

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Tuesday, October 26, 2010 - 3:00p.m.
Site Acoustical/Sound Test
140 Laconia Road (Rear of Building)

Present at test site

Representing the Town: ZBA Chairman Peter Harris; Land Use Staff Candace Daigle and Elaine Murphy.
Representing Acentech: Mr. Eric Wood and Mr. Mark Newmark.
Representing the Applicant: Mr. Bob Gillespie, Attorney Ari Pollock, Attorney Robert Dietel and Mr. John Rokeh, PE.
General Public/Others: Mr. William McLean, Conservation Commission Chairman Mr. Kenneth Knowlton, Mr. Mark Mooney, Mr. Tim Bartlett and Mr. John Froumy, Harrison Haas Laconia Citizen and Gail Ober Laconia Daily Sun.

Acoustical/Sound Test – Belmont Firearms and Range LLC: Acoustical/Sound Test for a Recreational Facility, outdoor shooting range and law enforcement training house at 140 Laconia Road, “C” Zone, Tax Lot 210-005, #2010Z.

This test was at the direction of the Zoning Board of Adjustment at their June 23, 2010 meeting. As a result, the Town contracted with Acentech, Inc., at the expense of the applicant, to perform the test and provide a report of same to the Board. The specifics of the test process were determined on September 9, 2010, at a meeting of Land Use Staff, Mr. Eric Wood of Acentech, the applicant and the applicant’s representatives. The test date and time were set by the Town.

For the purposes of this test Mr. Gillespie, owner of Belmont Firearms and Range, LLC constructed and used a single shooting lane prototype of the proposed enclosed seven-station outdoor firing range. Mr. Wood of Acentech used sound monitoring equipment in four locations to record the test. Equipment was placed at the test site (140 Laconia Road) and three remote sites: Granite Ridge Condominiums, Northbrook Mobile Home Park and the Belknap County 4H Fairgrounds (map attached).

ZBA chairman, Peter Harris attended the test site. Other ZBA members and members of the public attended any area location of their choice to observe the test. Town staff members

attended each remote monitoring location. Individuals attending all or a portion of the test from the three remote sites included:

- Granite Ridge Condominiums: Matt Pulomena-Belmont Firefighter, Mark Mastenbrook-ZBA Alternate Member, Ruth Mooney and one unidentified resident-public.
- Northbrook Mobile Home Park: Stephen Dalton-Belmont Code Enforcement Officer, Norma Patten and Marshall Ford-ZBA Members, Mark Newmark-Acentech, unidentified resident-public.
- Belknap County 4H Fairgrounds: Richard Ball-Belmont Land Use Technician, Pleasant Oberhausen and Linda Couture-ZBA Members, Wendy French-Belknap County 4H Fair Association, and Pauline Eastman-public.

The public hearing for this application was tabled by the ZBA on June 23, 2010 for the purposes of this test. The test has been appropriately noticed as a continuation of the public hearing process for the purpose of test firing observation. Once Mr. Wood's report of the test is submitted to the Land Use Office, appropriate noticing will occur for a continuation of the public hearing before the ZBA at a regularly scheduled meeting.

In addition to the official, calibrated, professional sound recording equipment placed for the test by Mr. Wood of Acentech, Chairman Harris brought to the test a hand-held decibel meter that he ordinarily uses in his business to measure the decibels for motorcycles; the legal decibel rating for motorcycles being 103. He utilized this meter during the test to provide unofficial decibel levels for the firings.

The testing began at 3pm with Mr. Gillespie explaining that he will be firing five rifles that represent what will be allowed at the range. He will fire four shots from outside and four from inside the hut for each rifle. Test info:

First rifle:	Colt AR15 9mm	Harris's unofficial meter: 84 decibels/outside, 66 decibels/inside
Second rifle:	NE FA 45/70	Harris's unofficial meter: 85 decibels/outside, 79-80 decibels/inside.
Third rifle:	Encore .223	Harris's unofficial meter: 92 decibels/outside, 74-77 decibels/inside.
Fourth rifle:	Remington 700 .308	Harris's unofficial meter: 84-88 decibels/outside, 70-83 decibels/inside.
Fifth rifle:	Winchester 94 30/30	Harris's unofficial meter: 90-91 decibels/outside, 82-87 decibels/inside.

Mr. Mooney requested an opportunity to fire a weapon he brought to the test. Chairman Harris declined the offer.

Additional comments made by the public during the demonstration that were not acknowledged or answered by the Land Use Staff or Chairman Harris:

- the limited number of shots fired may not be representative of the impact that multiple, continuous repetitive shots would have;
- whether the types of rifles/ammo used were representative of those that would be used if the range is granted the special exception;
- will the individual seven lanes within the firing hut be insulated individually or as a whole;
- the surrounding area design was similar to an amphitheatre and how that will affect the sound;
- whether the proposal will impact property values.

The shooting demonstration was complete at 3:30pm and the ZBA, staff and public dispersed.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Murphy
Administrative Assistant

