

Town of Goshen
Zoning Board of Adjustments
Meetings Minutes
May 12, 2009

Present: Peta Brennan, Robert Johnson, Chairperson Thomas Lawton, Cyndi Phillips, Jody Decato, and Secretary, Jessica Dennis

Additional Attendance: Bill Johnson and Paul Moore of New England Handicapped Sports Association (NEHSA), Beatrice Jillette, and Jack Warbuton

The meeting was called to order by Thomas Lawton at 7:08 p.m.

Bill Johnson and Paul Moore are here to speak with the Board about the language of the decision document that was accepted at the last meeting. They are concerned that language of the document does not fully encompass all activities that might occur at the facility and they want to make sure the Board and the decision document reflect all the possible activities. Some activities that will occur at the new location can not be done at the current facilities. They are planning to use the facilities for non-sport related activities, including administering first-aid, ski training and occasional fundraising activities. On page five, number two, they are concerned that the “adaptive sports” terminology is too narrow, the facility will be used for training and fund raising that is directly related to adaptive sports. They will also be holding social and recreational events to give people the opportunity to get involved in the adaptive sports program and interacting with each other. They do not want any misunderstanding about their intentions. Tom has concerns about the fundraising aspect of their plans. The fundraising is not necessarily a problem now, but may be a problem in the future if larger fund raising events are held or if they are held more frequently as the programs expand with the new facility. NEHSA wants to make sure the language in the document is adequate for both parties, and they want to make sure that the Town knows they do most of their fundraising in other ways and they are not “professional fundraisers.” You can review the past fundraisers and see that they do not hold carnivals or other fundraisers of that nature, especially considering who their members are. Tom was just thinking about the future and worst case scenario situations; he would like to come to a compromise that both parties can agree on, perhaps putting a limit on the number of fundraisers they can hold in a year. As stated before he is concerned that in the future the programs will expand and since there is a 40 year lease on the property, these documents should be clear, because in 40 years their will be new representatives sitting on both sides of the table. NEHSA feels that six fundraisers in a year are certainly enough to cover their needs. Most of their fundraisers are in the winter due to a higher traffic volume, but with a new facilities and expanded programs they are hoping to have some fundraisers during the summer months. Since the property is owned by the State, the property is protected in some ways, and it is limited by the amount of traffic that the Park can accommodate. NEHSA’s five-year plan is to get most of their funding through gifts and grants. Currently they get a third of their funding through gifts and

grants, a third from fundraisers and a third from minimal fees that they charge for membership dues and lessons. They hope the new facility will allow them to hold social activities more frequently and to interweave their facility more easily into the current atmosphere at the Mountain.

In the event that the lease with the State is terminated or it is not renewed, the property would fall back to the State. NEHSA can not sell or pass the lease to anyone. The use variance granted on the property would supersede the use of the property anyway. Peta wants to make sure the actions of the Board do not set a precedent for future applicants. On page five, number five it is suggested that the wording be changed to; "A special exception is being granted for the sole purpose of meeting the needs of the handicapped."

It is proposed the NEHSA can not hold more than twelve fundraising type activities within any year without approval from the Board.

A motion is made by Peta and seconded by Cyndi to accept the changes proposed by NEHSA, and the motion passed. Bill Johnson and Paul Moore feel this adequately accommodate NEHSA for all their future fundraising plans.

Old Business: A motion was made by Peta which was seconded by Cyndi to accept February 24th 2009 meeting minutes as written. The motion was passed by the Board.

A motion was made by Cyndi and seconded by Peta to accept the March 3rd, 2009 minutes as written. The motion was passed by the Board.

Peta made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Cyndi. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica K. Dennis
Secretary