

February 2, 2021

Section 7 Conclusion and Recommendations

On November 10, 2020 the Fredenberg Township Board approved the establishment of a Study Committee for Extractive Use Ordinance. From December 7, 2020 through February 2, 2021 the study committee gathered for a total of 12 zoom meetings, [Link to Zoom Meetings](#), to share and discuss their perspectives of borrow pits, ordinances, and related information.

Although the overall subject of borrow pits lent itself to a broad conversation, there was a concerted effort to keep the focus to what was specifically asked of the study committee as defined within the Application for Service of the Study Committee, Attachment 1.1. That request was for the study committee to consider whether the existing regulations within the SLC Ordinance are sufficient to protect the interests of the Town and its residents, by review of regulations adopted by other communities, and then consider whether the Town should impose regulations that are stricter than those imposed by the SLC Ordinance.

What this effort has made known is that there are most definitely existing ordinances that are stricter than SLC and those restrictions, if applied within Fredenberg, would in fact better protect residents and township properties as well. We need to look no further than our neighboring township of Gnesen for what might be the most comprehensive template for Fredenberg to consider.

As an effort to better understand the study committee's perspective of the Gnesen Ordinance and a couple of relevant key related issues within it, a survey was issued, attachment [7.1](#). All Study Member's comments can be found on attachment [7.4](#).

As for a study committee's final recommendation, as to whether the Town should impose regulations on extractive use that are stricter than those imposed by the County Ordinance in order to better protect the Town and its residents, the following two opposing option were offered:

Option 1: Re-entrust Fredenberg Township as the responsible party to own planning and zoning responsibility for extractive use / borrow pits including establishment of borrow pits associated regulations (ordinance), administering and approval of CUP applications, as well as inspections, enforcement, and oversight of reclamation.

Option 2: Entrust SLC to continue to oversee planning and zoning responsibility for Fredenberg township extractive use / borrow pits including establishment of borrow pit associated regulations (ordinance), administering and approval of CUP applications, as well as inspections, enforcement, and oversight of reclamation.

Since the group of residents participating in the study committee reflected a cross section of perspectives, it is not surprising that the committee members may have differing views at the conclusion of our effort. Recognizing that differences of opinions do exist, and further debate will be carried out under the leadership of Fredenberg Township Supervisors, support for the information built into this report by section as well as for final recommendations is as follows: Survey results in attachment [7.5](#).