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SAVE THE PINE BARRENS, INC.

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PRESS RELEASE
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Group challenges massive Carver strip mining operation, says violates zoning and threatens drinking water

SLT's mining operation banned in the Spring Street Innovation District, says group; asks Carver Zoning Board of Appeals to enforce the law

Public hearing Tuesday, March 22 at 7 p.m., Carver Town Hall

The Carver Zoning Board of Appeals is holding a legal hearing on the SLT mining operation on Spring Street in Carver. Save the Pine Barrens (STPB) is asking the Zoning Board to shut down the operation claiming it violates Carver's Zoning Bylaw.

STPB says industrial sand mining is banned in this area of town which is zoned as the "Spring Street Innovation District."



In April 2015, Carver Town Meeting voters changed the zoning to "Spring Street Innovation District" from residential with the promise that this would be an "innovative" business park. Instead, the Zoning Board of Appeals has been allowing strip mining for over four years. SLT plans to continue mining around Rickett's Pond which could take another two years.

The Zoning Board hearing is on the United Nation's World Water Day, March 22. The UN's theme this year is "Groundwater: Making the invisible, visible". Our Plymouth Carver Sole Source Aquifer is the "the hidden resource" that almost all the seven towns in the Aquifer area rely on for their drinking water wells. Forests, vegetation and sand and gravel filter and protect our water. Stripping them away will result in contamination of our water.

The mine's operator, SLT Corporation has been extracting sand and gravel from the site since at least 2018. Pictures and videos document the recent rapid progress of SLT's forest clear-cutting and strip mining. Sand from the site is polluting Rickett's Pond. Neighbors' homes are very close by and their yards and cars are covered with silt and dust every day. They suffer from extreme noise from logging and mining equipment, trucks, and their homes shake when SLT is mining.

SLT claims it is just building a "roadway, stormwater utilities and drainage." STPB spokesperson Meg Sheehan asks, "Who's kidding who? The pictures tell it all. We are simply asking the Zoning Board of Appeals to do its job and enforce the zoning laws passed by the voters of Carver," Sheehan added.



Groundwater crosses borders, just like climate change. We must work together to improve the way we share transboundary groundwater resources, balancing the needs in a changing world.

#WorldWaterDay www.worldwaterday.org

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