

TOWN OF CHARLEMONT  
MINUTES OF THE PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC MEETING  
5-17-2012

Members present: Gisela Walker, Chair, Trevor Mackie, Steve Ferguson, Marguerite Willis, Dan Miller

Open meeting at 7:00 PM  
Public in attendance listed on signing sheet.

Motion made and seconded to accept the minutes of 5/3/2012

Walker Yes, Mackie Yes, Ferguson Yes, Willis Yes

A member of the PB was approached since last PB meeting and told that solar/wind farms are tax exempt, PB needs to ask the assessors.

7:16PM open the Public Hearing on the SP application by Frank & Jen Mooney dba Deerfield River Tubes (DRT), Newspaper Public notice was read. Mr. Mooney gave an overview (handout included) of the history of the increased river use and the issues that have come along with it. Such as safety, trash, disrespect of people and property, health of river from discarding of bottles, cans, tubes, diapers and all sorts of trash. How the number of people coming into town doubles the town's population on some weekends. This increase in traffic causes parking issues at both ends of the tubing route.

DRTs proposal is to use a portion of the field at Hawlemont school nearest the river. Access will be via a roadway along the western property line, parking lot size layout is on the map provided. There will be an office trailer, changing room, food sales, trash bins, personnel to direct traffic, 1-2 shuttle trips/day up to Zoar gap with stop at Shunpike, only parking area will be this one (no overflow parking). Most of this is included in the handout provided. Some of the money charged will include \$1 - 2 going to the Town/school. DRT will require vest, appropriate shoes, no alcohol or coolers.

question as to who has the authority to allow a lease on the property , school or the Town, is being looked at by Town counsel.

Hearing opened to the Public: Letters/petitions have been received. One PB member strongly objected/outraged to the use of school children for signing a petition.

Most members of the Public spoke against the use of the property not on the merits of the SP. Some of the areas of concerns were bringing the existing ball fields closer together, where does the money go? isn't there some other location that could be used? Is this an appropriate use for Town property? It was also noted that this field is used as a Life Flight landing zone.

HEARING will be continued to June 21, 2012 @7:15PM at Hawlemont school

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM

Respectfully submitted by  
Trevor Mackie, Clerk