

Mechanic Falls Public Hearing

January 18, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lou Annance, Chair
Cathy Fifield, Vice Chair

Stephen Bolduc
Nicholas Konstantoulakis

Kieth Bennett

STAFF PRESENT:

Koriene Low - Town Manager

Miranda Hinkley - Town Clerk

Jeffrey Goss - Police Chief

OTHERS PRESENT:

Catherine Pressey
Walter Berry

Rena Berry
Milton Walker

Lou Goulet
Vickie Swanson

Councilor Lou Annance called the hearing to order at 7:00pm.
We stood and saluted the flag.

Handouts of the revised Consumer Fireworks Ordinance draft were provided.

Since most of the Townspeople present were at the previous meeting, Councilor Annance was able to begin directly with requests for input from the public. Catherine Pressey and Milton Walker voiced concerns that the new ordinance would potentially allow fireworks every day of the year as people have special events frequently. The noon start time was also a contention with the public as well as the 100ft from combustible materials. Milton Walker felt that Landowners should not be held responsible as anyone could trespass and light fireworks, or those renting from a landowner out of state could violate without landlord knowledge. Most of those present questioned why we could not keep the previous ordinance and change minor phrasing to allow the police to enforce violations. Councilor Annance, in an attempt to amend the ordinance to an acceptable format, asked what we could change. It was noted that the noon start times could be amended to dusk and the 100ft could be changed to 150ft in alignment with the previous ordinance. Suggestion was made that the "Special Events" paragraph could be narrowed to only special events on weekends. The final amendment was to change responsibility from the landowner to the responsible party (Landowner/Responsible Resident)

At this point, Councilor Annance thanked everyone for their input and advised that the Town Manager and Police Chief will make amendments, the lawyer will review the next draft and another Public Hearing will be scheduled prior to elections.

Hearing adjourned at 7:46pm.