

TO: Sugar Hill Selectboard, and Concerned Citizens
FROM: Carl Martland, Vice-Chair, Sugar Hill Preservation Committee
RE: Resolution of Problems Associated with MBI operations
DATE: December 10, 2019

When Presby shifted MBI's staging operation from Sugar Hill to Whitefield late last summer, the noise problems that had caused so much consternation within our community were largely resolved. This memo is based upon a thorough review of the many emails, meeting minutes, reports, and other documents related to issues associated with MBI operations. It summarizes how combined efforts of citizens and town officials led to a long desired and much appreciated outcome.

For at least five years prior to 2019, residents living on Center District Road near its intersection with NH 117 had voiced many complaints about excessive noise associated with various operations at Presby's site on NH 117. These complaints ultimately resulted in the Selectboard informing Presby that operations on their site violated Sugar Hill's noise ordinances. As of late spring 2019, frustrated with the continuing noise problems, several residents created a group of concerned citizens in order to demonstrate that there was wide public support for taking action to curtail MBI's operations

Many actual and potential problems related to MBI operations at their terminal on NH 117 were identified by Sugar Hill residents in June 2019. The dominant problem, and the one that attracted the widest concern and support, was the unreasonable noise caused by MBI's nighttime operations, including terminal operations that kept neighbors awake and truck traffic that disturbed residents all along NH 117. Other issues raised by residents included the noise associated with daytime operations as well as potential environmental problems caused by leakage from or cleaning of trailers.

During the summer, many residents and town officials participated in a series of meetings aimed at understanding and finding solutions to the MBI problems. At each meeting, members of the Selectboard explained 1) that they had informed Presby that MBI's operations were in violation of the town's ordinances, 2) that they were preparing a legal case that could be used if necessary, but that 3) they were working with Presby to resolve the problems without recourse to expensive legal action.

During this period, in addition to pressing Presby to comply with Town ordinances, the Selectboard took a number of specific actions related to the MBI problems. At the request of concerned residents, the Selectboard appointed a town committee, known as the Sugar Hill Preservation Committee, to help the Town address the MBI problems. The Selectboard asked NH Department of Environmental Services to visit the site and document the nature of the operations and the extent of any environmental problems. NH DES did inspect the site, and their June 26th report cited no environmental problems and confirmed that trailers were no longer washed at the site. In July, the Selectboard hired a consultant to document the noise associated with MBI's nighttime operations. The consultant's report, which was released on August 8th, documented the frequency of and the noise associated with MBI's nighttime operations at the site.

The coordinated citizen opposition to MBI's operations, the assistance from NH DES, the results of the noise study, and the legal actions taken by the Selectboard all contributed to Presby's decision in August to shift MBI's staging operations to Whitefield. Once MBI's staging operation was eliminated, the nighttime noise associated with those operations was eliminated. Although the terminal on NH 117 remained open for some vehicle maintenance, the number of trucks using the facility dropped from a dozen or so per day to generally no more than a couple per day. The magnitude of the remaining problems related to truck traffic on NH 117 and truck movements at the terminal dropped in proportion. Thanks to the combined efforts of citizens and town officials, the major problems and potential problems identified last spring have all been resolved or greatly reduced, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Resolution of Problems Identified by Residents in June 2019

Problems Identified in June	Results
Nighttime noise	Total or near total cessation of activity
Daytime noise related to staging operations	Greatly reduced
Daytime noise related to maintenance	Greatly reduced
Noise and vibrations caused by MBI truck traffic	Greatly reduced
Pollution related to washing of trucks	Cessation of activity prior to 2019.
Pollution related to leaking trucks traveling on NH 117	Total or near total cessation of activity
Pollution related to overnight storage of garbage	Total or near total cessation of activity