

Let reason prevail

To The Editor:

The Moretown Development Review Board, after about six months of very long, very costly (to both sides), and

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sometimes very heated and emotional hearings, will soon be voting on whether or not to approve Richard Rivers' quarry application. It's an issue—a most divisive one—which has been tearing the neighborly fabric of Moretown residents apart.

Most Valleyites know about the key issues, especially what's at stake for the people and businesses located adjacent to or near the proposed quarry, and public sentiment, as I perceive it, is overwhelmingly against the quarry.

However well-meaning Mr. Rivers' intentions might be, even in consideration of his most recent, somewhat scaled-down version of the proposed quarry operations, the schism which this whole matter has created is nega-

tively impacting everyone. And, if the quarry is permitted, it will be a long, long time, if ever, before the resentment and bitterness which has been generated by it, will fade away—the stakes are just too high.

Is it, ultimately, worth a civil standoff? Is it worth destroying property values and putting people out of business?

Yes, just about everyone would agree that a property owner, ideally, should be entitled to do what he wants to with his property, as long as it isn't harming or having an undue deleterious effect on his neighbors. Which, of course, is at the heart of the matter here—if neighboring property values will be potentially and dramatically driven down by a quarrying operation, which expert testimony indicates

would be the case, then, in my opinion, at least, that operation should not, in all fairness, be permitted.

There are a lot of other issues, all plainly spelled out, as to how and why a quarry operation would adversely impact the environment, traffic conditions, aesthetic values, grand list depreciation, roadway safety, peace-of-mind—the list goes on and on.

Yes, Valleyites might presently be paying a premium for having crushed stone trucked in from outlying quarries, but it seems to me that that's a price worth paying in order to keep our Valley as beautiful and peaceful as it is.

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