

**TOWN OF HARDWICK
PLANNING COMMISSION
Minutes of the Meeting**

August 18, 2015

Members Present: Cheryl Michaels, Ed Keene, Dan Bandit, Helmut Notterman, and Karen Holmes.

7:15 Pm: The meeting was opened by Cheryl Michaels.

Bethany Dunbar, John Ramsay, Sara H. Vecci and Chris Ingram, from the Center for Agricultural and Economy were sworn in by Ms. Michaels.

Each CAE member spoke to the board of basic aspirations in development at Atkins Field, including a Grow Your Own Garden, and a Pump Track.

Karen Holmes stated that their application was sent in to the Water Shed Management Division from the State of Vermont for their review, but she has not heard back from them as of yet. Ms. Holmes also stated all property owners and neighbors have been notified of the CAE's plans and request for permit, and there have been no complaints.

Karen Holmes answered Ms. Dunbar's question of duration of permit by saying if issued, the permit is good for two years, but can apply for a one year extension.

There was a motion to not close the meeting but to continue September 1st at 7:15 pm with hopes the Water Shed Management Division would have responded by then.

Seconded by Helmut Notterman, all approved.

7:49pm: meeting called to order once more by Cheryl Michaels asked visitors that wish to speak, to please sign in.

Karen Holmes addressed the board and guests by stating she was not present as the board advisor, and would not be participating in deliberation, that she was present that evening to give a statement.

Ms. Holmes was then sworn in by Cheryl Michaels.

Karen explained to the group the initial process she followed when issuing the Ducharms a permit to erect a pole barn on their property at 261 Slapp Hill Road. She stated she would be happy to answer any questions should anyone have any. None were asked.

At this time Ms. Michaels introduced the board members and asked the members if they felt they had any conflict of interests.

Patrick and Cheryl Ducharm came forward at this time with their attorney, Paul Gilles, and was sworn in by Ms. Michaels.

Cheryl Ducharm gave statement as to correspondence with Ms. Holmes on obtaining a permit, also about level of noise from there operation, and hours of operation.

Members of the public were then asked if statements wanted to be made.

At this time Bert and Kathryn Smith came forward to be sworn in along with their attorney Anthony Iarrapino.

Mr. Smith informed the board of their complaints with the Ducharms operation, which is across the road from their home.

The board then asked visitors if anyone else would like to speak. Andrea LaFlam, Ken Davis, Tyler Buswell, Mary Thompson, and James Teuscher were all sworn in and gave testimony of support for the Ducharms.

Cheryl Michaels asked if there were any other statements or questions from the public which at this time Victoria Foster gave favorable comments on the Ducharms operation.

Ms. Michaels then explained to the entire group that the board would go into deliberations with the Hardwick town attorney at a later date.

9:46pm: Helmut Notterman made the motion to adjourn, Dan Bandit seconded.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, August 25th.