



Preserving our past

Protecting our future

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COMMERCIAL QUARRY FILLING PROJECT AT MT TOM

03-26-21

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The Pascommuck Conservation Trust in Easthampton is very concerned regarding the proposed commercial filling project at the abandoned quarry on the east side of Mt Tom. Since the quarry operation ceased in 2012, Nature has begun the healing process, creating a new micro-ecological niche that now harbors two certified vernal pools, wetlands, and hosts a growing number of native plants and wildlife.

Without getting bogged down in this area's complicated recent history, the bottom line here is that the entire acreage along this eastern stretch of Mt Tom deserves to be preserved as one continuous track of open space to insure an uninterrupted wildlife corridor and habitat for rare plant species. Filling in the Quarry with not "contaminated" but also not "clean" soil would destroy the Quarry's value for future recreational/wildlife usage.

Do we really want to reverse directions at this point of time, and revert to allowing noisy dump trucks to once more invade the serenity of this unique section, hampering recreational opportunities and wildlife movement for the next 20 years? Or for once do we work with Mother Earth to ensure that the old Mt Tom Ski Area, abandoned Quarry, nearby Little Mt Tom, and surrounding natural landscapes remain preserved for the common good of all human, wildlife, and native plant needs in general? The answer is obvious.

Sincerely,

John A. Bator
John Bator, President