

Ad Hoc Racetrack Committee Meeting #1 July 29, 2014

Attendees: D Cedarholm, Chief Dronsfield, T Loureiro, B Callen, C Brown, W Lehman, A Lelio

Recorder: A Lelio

1. Dave welcomed group, and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
2. Dave asked for volunteers to take meeting minutes (Andy), chair the committee (Tom L) and vice chair the committee (Carey).
3. Dave reviewed the mandate of the committee: in summary to establish measurement procedures in order to allow the PD to enforce section 21a of the LRO.
4. Dave showed group presentation from 2012 warrant article which added the new measurement standards to Lee Racetrack Ordinance.
5. Chief noted that the PD needs specific standards for measurement which can be enforced in court of law. As an example, he noted that current measurement procedures used by the PD do not isolate for traffic noise coming from route 125.
6. Carey asked when the existing <97 dBA standard was established. Dave explained it was added to the LRO in 1989.
7. Chief suggested checking with other race tracks to find out how others measure noise. Carey suggested employing a 3rd party firm to create an acoustical map of the track during racing events. Carey also mentioned that the track could employ acoustical barriers (he mentioned a firm called Accoustiblok) once it was determined which areas of the track allowed the most noise spillover. Carey also noted that the current gaps in the billboard fence along the east side of the track probably do not help the noise spillover situation.
8. Bill mentioned that the track requires regular racing event participants to dump exhaust down towards the track surface (typically underneath the car). The six special racing events (touring cars) are not required to do so, however.
9. Bill mentioned that race goers love the noise. Chief stated that most of the town does not want to hear it. Group agreed that the best approach is to contain the noise "on property" for the enjoyment of the racing fans.
10. Group discussed planting vegetation as a noise block. Studies on the Internet suggest that this is not an effective sound reduction method. Wayne said his experience with state of CA drew similar conclusions about vegetation's ineffectiveness.
11. Andy noted locations of previous noise measurements that were conducted by the Ad Hoc Racetrack Committee: in Tamarack green area, on south border of track property, at grandstands turn, and in starting queue area.
12. Bill noted that there are not a lot of complaints being logged and wondered why we are even discussing the noise issue. Chief noted that although people are not complaining, it is still an issue with town citizens. Andy noted that section 21a is now town law and therefore needs to be enforced. Chief noted it is also important to ensure measurements are being taken and that the ordinance can be effectively enforced.
13. Chief, Dave and Bill all noted that it isn't the loudest cars that are most successful at the track- often the fastest cars are also the quietest ones.
14. Bill to call other NH tracks to ask about their noise measurement procedures.
15. Chief suggested that it probably won't be necessary to measure at every racing event, as the weekly series are all at about the same noise level. It may be enough to measure a few of those races, and then measure the special events. Carey noted that it would also be possible to set up remote measuring devices to record exhaust noise.
16. Group generally discussed who is to pay for studies/sound monitoring. Tom L noted that the LRO specifically tasks track owners with bearing costs for sound measurement.
17. Wayne will check UNH to find out if there is a faculty resource available to discuss sound measurement procedures.

18. Carey will contact state reps to find out if there is any sound measurement expertise resources at the state level.
19. Tom L will contact HMMH, a recognized private company resource for measuring racetrack noise.
20. For items 17-19, the focus will be on trying to establish procedures for how to take effective measurements to enforce section 21a of the LRO. Goal will be to take measurements and test new procedures before the end of the 2014 racing season.
21. Bill will also contact NASCAR to find out if they have any resources regarding sound measurement.
22. Bill also presented track's plans for adding a driver education/training program at Lee USA Speedway. Although not part of the Ad Hoc committee's charter, Dave had asked Bill to provide background to the group. Bill mentioned that the driving education would be on track and off track (incl gravel and grass surfaces) specialty driver training for military and non-military personnel, as well as those in law enforcement. Training to be conducted by a 3rd party firm, Monday thru Thurs, 8 hours per day. Vehicles will be street legal cars and trucks, up to 1.5 ton trucks per Bill. Bill will present plans to Select Board on Monday Aug 4.
23. Group set next the two Ad Hoc Committee meetings for Aug 12 and Aug 26. Current meeting was then adjourned.