

TOWN OF HOOSICK
SPECIAL MEETING
FRIDAY AUGUST 31, 2018 8:00 AM

PLEDGE TO FLAG

ROLL CALL: Jerry McAuliffe, Mark Surdam, Eric Sheffer

RE: MEETING REGARDING MASS GATHERING.

The Town of Hoosick Board called a special meeting on Friday, August 31, 2018 at 8 am, in the meeting room located at 80 Church Street for the purpose of hearing residents on the possibility of a Mass Gathering. Residents were able to express their feelings towards a motorcycle race that was to take place September 1st and 2nd.

Supervisor Surdam stated that the board knew nothing about the race until the beginning of the week when he started receiving complaints. Supervisor Surdam states that this is a good club and a good event for the town. It is too late to address the issue as the event is Saturday (tomorrow) and Sunday. Supervisor Surdam states that he looked back in the minutes from 2009 and this very same event was approved by the board as an educational event which is exempt from a Mass Gathering. This is the reason a permit was never obtained.

Residents from Dolan Ave and Wilson Hill expressed their concerns of the loud noises that all of the motorcycles will create along with the dust that will be created from the many motorcycles that will be racing on the track.

George Driscoll states that the present track design was very close to his property line and states that he did discuss this with both Larry Bugbee and the Event managers of the track. Cody and Eric were both in attendance and did state that the track line has been moved about a 100 yards from the property line. One resident stated that she would just like the track back to the way it was and there would be no issue with the original design. Cody explained that this could not be done due to the growth of trees and other issues with parts of the land.

Jim Hoag was also present and stated that the laws have been in place even before the 2009 decision of the board. He states that there are 8 zones and that particular zone motorcycle races were not allowed. Jim referred to page 8 of the actual zoning law.

Ken McGuire states that the motorcycle club has been up on the track since June 24th doing prep work for race day so they should have been able to hear chain saws running and prep work being done for the track.

Others in attendance felt that a Mass Gathering permit should be obtained and that the law is in place for this reason.

Councilperson McAuliffe states that State Line should have sent a letter or informed the residents near the track area that this event was going to be taken place prior to them finding out through others. This is just consideration of the residents that live in the area of the track. He went on to say that he lives near another track site that is used and was never notified of the Hare Scramble that was happening near his resident. It is just common courtesy to notify people.

Councilperson Sheffer also stated that it was too late in the game to stop the event and that we would have to relook at the Mass Gathering law along with the many other laws that are under review and modify this one as well.

Eric Kipp, one of the trail managers states that they are willing to work with all of the residents and change things if they can. He also states that they were told back in 2009 that the events were an educational gathering and this is why he never pursued getting a Mass Gathering permit. He said that he has held many events in the town without one. They come to this area every three years. Next year they are looking at the Pownal, Vermont area for the event. He states that it is not always in this area. He also states that they have people that come from all over to race and that this boosts the area economy when they are eating at area restaurants and utilizing the stores in this location.

Supervisor Surdam asked for a motion to cancel the race from the board members present and if no motion was made the race will continue. No one made a motion.

ADJOURNMENT

Sheffer made the motion to adjourn at 8:38am, Surdam seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,
Holli Cross, Town Clerk