Paul II said when visiting the U.S.A.: "We are now facing the final confrontation between the Church and the anti-church."

WE ARE NOW facing horrible crimes in America against Innocent Life, Marriage & Religious Freedom. They are under attack by many who are using the government to further their agenda.

Learn more at GodANDCountryNOW.com, what we are morally required to do, and request to be on our mail list at Vic@VicMelfa.org.

With Love AND Truth! – In His Divine Mercy & in His Divine Will! Thank you and may God Bless You & Your Families! Vic Melfa (Sr.)

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Town of Carver Leaves Neighbors in 12+ Year Sand Fog

by Lonnie Brennan

I drove two hours down to Carver, Mass. last month to put boots on the ground - talk with neighbors and walk the streets. It's a beautiful area, but I could never live there.

What I thought might be haze from the sun or something was actually a fine fog of sand particles drifting through the tall pine trees. In less than an hour my parked truck shimmered from fine sand/silica particles - totally coating the paint.

For more than a decade, residents of this bucolic neighborhood have been subjected to a nearby commercial sand mining/excavation operation, permitted as an agricultural action.

That sand mining permit was issued by the Town of Carver's Earth Removal Committee on March 1, 2011, 12 years ago. The permit granted Alex Johnson and Sons permission to remove and sell 545,000 cubic yards of sand. Bette J. Maki, the property owner, requested the permit via an "Earth Removal Application for Map 83, Lot 6 and Map 84, Lot 1" filing for the 66.85-acre property.

Tense Meeting

"I don't need a suggestion from you," committee Chair Robert J. Ieronimo snapped when an audience member at a recent public hearing to review the excavation activities suggested the committee should provide copies to the audience of paperwork/plans that were handed to committee members, or pause the meeting. Residents wanted to see the paperwork but were told, no, they could view it tomorrow in an office upstairs. Repeatedly throughout the long meeting, members referenced that they did not have certain facts/figures about the three-phase, permitted commercial dig. The numbers were "upstairs" the committee told the public hearing attendees.

Forget the Past, All Will Be Fine in 3-6 Months, or Perhaps Three Years? Depends on Sand Prices

Ieronimo said the initial permit allowed the mining/excavation of 545,763 [?] cubic yards of sand over a three-phase process. The issue before the committee was now just a time extension to allow 90,000 to 100,000 remaining cubic yards to be mined and sold-off. At mid-meeting, the committee members related that the work could be completed by mid-summer. Later in the meeting, the residents were told that it could be 2-3 years, depending on the "market." The digger explained that the sale of the sand depends on construction needs and availability, and that if things changed, the sand would not be mined until prices were favorable. One resident asked if this were a reservoir building activity or a mining activity for profit? And, why does it take more than a decade for

something if it were actually needed, pointing out that the bog apparently survived quite well for the decade and more without the reservoir.

Snap, Snap, Growl

As the meeting wore on, and the residents remained restless at not being given an end date to their decade-long exposure to the sand/silica haze, the mind-numbing 24/7 noise of diesel water pumps running, 25 or more large trucks each day clogging the roads, gravel and excavating equipment clatters, etc., Ieronimo again snapped at Margaret Sheehan who represents several neighbors under the Save the Pines Barrier Community Land and Water Coalition. The neighbors related how they just want the project to get done/finished - the trucks to leave, the loud diesel pumps running 24/7 to be silenced. But Ieronimo took umbrage with Sheehan's tight criticism of the board's transparency and actions, and her quoting of the town's bylaws to them:

"Will you stop, like, trying to belittle everybody?" Ieronimo said, followed by, "Is that possible?" He added, "The way you talk to people is so ... it's disgusting. So could you please just have some respect for everyone in the room?" A resident spoke up and said: "I think she's [Sheehan] reacting to the tone in the room," referring to the tone set by

Ieronimo. Sheehan replied to Ieronimo: "The way you have treated people and the way you treat the people in this town when they come here, for complaints, year after year - it's a disgrace."

3X the Size? If Needed?

At the heart of the neighbor's complaint is: Why has this been going on for more than a decade? And why dig a hole for a reservoir of water that's huge - 3 to 10 times the size needed?

Sheehan attempted to read into the record a letter she received from the Mass. Department of Environmental Protection: It was a reply letter dated July 20, 2022 from the DEP acknowledging that the proper size

sand and gravel pit and therefore can not be considered a pond." And he detailed it is not covered under "Agriculture."

Gilmore provided Nate Corcoran's phone number: (508) 946-2723 and e-mail: Nate.Corcoran@mass.gov in the event anyone had questions as to why the DEP doesn't get involved. Despite the letter having a cc (copy) to the Carver Conservation Commission and property owner Bette Maki, with Certified Mail # 7017 1450 0000 0281 4589, no one at the meeting other than the residents had apparently read it.

Maki's Commercial Sand and Gravel Site - Drinking Water Threat?

In a five-page letter to Chairman Ieronimo, dated Aug. 29, 2022, Sheehan had detailed the neighbors concern with the effects on adjacent wells, water supplies, violation of permit conditions, and how the entire project is a "scam," noting the "false pretense" for obtaining an earth removal permit under the guise of "agricultural excavation." She noted how the board members "were complicit in this false pretense by allowing this to continue," and detailed the law's requirements.

Loss of Tax Revenue to the Town?

Property taxes are high in Carver, Mass., but under what was repeat-

edly termed the "guise" of cranberry growing, residents noted that property owner Maki and other landowners avoid commercial tax rates by doing their mining work adjacent to a bog and claiming that it is bog related work. "The bog? Just show. Just a tax dodge. Have a bog, make money off sand mining," one neighbor commented subsequent to the meeting.

Tax bills are due quarterly. Maki's current quarterly tax bill for the 27-acre excavation/mining site is \$89.61. Her bill for the larger 39-acre site with the working cranberry bog and a barn/shed and improvements: \$304.40. Both bills include small interest fees for being late.

Hearing Continued

The board voted to continue the hearing to a future date, to be announced. The neighbors don't know when that will be.

No dates for future meetings for 2023 were posted on the town's website at press time.

A review of the town's website shows the committee met seven times in 2022: Jan. 26, April 27, July 27, Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 9, and Dec. 7. Seven neighbors were asked about the timing of meetings and each replied similarly: They never know unless someone says something, because notice is not given, meetings pop-up somehow, and often they are cancelled. The online calendar noted six meetings "cancelled" on the 2022 calendar. ♦

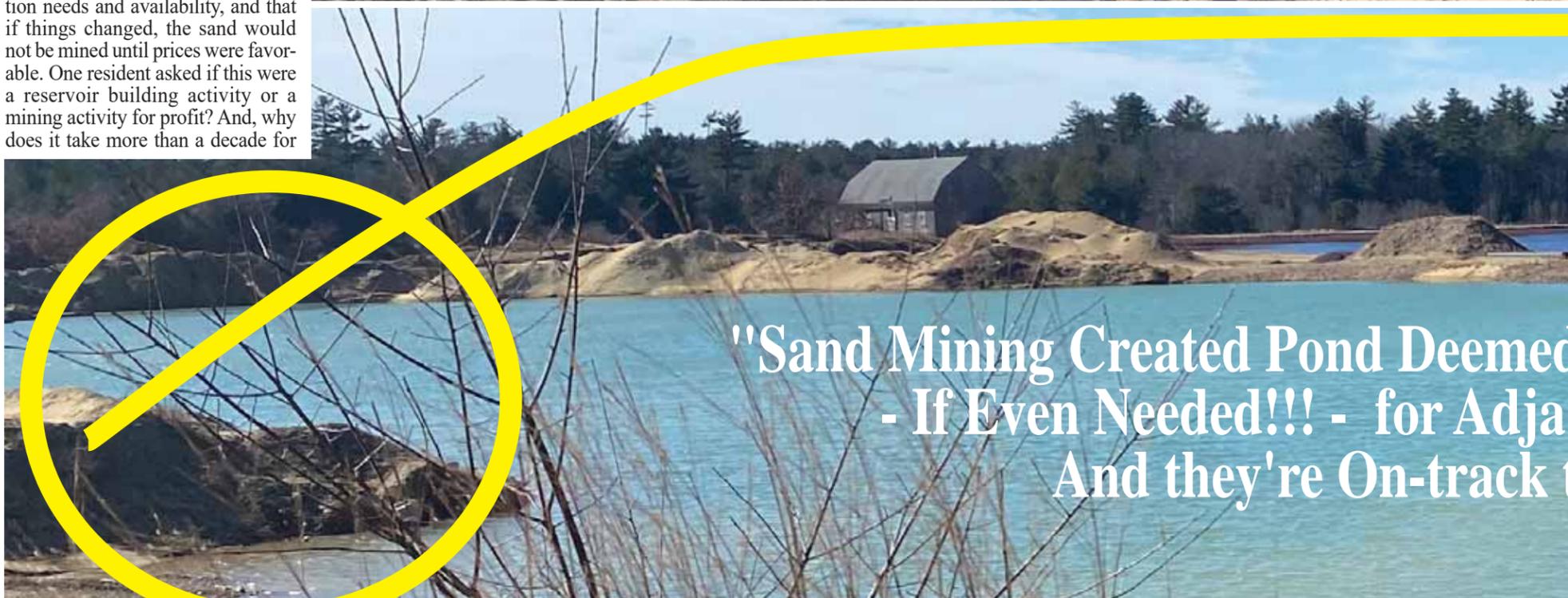


Writer's Truck Hood
After being parked for one hour at sand mine neighbor's driveway - exposed to Sand Fog - Feb. 2023

for a reservoir - if needed for the site - would be "72-acre feet." The DEP noted "the proposed reservoir will be around 220 acre-feet. This size far exceeds the volume needed for agricultural purposes." The letter was signed by Daniel F. Gilmore, Chief, Wetlands and Waterways Program, Bureau of Water resources. The DEP decline to be involved, explaining in part that it's not a wetlands issue, and it's not a pond: "It is an active



'Sand Fog Whenever the Wind Blows Fine Particles Fill the Air'



"Sand Mining Created Pond Deemed - If Even Needed!!! - for Adjacent And they're On-track to be built"

In Their Own Words: Living in an 12-Year Sand Fog



Edward Delorey

I've lived over in Meadow Woods, which is a retirement community, for 11 years. I haven't been able to sit on my back deck and read a book. I live 362 feet, approximately, from where they're crushing stone all day and digging a pit.

The first five years I had no problem with it; they have a right to make money from their property.

360+ Feet Away

It's twice as big as they originally permitted for, at least ... It's time to stop. It took 15 years to build the Cape Cod Canal with antiquated equipment. They've been over there for 11 years with modern equipment building a pond. I'm sorry. That's it.. ♦



Matt Spaulding

Summertime, there's so much wind you can't breathe. With the sand and the wind coming across from the cranberry bog and the operation happening.

Dog Coughing

If you go more than a week without rain, it gets even worse and worse [to] where my dog starts coughing.

Can't sleep at night because of it, and forced to use the AC 24/7 because we can't open up the windows in spring and summer.

We used to have wetlands next to our house, now it's drylands. They altered the terrain. The water slopes away now. ♦



Jo Beadling

We have been tolerating the following, all in the name of a "reservoir" being dug. We are the closest abutter to this project located at 0 Meadow St., Carver, Mass.

Whenever the wind blows, our home and vehicles get covered in sand/silica.

Wind Blows ...

We can't open our windows when we'd like to during the day or when it's windy. We can feel vibrations under our feet, in our home, from the numerous tractor trailers coming/going past our home.

Water pressure decreases due to our well being affected by the vibrations from the digging or truck traffic.

Incessant noise from rocks being crushed and back-up beeping from machinery at times is mind numbing. You cannot be outside more the two minutes during this incessant noise because you will end up with a headache.

Dirt, rocks, sand, and mud are being tracked from their access road past my home often. The only time the road gets cleaned is when we complain directly to G. Lopes.

I'm on a backroad, a shortcut between Route 58 and Route 495 to the center of Carver. Trucks staging on this road are not supposed to happen, but it does.

With our closed windows, we still get wind-blown sand in between the window sashes and screens.

The G. Lopes project manager starts machinery up sometimes as early as 6:30 a.m. with no regard for anyone else.

Lopes is allowed 25 trucks per day. I have documented 53 trucks in one day.

Monitoring our drinking water wells installed before digging started in 2011 was a condition of the permit approval! One well was installed in 2022.

The people on these town boards just don't give a damn about regular citizens. They represent the bog owners in this town. You try

bringing anything to their attention; they don't want to hear it.

The disrespect from a lot of these boards/committees is on full display at meetings. I have had a few shouting matches with the chairman of the Earth Removal Committee. Things get done if/when we complain. But then again, certain people play stupid so they don't have to assume responsibility.

According to the Carver Earth Removal Committee, what is written on the permit is a "recommendation."

The committee does not want to hear anything said from us.

A slap on the wrist is given to the owner or project manager sometimes.

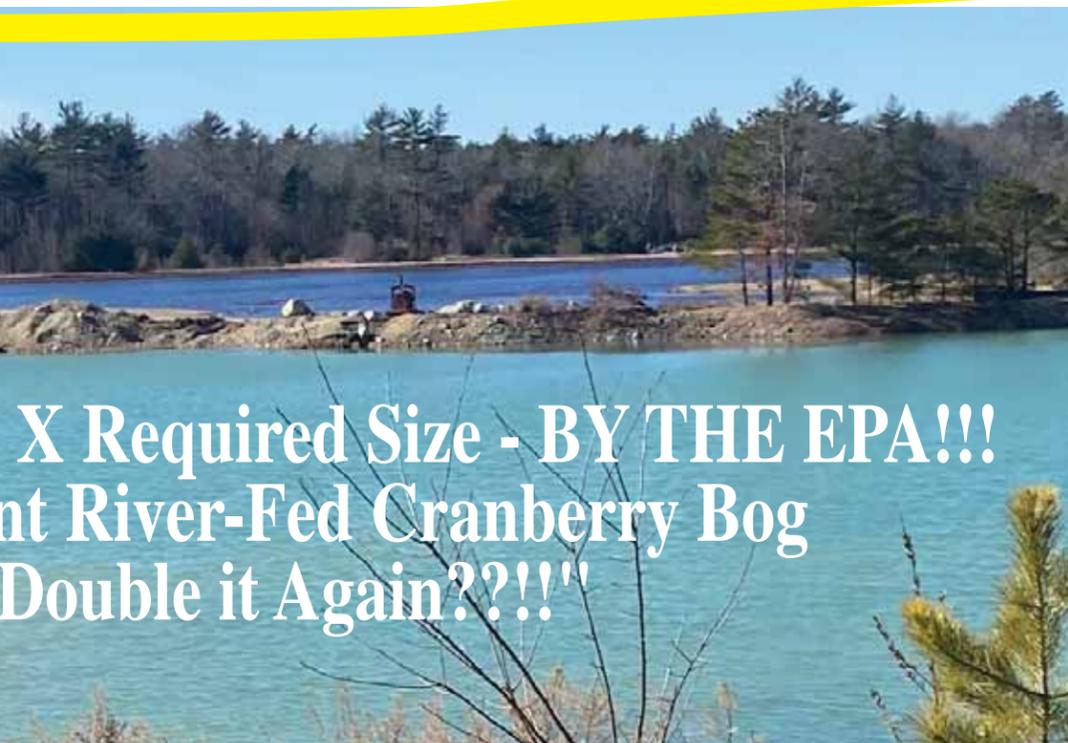
Nothing is enforced or monitored.

Tossed Across the Table

I recently tried bringing the matter of "violations" up. I had handed each board member a copy of my documentation of trucks from Sept. 14, 15, 16, 19, and 20th, along with pictures of my vehicle covered in sand. The board got upset that I did this, said this was not the way to give them information. One member tossed the papers/pictures across the table. ♦



Wind Blows the Air



X Required Size - BY THE EPA!!! River-Fed Cranberry Bog Double it Again??!!!"

