

**NORTH BERWICK
BOARD OF SELECTMEN / PLANNING BOARD
MEETING
NOVEMBER 10, 2010**

MASS GATHERING PERMIT

Present: Chairman Danforth, Selectman Folsom, Selectman MacDougall, Selectman Drew and Selectman Allaire, Chairman R. Todd Hoffman, Julie Fernee, Barry Chase Patrick Raftery, Lawrence Huntley, CEO, Chief Stephen Peasley and Dwayne Morin.

Chairman Danforth spoke: that there is a fundamental difference of understanding as to what that specific Ordinance is referring to. The Board of Selectmen legislates or over see any of those specific events that are town wide events that occur.

The Board of Selectmen is certainly looking at having the Planning Board provide some input that we can jointly come up with as a new basis for the future town wide events.

There were obviously some issues and obviously the Mass Gathering Permit we have is inadequate and we are looking at to see what we can come up with jointly.

Dwayne explained that the present Mass Gathering Permit is rudiment. The Mass Gathering Permit was written back in 1981. We have looked at it and it is not comprehensive enough to cover very large events like we have had in the pass and not just the Enduro Race, but the Triathlons that have come through town.

The Chief of Police and I were talking and we don't address all the school functions that bring in a thousand people for a football game or the different school events that bring in lots of people. The Ordinance really doesn't address some of those issues and especially to address some of the concerns that came up with these events over the past couple of years.

How do we build an Ordinance or build an Ordinance that is going to be completely all inclusive. We can try to put together some processes that allows for Notification, allows for Performance Standards, so that people meet something instead of just happening.

At this time our Ordinance consists of 75 people or more and requires restrooms and you fill out a form and you get a permit. There is a fee associated with the Mass Gathering permit, but we have never charged a fee. The Mass Gathering Permit does say that fees are except for individuals and non-profit. Approximately 90% of Mass Gathering Permits requested are for home functions, weddings and graduation parties, etc...

The idea is to come up with some sort of change that encompasses all the concerns.

The Board of Selectmen and Planning Board developed a draft criterion of what they would like to see for the updated Mass Gathering Permit for the Town of North Berwick.

Mass Gathering draft criteria:

Chief of Police reviews application:

Application deadline for event

Public Hearing Standard

Size of event: 200 +

Public Notification Standard

Mailing to abutters

Public:

Event

School

Town

Weddings

Commercial

Events

Tier:

75 people

200 and above

Exemptions:

Town

School

Boy scouts?

Properties/Families

Private:

IE: Wedding

Graduation

VERSES

Commercial

Parking:

Fee:

Category:

Burn permit

Conditional Use Permit

Performance Standards:

Safety:

- Signage
- Traffic
- Parking
- Hazard Materials
- Accidents

Ecological:

- Erosion Control

Environmental: / Zoning Ordinance

- Waste
- Water
- Noise

The number of Porta Potty needed depends on the number of people for each event.

Dwayne will put together the Mass Gathering Permit suggestions and develop a draft for the Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board for review.

New language for the Mass Gathering Permit will need to go before Town Meeting for Approval.