

Town of Lee Ad Hoc Racetrack Committee Meeting Minutes April 7, 2015

Attendees: C Brown, W Lehman, A Lelio, T Loureiro, B. Callen, T Dronsfield, Eric Reuter (Reuter Associates)

1. Group approved below minutes from Feb 26 2015 meeting.
2. Eric distributed 3 copies of a draft sound contour map, with map sound source based at Lee USA Speedway. Map showed sound contour lines for an area 1 mile from the sound source. The map's sound contour lines were formulated based on area terrain, foliage, hard ground areas and water surfaces. Eric noted that absent any geographic interference/enhancement of sounds, the sound contour map would show evenly oval concentric circles radiating from the sound source. Eric noted that the contour sound labels currently on the draft map are arbitrary, as they are not yet based on actual sound measurements. At the moment, the map only estimates sound level deltas as one moves away from the sound source. Each contour line represents a 3 dBA drop (or rise) in noise levels.
3. Bill stated that rte 125 produces much noise due to traffic and rumble strips.
4. Eric noted that the model will be used to establish sound measurement stations which are isolated from other noise sources. Once it is completed, the model will allow sound measurements taken at isolated/protected locations to be used to extrapolate or predict sound levels at other locations (i.e. racetrack property lines). Eric noted that the model will show that some locations cannot be sufficiently isolated from alternate sound sources and therefore cannot be used as racetrack noise measurement stations.
5. Eric noted that he uses an acoustic mapping model named SoundPLAN to create the sound contour map. Eric secured rte 125 traffic count information from NH DOT.
6. Eric noted that he still needs to add Lee USA structures (buildings, possibly grandstands) to the map, as these can influence sound transmission as well. Eric further noted that the topography on map is rough, and he would like to conduct site visits at Lee USA speedway to more completely understand local grading and terrain. The Town of Lee has site plans that were developed for past construction improvements made at the track, including the grading/fill plan at south end of track.
7. Eric noted that his measurement plan going forward includes: measuring noise levels when no race event is ongoing; measuring noise levels during a race event; measuring noise levels at Lee USA Speedway; and measuring noise levels at other locations in the Town of Lee. Group discussed several locations in town where residents have complained of racetrack noise in the past, including Thornton Lane, Cartland Rd, and Rte 155. Eric made note of these areas on his sound contour map.
8. Bill confirmed that the ACT race has been moved back to April 26 due to track conditions. Andy stated that the ACT race would be a good race to begin monitoring sound levels, as past sound monitoring indicated this was one of the louder race events due to the high number of cars on the track at one time (Bill estimated 20 plus cars). Bill stated that ACT now requires participants to direct exhaust underneath rather than to the side of the racecars, and he thinks this should reduce exhaust noise going forward. Per Bill, if the ACT race does not run on April 26, it will not be rescheduled again. The next scheduled race will be a Modified series race on May 17. Regular weekly racing begins on May 29.
9. As next step, Eric will begin sound measurement phase, and will contact committee members as required if he needs any assistance.
10. Tom will schedule next committee meeting after the sound measurement data has been gathered. Eric will keep Tom in the loop as to progress in this regard.
11. Group adjourned.