

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Durham to discuss the proposed Mass Gathering Law held June 10, 2003 at the Town Building in Oak Hill, N.Y.

Present: Robert Young – Supervisor
 Gary Hulbert - Councilman
 William A. Carr, Jr. – Councilman
 Robert Elpel - Councilman
 Linda Sutton – Councilwoman

Recording Secretary: Chris Kohrs – Deputy Town Clerk
 Others Present: Tal Rappleyea –Attorney for the Town
 Charles G. Soderblom – Town Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. with the pledge to the flag. Sixty-four people were present. The Supervisor requested that Mr. Carr give an overview of the purpose of the meeting.

Mr. Carr explained that the draft provided is the foundation that the law will be built on. It is the intent of these meetings to review the proposed draft and find a law that everyone can live with.

The audience was given a chance to state their position regarding the proposed law. The concerns, in summary, were:

1. How much government is too much
2. Why try and govern areas that are already being monitored by other agencies
3. Are the roads able to handle the proposed volume of traffic
4. How can trespassing issues be addressed
5. What is a reasonable number to define a “mass gathering”
6. The application fee may prevent certain events from taking place as they are non money making events
7. Some regulation is necessary but let’s not get carried away
8. Who will be empowered to enforce the law

Greene County Legislator, Mr. Dudley, cautioned the board on being too stringent with the law, as it could become a problem in future years.

The New York State Police were present to observe and offer insight from their point of view, pointing out that they are neither for nor against the law. They stated that the NYS noise law is very vague and difficult to enforce.

Mr. Maldonado responded to a request for event information with the following details: There are two events currently schedule, an Irish Festival for 8/16-18 and a Russian Folk Festival for the fall. He and his associates hope to have an event each weekend for at least ten months out of the year, ranging from festivals, opera, dance, and snowmobiles. They are trying to bring something positive to the area to revitalize the town and surrounding areas.

It was determined that additional meetings would be necessary to reach a consensus about the “mass gathering law”. Meetings were scheduled for June 17 at 6:30 p.m. (one hour prior to the regular scheduled meeting) and June 24 at 7 p.m.

Mr. Carr made the motion to adjourn at 9:05 p.m. seconded by Mrs. Sutton.

Respectfully,

Chris Kohrs, Deputy Town Clerk