



**STAND & BE COUNTED** — If you believe it is only sane to say “no” to the further expansion of this quarry, show up at the Holiday Inn Express on Feb. 20th at 7pm to send DEC that clear message.

## Time to show a united voice *DEC sets public comment meeting on mine expansion*

*A message from  
John Poorman, SOS Chairman*

There are times when it's important to come out to a meeting to express your concerns.

There are other times when it's essential that you come out to express your concerns.

If you care about the future of Schoharie, this is one of the essential times.

At 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 20, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is holding a public hearing at the Holiday Inn Express to hear your concerns about the proposed 69-acre expansion of the Cobleskill Stone Products' quarry in Schoharie. You need to be there!

If you do not come, DEC may believe what CSP has asserted in its Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

According to CSP's document,

- the expansion is compatible with

the town and village joint comprehensive plan;

- the town's jurisdiction over the expansion is uncertain;
- there will be no adverse impacts from blasting or drilling;
- the visual character of the area will not be impacted;
- any alleged impact on surrounding wells will be addressed only through arbitration (with CSP contributing to the cost of the process – or for mitigation – only for its share of the damage, if proven);
- the proximity to the school of current and future activities is not even worth evaluating;
- traffic from the mine will not be changed in any way;
- CSP won't touch the new land for decades. Really.

If you do not come, DEC may believe that there are no significant community concerns with CSP's proposing an expansion that will

involve blasting and bulldozing to create an 800 foot tunnel under Rickard Hill Road; that there are no community concerns with granting a permit that would authorize removal of an additional several billion tons of stone from the hills, without further DEC or town approvals; and that the community has no concerns with the rate of quarrying being determined solely by demand (that is, as fast as CSP or another owner decides).

If you do not come, it is very possible – some argue, likely – that DEC will dismiss the conflict between this massive project and the town's and village's adopted plans, laws and best interests and approve a mining permit despite the town's staunch opposition and defense of its local laws in court.

It's time for each of us to rise to the defense of our community.  
**Please come. Please.**

# SOS urges everyone to write elected and appointed officials

*When Schoharians formed SOS, they did so for two principles:*

- The Town of Schoharie's Land Use Law, years in the making, is vital to the region's future, and tied to the village and town's joint comprehensive master plan for development. This law needed visible community support.
- The previous expansion of the CSP mine (which more than doubled its previous size), together with the ever-growing Carver Stone mine to the town's south, were already deteriorating aspects to the quality of life in the community,

and further expansion of quarrying in the town would be devastating to those of us who live here.

SOS is far from being a clique. Many members did not even know one another before people united out of a shared commitment to the notion that additional mine expansion would be ruinous to our beloved environment.

We are not anti-mining, but *are* against locating mines in densely populated communities, where fugitive dust wafts over school yards and retirement communities. We wonder what reasonable person

would not be. We are young and old. Some of us live in grand-sized homes, some in modest-sized ones. Our members involve themselves in whatever ways they can, in this common cause.

Now, SOS is reaching out to all those within the community who share our conviction. We implore all concerned individuals and groups to take the time to write our elected and appointed officials, expressing your opposition to mine expansion in the town.

If WE don't stand up for our community, who will?

*At present,*

*it is especially important to write, email or call . . .*

Kent Sanders

Deputy Permit Administrator

NY State DEC, Region 4

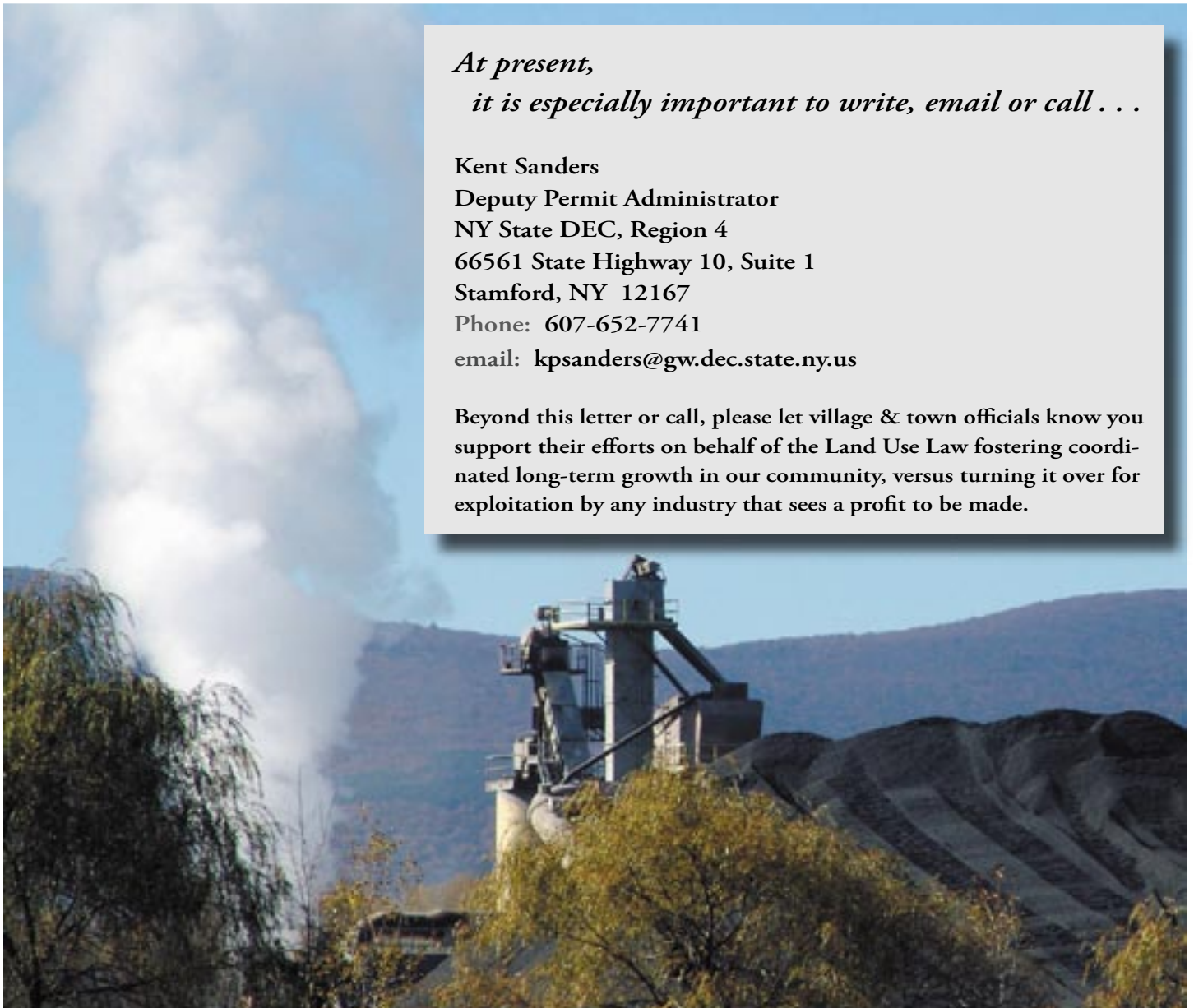
66561 State Highway 10, Suite 1

Stamford, NY 12167

Phone: 607-652-7741

email: [kpsanders@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:kpsanders@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

Beyond this letter or call, please let village & town officials know you support their efforts on behalf of the Land Use Law fostering coordinated long-term growth in our community, versus turning it over for exploitation by any industry that sees a profit to be made.





## *Other Federal, State & Local Officials You Should Consider Contacting . . .*

•Congressman Michael McNulty  
Leo O'Brien Federal Building  
Room 827  
Albany, NY 12207

•Governor Eliot Spitzer  
Executive Chamber, State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224  
•The Honorable Judith Enck  
Deputy Secretary for the Environment  
Executive Chamber, State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224

•Senator James L. Seward  
917 Legislative Office Bldg.  
Albany, NY 12247  
•Assemblyman Peter Lopez  
429 Legislative Office Building  
Albany, NY 12248  
•Assemblyman Paul Tonko  
Room 718, Legislative Office Bldg.  
Albany, NY 12248

•Supervisor Martin Shrederis  
PO Box 54  
Schoharie, NY 12157  
email: [shredler@midtel.net](mailto:shredler@midtel.net)  
•Councilman Alan Tavenner  
PO Box 140  
Central Bridge, NY 12035  
email: [atavenner@delawareengineering.com](mailto:atavenner@delawareengineering.com)  
•Councilman Richard A. Sherman  
PO Box 395  
Schoharie, NY 12157  
email: [rsherman4@nycap.rr.com](mailto:rsherman4@nycap.rr.com)  
•Councilman Matt Brisley  
PO Box 264  
Schoharie, NY 12157  
•Councilman Andrew Phelan  
132 Colby Road  
Schoharie, NY 12157  
email: [linexnortheast@midtel.net](mailto:linexnortheast@midtel.net)


•Mayor John Borst  
PO Box 142  
Schoharie, NY 12157  
•Trustee Ed August  
PO Box 276  
Schoharie, NY 12157

•Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Leo W. O'Brien Federal Office Building  
1 Clinton Square  
Room 821  
Albany, NY 12207  
Phone: (518) 431-0120

•Senator Charles Schumer  
Leo O'Brien Federal Bldg.  
1 Clinton Square  
Room 420  
Albany, NY 12207  
Phone: 518-431-4070



•Trustee Arthur Ruland  
PO Box 211  
Schoharie, NY 12157  
•Trustee Richard Young  
145 Grand Street  
Schoharie, NY 12157  
•Trustee Jay Balliett  
123 Bridge Street  
Schoharie, NY 12157



***Save Our Schoharie***  
Chairman . . . John Poorman  
Vice Chairman . . . Robert Montione  
Treasurer . . . Patti Conboy  
Secretary . . . Dawn Johnson  
Newsletter Editor . . . Tom Smith

# *Our letters do count!*

## Write DEC and your representatives

*Letters do not need to be long or technical. Please mention in your opening paragraph that you are writing in response to Cobleskill Stone Products' Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Here is a partial list of topics you may wish to emphasize:*

- Additional noise, dust and other effects of blasting, etc. in the expanded area as CSP prepares the land while still working the existing quarry. A berm would need to be built around the area, plus a tunnel built under Rickard Hill Road.
- Removal of existing trees (which filter noise and dust coming into the village) in order to create a berm for the expansion area.
- Negative effects on tourism, along with agriculture, the major industry in Schoharie.
- Although it claims in its DEIS that an expansion will not increase truck

traffic, CSP acknowledges that such traffic is based on the demand for its product, and therefore outside its control and an empty claim.

- Karst formations within caves and fissures (cracks in the substrata) are common in the limestone areas. How can CSP be certain, therefore, that its blasting will not affect the water table upon which many people depend for their wells?
- The long-term effects on our homes & historic structures due to the continuous incremental damage over time caused by blasting in the quarry area and the increased size of trucks carrying ever heavier loads through the village.
- The unmeasured danger to our health from the silica dust created by blasting, crushing and

transporting of stone and gravel so close to our homes.

- The negative impact on local business. The constant gravel and stone truck traffic through the village increases noise, dust, and noxious fume levels to a degree that discourages shopping or patronizing local restaurants. (While CSP refuses to accept any responsibility for the condition, Carver Stone Company trucks combine with CSP's to produce a steady stream of truck traffic from early spring through fall.
- The additional negative visual impacts for residents whose homes are at higher elevations than the area proposed for expansion. (Maps in CSP's Draft Environmental Impact Statement, available for review in the library) show the extent of what would be the new "viewing area.")

*Join the effort  
support the work of SOS*

**SOS invites all those sympathetic to our fight to preserve the character of Schoharie's environment to join.**

**The group meets the first Tuesday of every month at the Schoharie Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall.**

**We welcome different levels of participation.**

**FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: \$20 annually**

**INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP: \$10 annually**

*FROM RICKARD HILL RD. – CSP blast of May 3 totally obscures Terrace Mountain*

Please return this portion with checks payable to:

S.O.S PO Box 856 Schoharie, NY 12157

Check **all** that apply:

☐ Donation only

☐ Please put us on your email list & keep us posted as to ongoing developments.

☐ I (we) would be happy to help when & if we're able.

Name

Address

Phone

email

5 3 '06



# DID YOU KNOW . . .

that CSP's proposed expansion violates the very premise of the planning committee, which designed the Town Comprehensive Plan, signed off on by the Village of Schoharie as well the Town Board?

The stated purpose of that plan is to :

1. Conserve Schoharie's natural resources and rural character.
2. Minimize negative environmental impacts.
3. Protect existing wooded areas, scenic views, ridgelines and agricultural land.
4. Protect lands and buildings that are historically significant.

Specifically, the Cobleskill Stone proposal:

- threatens the existence of the spring at the Palatine House; the very spring that caused the Palatines to settle here.
- threatens the small stream that flows through Lasell Park.
- would involve excavation to build a tunnel 180 feet deep under Rickard Hill Road, necessitating the removal of 41 million cubic yards of stone.
- would destroy a mature wooded area nearly a thousand feet deep in order to build a berm to "screen the view" of the quarry from the village. To see an example of CSP's "shields," take a drive up Rickard Hill Road.
- threatens the existence of Becker's Cave that runs under historic Lasell Park.



*Schoharie resident Don Quinn often takes winter walks around the village. He took this photo of a striking ice formation where a stream flows over the ridge at the base of Lasell Park. This stream would be threatened by quarry expansion. In its Environmental Impact Statement to DEC, Cobleskill Stone lists this as an insignificant effect.*



A chicken barbecue, sponsored by SOS, will be held on the Lasell Hall grounds on Saturday, March 24, from 11:00 until all chicken is sold.

It will feature the mouth-watering Ray's Famous Chicken BBQ.

Lasell Hall is located on Main Street in the village of Schoharie, across from the NBT Bank.

All proceeds go to the work of SOS.

## In brief . . .

The Village of Schoharie will be holding elections for the office of mayor and for two trustee seats on March 20.

\* \* \* \*

The average life span of a mine is 15 years.

\* \* \* \*

Quarry companies are not legally required to begin reclamation procedures on a mine so long as it (or an extension of it) is operational.

# A letter from Rose & Paul Westheimer

## *Founders of Carrot Barn see mine expansion as wrong for Schoharie*

February 12, 2007

Mr. Kent P. Sanders  
NYSDEC Region 4 Stamford Sub-Office  
65561 State Highway 10  
Stamford, NY 12167

Re: Cobleskill Stone mining expansion plans

Dear Mr. Sanders,

As a retired vegetable farmer in the Schoharie Valley, former president of the NY State Vegetable Growers Association, chairman of the DEC Commissioner's agricultural advisory committee during Commissioner Berle's administration, and a former long time Schoharie Central School board member, I am writing to express my concerns about the above mine expansion plan.

I have observed large clouds of dust drifting over a wide area when blasting was done at the current quarry. This presents a problem to the adjacent campus of Schoharie Central School and its pupils that would be exacerbated by the proposed expansion. I am also painfully aware of the potential impact fine stone dust can have on the health of people and certain vegetable crops.

Furthermore, after many meetings over several years, new zoning regulations for Schoharie were proposed, repeatedly modified to reflect public opinion and then adopted. The proposed expansion would not be legal under specific provisions of this plan. The impact of the expanded mining operations on air quality, blasting noise, heavier truck traffic, possible damage to fragile aquifers and the view of the landscape would seriously detract from the historical and esthetic characteristics of Schoharie that the plan is designed to conserve.

My wife, a former director of Schoharie County Cooperative Extension, and I originated the Carrot Barn retail farm market just north of the village of Schoharie. We attracted many shoppers from the capital district, who came not only to buy fresh produce in the area, but also to enjoy the beautiful Schoharie Valley and the above characteristics of the village.

When we retired and sold the farm, we strived to and succeeded to keep our land in agriculture and hope that conditions will make it possible to continue as such. We strongly urge you to consider all the above factors in the DEC impact statements.

Sincerely,

Rose and Paul Westheimer

S.O.S.  
P.O. BOX 856  
SCHOHARIE, NY 12157