

TOWN OF DEERFIELD
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Minutes of May 27, 1999

Members present: Ron Bohonowicz, Chair; Francis Olszewski; Steve Barrett;
Leonard Grybko, Sr.; R. Sadowski; Town Counsel, Ed Pepyne

Hearing called to order to hear application from Frontier Regional High School to request a variance from height requirement of section 2320 of By-laws to install 20 light poles for the athletic fields for night games. Laurie Baronas of So. Mill River Road presented site plan locating all pole locations and height of poles. She feels night games would help keep kids off the streets and that they have worked hard to raise the funds for the lights. She introduced Shawn Martin, Northeast District Representative for Musco Sports Lighting, Inc. Mr. Martin stated that the majority of the poles were over 40 feet to reduce the glare on the playing fields. He states that the height of the poles is determined by two factors;

1. control of how far light beam travels and
2. type of sport being played on field

He also states that plans are in progress now to include shields on all fixtures.

Board member asked if there was an estimate of how many night games would be played per year. Ms. Baronas stated that it hadn't been decided yet but that Greenfield usually has 12-15 night games per year and that the lights are off by 9:30. Each field's lights would be on separate circuits.

Hearing was opened to floor for public input. Speaking in opposition, Susan Patterson of No. Main St. opposed new lights. She states that existing lights are too bright now as they do not have shields and that she has asked that this problem be taken care of before more lights are added to the field. She feels that the addition of 20 more light poles would be breaking 13 Town By-laws: 3147, 3311, 3313, 3314, 3315, 3316, 3550, 3710, 4140, 4465, 5564, 5456, and 5467. David Kuzmeski representing John Warger of 18 Pleasant St. states that Mr. Warger, an abutter, has lived in town since 1965. Mr. Warger is not against use of fields, but that his concerns are of detriment to his privacy and property. He believes that the fields should only be used by the school and that maybe some kind of buffer be put in place along property line to keep people from entering his property. Mark Charles of 131 No. Main Street states he appreciates what the school has done so far i.e. cleaning up garbage on his property from students going through woods. He feels that the night games will attract many people and that he worries of fire danger from people stepping into woods to smoke. He would like a fence installed along school property line and is even willing to make a contribution towards it. Mrs. Ripka also voiced concern regarding people crossing her lot also.

The following spoke in favor of lights. John Paciorek, current Selectman, states he hopes that the above concerns would be addressed and that he is in favor of installation of lights. Wayne and Barbara Comstock stated they have no objection to the lights. Jason Arnold of Pleasant St. also has no objections. Ann Marie Baronas is in favor of lights and feels it will probably benefit the several businesses in town. Richard and Susan Walton are also in favor of lights and hope it will not be held up by red tape.

Hearing closed for discussion of board members. Consensus of board members was that more information was needed before they could make a decision. i.e. policy of when and who would be using the fields and approximate times lights are on.

Sadoski made motion to continue hearing to June 17, 1999 at 7:00. Vote of 5-0 was unanimous to continue hearing to June 17, 1999 at 7:00.

Respectfully submitted by,

Julie Gray
Secretary