

'' ZBA MEETING MINUTES, MAY 14, 2008

SPECIAL MEETING - FARM FESTIVAL

Having determined that a quorum was present, Chairman Howard Harris called to order the May 14th Special Meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Seconded by Linda Tiano. There being no objection, the action was adopted.

Chairman Harris introduced the members present: Joanne Anthony, Linda Tiano, Peter Carberry, Howard Harris. Absent: Tony Padalino, Secretary/Alternate Marie Lourenso.

For the record, Chairman Harris stated that the ZBA is tired of being the whipping boy for people who have a limited knowledge of the zoning laws and process, and who have no idea of the factors involved in reaching decisions, allow their emotions to interfere, or have their own agenda. He noted a letter in the Woodstock Times that had accused the ZBA of selectively enforcing their cases. He declared that this is an absolutely false statement. The only way the ZBA gets a case is via referral from the Building Inspector or the Planning Board.

Chairman Harris said that at the hearing last week (May 8th), when the ZBA decided not to sign the stipulation pertaining to the Farm Festival it was because they felt that the traffic plan did not provide sufficient information to protect the safety of the public attending the festival. The discussion at that meeting was supposed to be only among Board Members, but a member of the public interrupted the discussion and threatened to call the newspapers to accuse the ZBA of stopping the festival. Another member of the public, who never saw the safety plan, asked the Board what concerns the ZBA had regarding it. After the ZBA explained their concerns, this member of the public said there was no way our concerns can be answered with the traffic plan.

Chairman Harris pointed out that here is an addendum to the original safety/traffic plan. He said we did come up with a plan that everyone is satisfied with. The Chairman made a motion to vote on signing the stipulation. Linda Tiano seconded. Motion passed 4-0-0-1.

The vote was announced as follows: Joanne Anthony, Aye, Peter Carberry, Aye, Howard Harris, Aye, Linda Tiano, Aye.

The meeting was adjourned to applause.