

The following members attended the public meeting:

Doreen Prouty, Chairperson
Fred Harpin, Vice Chairperson
Joseph Conte-Clerk
Gary Suffriti, Alternate
Betty Manchino-Secretary

1. Case #1793-TJ Sporthouse

Chairperson Prouty reopened this public hearing at 6:30PM . Sitting on this case was Prouty, Harpin, and Suffriti. Chairperson Prouty stated that the last meeting was continued after all the reports of the fire and police department were read.

Speaking for Mr. Veilleux of TJ's was Michael Palazzi from Agawam Storage. He stated that TJ's should be grandfathered in on this permit as they have been parking cars for Six Flags for years. There has never been any kind of a safety issue at this establishment and they are just looking for the added income to offset the deficit they feel from Six Flags keeping their customers away.

Mr. Palazzi presented photos from the Agawam Police Department depicting the same safety issues the Chief of Police presented in his report to the ZBA regarding the parking issues at TJ's.

Speaking in favor of this permit was Ms. Karen Palazzi who questioned the Board if the same criteria is going to be addressed for the people seeking permits for BigE parking on Suffield Street as their parkers are going to be crossing public driveways to get to the BigE.

Mary Jane Jensen owner of Bobby Joe's Restaurant on Main Street said this parking is causing an undue hardship on her business as customers are not coming in to park and dine at her restaurant.

Sam Delohia, 1672 Main Street said his business has dropped over 50% since this issue of parking for Six Flags has been brought about.

Michael Palazzi from Agawam Storage stated that he has been in business for over 20 years and everyday the Police are patrolling his business, his income is down over 17% and if this continues he will end up closing his plaza down and going out of business.

Mrs. Rose Palazzi stated that the Town of Agawam should be taking care of its local businesses and the people of Agawam as long as they conduct their business in a safe manner.

Speaking against this permit was Attorney Gary Shannon representing Six Flags stating he hoped the ZBA focused their decision on the conditions of this special permit especially the safety issues of patrons making it safely to Six Flags. Siting the markings in the dirt path that the Police Chief specified in his report as a direct safety issue. He also stated that Six Flags has no obligation to let these people who illegally park cross their pedestrian bridge to enter Six Flags. He hoped that the ZBA would consider the Planning Board and the Police Chief's recommendations in making their determination on this permit.

Jason Freeman, 1623 Main Street stated that there has been safety issues at this crossing. In 1998 a pedestrian was hit, 1988 there was a fatality and in 1997 a police officer was injured at this crossing.

Mr. Suffriti stated for the record that these accidents stated by Mr. Freeman had nothing to do with the applicants property.

Mr. Harpin stated that the way this new parking ordinance is written there is no way the ZBA could grant this permit because no one could abide by the criteria as stated. Mr. Harpin stated he felt bad for all the local businesses being hurt by this problem but the ZBA must follow the ordinance.

Speaking in favor in name only were Steven Palazzi, Trinity Terrace and James Marmo, Main Street, Agawam.

Chairperson Prouty explained the twenty (20) day appeal period.

Chairperson Prouty closed the public hearing at 7:25PM and the board went directly into a public meeting.

Chairperson Prouty stated that following the criteria and conditions of the new ordinance and based on the Police Chief's recommendation stating so strongly against this permit there is no way the ZBA could grant this permit.

Chairperson Prouty asked the members for their vote. Members Prouty and Harpin voted to deny this request. Member Suffriti voted to approve this request.

This request for a special permit has been denied.

2. Case #1789-Greco

Chairperson Prouty reopened this public hearing at 7:40PM.

The petitioners were not present but their final plan had been submitted. As the Board looked at the professional plan it was determined that half of this gazebo falls under zoning Residential A-2 which would require a zone change. Member Conte stated that if the entire gazebo is relocated into Business A, a Special Permit will not be necessary since both the gazebo and residence are allowed. Members Prouty and Harpin agreed. Chairperson Prouty called for a vote; the results are as follows:

Conte: denied

Harpin: denied

Prouty: denied

3. Motion to adjourn at 7:50PM by Mr. Harpin seconded by Mr. Suffriti.