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Wilton Heritage Commission

June 3, 2006

Wilton Zoning Board of Adjustments
PO Box 83
Wilton, NH 03086

Dear Board Members

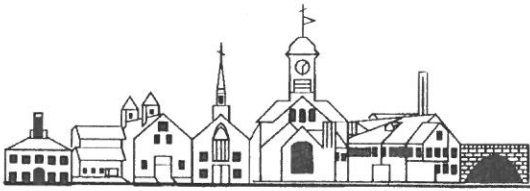
RE Kennedy Variance Request

The Wilton Heritage Commission would like to offer its opinion concerning the current proposal to grant a variance to allow the removal of sand, gravel and stone from the Kennedy property off Isaac Frye Highway. The Commission understands that the need for sand, gravel and stone is part of the inevitable outcome of the growth in this region; we also appreciate that private landowners have certain rights in their property, which should only be abrogated for the best of reasons. However, we believe that the environmental, cultural/historic and aesthetic damage done in obtaining these materials are detrimental to the overall quality of life throughout the town: to this end, we feel that the recently passed ordinance restricting gravel operations to a well-defined overlay district is a good one and should be upheld.

The particular property in question abuts the second-oldest cemetery in the town, and is well within the confines of our historic original town center. Granting this particular variance will, in our opinion, have far-reaching consequences beyond the site's immediate neighborhood; the precedent created thereby could have a detrimental impact on many other significant sites, including the historic areas of West Wilton, the East Village, and Davisville.

Buildings, significant sites and even neighborhoods, though, are only part of our town's heritage. The land and environment is also an important part of our heritage. Environmental damage by gravel, sand or stone removal is irreversible. If our generation elects to permit this activity, then future generations will live with the consequences. We should be thinking not only of our shortsighted immediate gains, but what we leave to our grandchildren and their grandchildren to inherit and enjoy.

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TOWN OF WILTON, NH



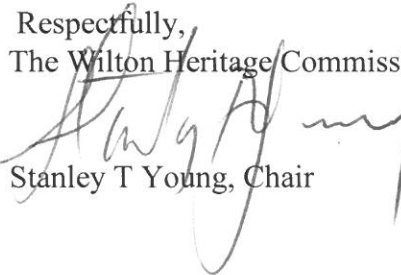
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Large-scale removal of sand, gravel or stone is extremely destructive to the environment. It drastically changes the natural contour of the land, upsets water tables, destroys flora and fauna, disrupts wildlife habit, and scatters the topsoil. It effectively removes the land from any other productive activity, such as farming or forestry.

Those of us who own land should consider ourselves stewards of the land. After all, in the big picture, our individual life here on earth is only for a very short time. We should be taking care of the land for the next set of temporary owners.

Our heritage, both natural and man-made, is irreplaceable and priceless. It is what makes Wilton what it is today; a beautiful place to live among the wooded hills, deep valleys with streams, and open fields. The gravel overlay district was created, in part, to protect all of Wilton from the irreversible effects of such activity on our environment. Gravel removal should be controlled to minimize the negative impact on Wilton and its citizens. We respectfully ask that you give our concerns serious consideration in reaching your decision.

Respectfully,
The Wilton Heritage Commission


Stanley T Young, Chair