

Charlemont Planning Board
May 11th, 2023, 6:00 PM Meeting Minutes
Via conference call and in person, Town Hall

Members Participating: Bob Nelson, Lori Shulda-Merrigan, Colleen Champ, Gisela Walker
Others Participating: Christian Carcio, Helen Carcio, Tony Walker, Margery Carlson,
Jennifer Mooney, Frank Mooney, Bill Harker

APPOINTMENTS:

6:00 PM Great Outdoors Public Hearing Continued—for Special Permit Renewal for Tube Rental, River Shuttle, Parking and Retail.

Bob Nelson began the Continuation of the Great Outdoors Special Permit Hearing at 6:20.
B.Nelson asked Helen to go over what she had prepared for the continuation of the hearing.

Helen confirmed that she spoke with Mark Stinson of The DEP and Thorne Palmer of the Conservation Commission and they do not restrict parking cars close to the river, as they are not junk cars leaking fluids.

Regarding bathrooms, they will have 2 porta potties and a bathroom in their building. They will monitor the porta potties and adjust according to need.

The fire pit was looked over by Doug Annear and said to be fine, it is contained and there is a hose next to it. She put it on the diagram.

They went over the signs. Board and abutters weigh in that they should have a sign prohibiting the use of the Mooney's driveway put near the dumpster. Something like "Exit where you entered" or "Not an exit"

M. Carlson, would like the porta potties to be screened from her view (East of porta potties). Especially if more than two. B.Nelson will add that as an additional condition.

The parking area dimensions and layout was discussed. The Board and abutters are not comfortable with such a large increase in cars mainly because it would be many more people to manage, and the nature of the recreational tubing business includes dealing with some irritable and/or inebriated people.

M.Carlson commends the business and the Planning Board for the improvements over the last 2 years but can't help but be nervous about the increase in cars and people since she had seen a good dose of indecent behavior in the past. They all discussed a few unfortunate cases of public domestic violence. One of those happening on the street, and not in their parking lot.

Bob Nelson suggested eliminating 25 cars off of the plan. G.Walker wanted to make sure they continue to have a good set back from the porta potties and dumpster before starting the parking. Christian confirms that they park them that way anyways. Gisela wonders if they can put "3 staff people on site during busy weekends" B.Harker thinks it would be good for the business to have extra eyes in the parking lot to park the cars closer and to be able to call the police if there are incidents, therefore letting police deal with situations rather than staff. B.Nelson doesn't think the planning board can determine the staff number.

The Board confirms that the parking and the shuttling is staggered. People do not start and end all at once.

ACTION ITEMS:

1.Special Permit renewal paperwork.

The Board went over the different iterations of the “Finding of the Boards” in the previous permits and thought that it needs to be updated. The parking was updated to 201 cars but otherwise everything was the same from the previous permit. State regulations resolved issues and progress was made.

C.Champ summarized: Things have improved; operators have streamlined; there was an increase in capacity for cars and people; the Town is grateful for the service; they are confident that they are following requirements.

Bob Nelson moved to approve The Great Outdoors Special Permit for tube and gear rental, river parking, shuttle and retail store at 78 Main Street, Charlemont. Gisela Walker seconded the motion.

Robert Nelson — Yes, Gisela Walker—Yes, Colleen Champ —Yes, Lori Shulda-Merrigan —Yes.

B.Nelson motioned to adjourn at 9:13, All in Favor.

Respectfully Submitted by Star Atkeson 06/06/2023

Documents reviewed in meeting:

Agenda for 05/11/2023 Meeting

Great Outdoors Public Hearing announcement

Great Outdoors Special Permit Application

Special Permit Hearing attendance sheet