Attention Prospect Residents,
The Selectboard, Planning Board and Municipal Attorney have been working on revisions and edits to the Town of Prospect Mining Ordinance pertaining to distance for surveys leasing and blasting. Those changes include regulations for leasing of quarries, increased distances for well water monitoring of 2,640' and language regarding blasting regulations. The Municipal Attorney has also provided the Town with a proposed Blasting Ordinance for consideration.

It has long been known that some residents here have been negatively impacted by previous blasting activities. Some community members have been left to navigate the expense of uranium contamination and well collapses. Others had foundations cracked and damaged. Many were left with no choice but to install, at their own expense, filtration systems to prevent exposure to heavy metals and contaminants.

The Selectboard has addressed these concerns with our Municipal Attorney. It was recommended to bring a Blasting Ordinance to the residents for a vote. Also, to update the current Mining Ordinance to be consistent with the Blasting Ordinance. The Municipal Attorney has drafted both for the Town. With the ultimate goal of protecting our natural resources, and ensuring the safety and rural character of our community. The new regulations will protect our groundwater, environment, wildlife and our residents and businesses foundations and wells. The Blasting Ordinance will provide transparency, public notice and require the Planning Board to hold a Public Hearing on blasting activities when a permit is sought. Requiring well monitoring and pre/post blast surveys. Documentation of water quality and will require accountability in the event of property damage and/or well contamination. Note: Small residential blasting activities, such as driveways and foundations will be handled in a timely manner and permitted separately with a simple application to the Code Enforcement Officer, per the Blasting Ordinance. We encourage residents to read the draft ordinances and we welcome suggestions and input.

A Public Hearing for the proposed edits to the Town of Prospect Mining Ordinance and the newly proposed Town of Prospect Blasting Ordinance is set for November 4th, 2026 @ 5pm at the Prospect Community Center.
Intent, purpose and overview of protections included in bullet points below. A copy of both draft ordinances are available on the Town's website and at the Town Office.
Thank you,
~Prospect Selectboard

Intent and Purposes. Blasting is a common, longstanding, and generally accepted activity in the production of various stone and gravel products in the mining and quarrying industries. It is also regularly employed in site preparation for building construction, and occasionally in farming. To avoid possible negative consequences that may derive from unregulated blasting, the Town of Prospect establishes this ordinance. This ordinance establishes specific standards for blasting operations, notice requirements, instrument monitoring requirements of blasting operations, and a permit process for blasting operations. It is intended to:
(1)Minimize the effects of Airblast overpressure, ground vibration, dust, and,noise associated with blasting which may be detrimental to the enjoyment of life, property, and the conduct of business for those individuals affected;

(2) Provide standards that will prevent permanent damage to the geologic, hydrogeologic, and wildlife resources and ecological balance in the region outside the immediate blast area;
(3)Protect the quality of life and the homes of residents, neighborhoods, property, groundwater, surface water, wildlife resources, scenic beauty and/or businesses, all lying outside the approved work area and potentially affected by the blasting; and
(4)Be effectively and efficiently administered without causing undue financial and administrative hardship to blasting operators.

- Public Notice and Public Hearing requirements ensure an informed public's ability to ask questions, and voice their concerns or support.
- Surface water and groundwater protection. Site specific groundwater and surface water quality monitoring and testing plans must be submitted for permitting.
- Pre-blast and post-blast surveys are required.
- Where blasting may impact ground, surface or drinking water supplies, the Planning Board shall require additional hydrogeological studies and/or extended water monitoring plans.
- Bonding and insurance is vital to accountability and protection for residents in the event of adverse blasting impacts. Surety bonding will guarantee the blasting operator will comply with all applicable laws and regulations, included in this ordinance. That explosives will be handled safely, and that the public will be compensated if the blaster fails to detonate explosives safely. The bond shall be in such amount as determined by the Planning Board or its designee.
- Blasting standards and regulations are defined in the Blasting Ordinance and intended to protect the Town from impairment or degradation of our natural resources, including water and wildlife, to protect local property, the environment and quality of life for all who live here.
- A qualified licensed and insured blaster is required for all blasting operations in the Town.
- Blasthole loading practices shall be followed as outlined in the ordinance, including a requirement for drilling/blasting logs with documentation of depths, lengths of voids, cavities and fault zones or any weak zones encountered. Surface and groundwater conditions shall also be noted.
- Instrumentation requirements are included, along with hours of detonation and decibel levels that are regulated to minimize adverse impacts of blasting.
- Enforcement action is outlined in the Blasting Ordinance. Enforcement actions such as fines, penalties, actions and orders as are authorized by 30-A M.R.S.A. § 4452. shall be assessed, upon findings of violation of this ordinance. A fine or penalty shall be imposed for each violation. Each day a violation continues constitutes a separate offense.