

## Special Event

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Berlin Lions Agricultural Fair, Inc.  
Berlin Fairgrounds  
410 Beckley Road  
R-43 Zone  
Total Lot Area: 104.4 ac  
**Berlin Fairgrounds 2020 Event Schedule**

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### PROPOSAL

Berlin Lions Agricultural Fair, Inc. seeking approval of the 2019 events schedule at the Berlin Fairgrounds located at 410 Beckley Road in the R-43 zone pursuant to Section XI.P of the Berlin Zoning Regulations.

### STAFF COMMENTS

1. A new event was added for July 25. A Demolition Derby stand alone event to replace the same event that has been conducted during the Berlin Fair in previous years.
2. Department comments per attached:
  - a. Health District: All Food Vendors must submit a temporary event food application to the Central Connecticut Health District with a fee. Completed applications must be received two weeks prior to the event; otherwise. Late fees will be implemented.
  - b. Police Chief comments (two pages) attached.
  - c. Board of Police Commissioners: See Police Chief comments

### EXISTING CONDITIONS

The Berlin Lions Agricultural Fair, Inc. owns the 104 ac property on Beckley Road commonly known as the Berlin Fairgrounds. The property is improved with multiple buildings, parking area, event spaces and other recreational areas.

In 1995, a special permit was granted for the Fairgrounds to have unlimited duration of use of a site for the purpose of conducting events which occur on an annual basis under Sec XI.P, which was a text amendment approved by the Zoning Commission in 1994.

### ANALYSIS

The Zoning Office did not receive any complaints regarding events at the Fairgrounds for the 2019 season.

The police department has submitted police coverage recommendations per their comments.

February 20, 2020

Zoning Enforcement Officer  
Town Hall  
240 Kensington Road  
Berlin, CT 06037

Re: Berlin Lions Agricultural Fair, Inc.  
2020 Fairground Events

To Whom it May Concern:

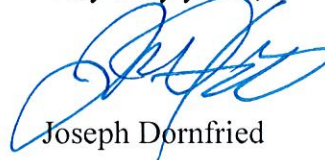
I have enclosed a list of events to be held at the Berlin Fairgrounds in 2020 in accordance with the Special Permit granted to Berlin Lions Agricultural Fair, Inc. on February 22, 1995, as amended.

The Berlin Lions are proposing to add one event this year, a demolition derby organized by members. The derby is the same event that has been held in conjunction with the Berlin Fair for the past few years. The Berlin Lions initially held the event on the Thursday night before the Berlin Fair, and last year, the demolition derby occurred during the Sunday of the Berlin Fair. The new event will be substantially similar to previous Thursday night derby, but it will be conducted on July 25 as a stand-alone event. The enclosed list of event includes additional details.

The enclosed list is being submitted on behalf of the Berlin Lions Agricultural Fair, Inc. Please contact me at 203.575.2621 with any questions, or if you would like a representative to attend any required meeting.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,



Joseph Dornfried

cc: Berlin Police – Attn: Traffic Division  
Gary Schmidt (Berlin Lions; via e-mail)

**Town of Berlin**  
**Received**

**FEB 24 2020**

Planning & Zoning Department  
Berlin, Connecticut

**BERLIN LIONS AGRICULTURAL FAIR, INC.**  
**2020 LIST OF EVENTS**  
(as of 2/20/20)

**I. Continuous/Multiple Months.**

1. Nutmeg Kart Racing

(a) *Description:* Kart races using the track at the Fairgrounds.

(b) *Approximate Date:* Twice per month primarily on Sundays from approximately April through October of each year (with rain dates).

(c) *Expected Hours of Operation:* Daylight hours during weekend.

(d) *Estimated Attendance:* Approximately 100 - 200 people.

(e) *Traffic Control:* Not appropriate.

2. Connecticut Horse Council/4-H Horse Advisory

(a) *Description:* Horse show using horse rink, food trailer and facilities.

(b) *Approximate Date:* Twice or more per month on weekends during the summer of each year.

(c) *Expected Hours of Operation:* Daylight hours; set up on Friday.

(d) *Estimated Attendance:* Approximately 250 people.

(e) *Traffic Control:* Not appropriate.

3. Other Horse Shows

(a) *Description:* Open horse show.

(b) *Approximate Date:* Late April and/or early May and late August and/or mid-October in each year.

(c) *Expected Hours of Operation:* Daylight hours during a weekend.

(d) *Estimated Attendance:* Less than 250 people.

(e) *Traffic Control:* Not appropriate.

**Town of Berlin  
Received**

**FEB 24 2020**

**Planning & Zoning Department  
Berlin, Connecticut**

## II. May.

### 1. Wine Tasting

(a) *Description:* Charity wine tasting fundraiser; primarily using the Commercial Building and related parking and other facilities.

(b) *Approximate Date:* May 16

(c) *Expected Hours of Operation:* Set up prior day; event open to public late afternoon/evening.

(d) *Estimated Attendance:* 300 to 600

(e) *Traffic Control:* Not appropriate

### 2. Summer Knights' Car Show

(a) *Description:* Charity antique and custom car show using the upper portion of the Fairgrounds and parking lots.

(b) *Approximate Date:* May 31 (rain date June 14)

(c) *Expected Hours of Operation:* Set up prior day; show runs daylight hours during a weekend day.

(d) *Estimated Attendance:* Approximately 2,000.

(e) *Traffic Control:* Traffic controlled on-site through use of gates; Hunter Ambulance for medical (put on notice).

### 3. Berlin Police Department Family Picnic

(a) *Description:* Family picnic for Berlin Police Department.

(b) *Approximate Date:* Weekend day in May.

(c) *Expected Hours of Operation:* Daylight hours.

(d) *Estimated Attendance:* Less than 250 people.

(e) *Traffic Control:* Not appropriate.

### 4. Berlin UpBeat Town Picnic

(a) *Description:* Town-wide picnic hosted by Berlin UpBeat.

- (b) *Approximate Date*: weekend day in late May (rain date following weekend)
- (c) *Expected Hours of Operation*: Set up prior day; event runs during the day.
- (d) *Estimated Attendance*: Consistent with event held in past.
- (e) *Traffic Control*: Consistent with event held in past.

### III. June.

#### 1. Berlin Upbeat Picnic

(a) *Description*: Sleep-over picnic for students and chaperons sponsored by Berlin Upbeat. Depending on weather, involves approximately 1/2 of the buildings on the Berlin Fairgrounds.

- (b) *Approximate Date*: June 5
- (c) *Expected Hours of Operation*: Friday evening through Saturday morning.
- (d) *Estimated Attendance*: Less than 250 people.
- (e) *Traffic Control*: Not appropriate.

#### 2. Troop 24 Event

- (a) *Description*: Use by Troop 24 (boy scouts) for a camping event for the troop.
- (b) *Approximate Date*: weekday in June
- (c) *Expected Hours of Operation*: During the day and overnight.
- (d) *Estimated Attendance*: Less than 250 people.
- (e) *Traffic Control*: Not appropriate.

### IV. July.

#### 1. Lions Summer Shootout

- (a) *Description*: Picnic with Kiwanis Club.
- (b) *Approximate Date*: July in each year.
- (c) *Expected Hours of Operation*: Daylight hours.

(d) *Estimated Attendance*: Less than 250 people.

(e) *Traffic Control*: Not appropriate.

2. Demolition Derby

(a) *Description*: Demolition derby similar to that conducted during the past several Berlin Fairs, but now conducted as a stand-alone event. The event would primarily be conducted in the motorsport pit (derby) and pavilion area (food and beverage) of the Fairgrounds, with required ancillary services (e.g., restrooms).

(b) *Approximate Date*: July 25

(c) *Expected Hours of Operation*: Primarily daylight hours.

(d) *Estimated Attendance*: 750 to 1,000

(e) *Traffic Control*: Traffic controlled on-site through use of gates; Hunter Ambulance for medical (put on notice).

V. August.

1. Eversource Retiree's Picnic

(a) *Description*: Picnic for retirees of Northeast Utilities.

(b) *Approximate Date*: August of each year.

(c) *Expected Hours of Operation*: Daylight hours during a week day.

(d) *Estimated Attendance*: Less than 250 people.

(e) *Traffic Control*: Not appropriate.

2. Cardiac Rehab Picnic

(a) *Description*: Picnic sponsored by, and for members of, the Hospital of Special Care's Good Life Center Picnic (use limited to food booth, one building (if necessary) and bathrooms).

(b) *Approximate Date*: August of each year.

(c) *Expected Hours of Operation*: Daylight hours.

(d) *Estimated Attendance*: Less than 250 people.

(e) *Traffic Control*: Not appropriate.

**VI. September.**

1. Berlin Fair

(a) *Description*: Agricultural, horticultural and commercial fair held since 1948. Involves the use of all buildings on the Berlin Fairgrounds.

(b) *Approximate Date*: September 18 - 20.

(c) *Expected Hours of Operation*: Set-up occurs during late September. Exhibitors submit their entries on the Thursday immediately preceding the Fair. The Fair is open to the public on Thursday during entries, Friday (11 am – 10 pm), Saturday (9 am – 10 pm) and Sunday (9 am – 7 pm). Cleanup and removal continue for a few weeks following the Fair.

(d) *Estimated Attendance*: Approximately 50,000 (paid attendance).

(e) *Traffic Control*: Traffic matters are coordinated with the Town of Berlin, including the Police and Fire Departments, and the contracted ambulance service.

**VI. October.**

1. Plainville Stadium Reunion

(a) *Description*: Reunion based on former Plainville Stadium Race Track.

(b) *Approximate Date*: October 3 (rain date October 4)

(c) *Expected Hours of Operation*: Daylight hours.

(d) *Estimated Attendance*: less than 250.

(e) *Traffic Control*: Not appropriate.

March 10, 2020

Updated – Police Chief Comments (March 11, 2020)

**TOWN OF BERLIN  
PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT  
STAFF COMMENTS**

APPLICATION: Special Event  
APPLICANT: Joseph Dornfried  
Berlin Lions Agricultural Fair, Inc.  
LOCATION: Berlin Fairgrounds  
AGENDA DATE: March 19, 2020

*To the Applicant:*

- *These are the comments received to date, additional comments may be forthcoming.*
- *Please submit any written response to Maureen Giusti, Acting Town Planner/Zoning Enforcement Officer at [mgiusti@town.berlin.ct.us](mailto:mgiusti@town.berlin.ct.us) or revised plans directly to the Planning & Zoning Department in Room 121. We will forward your comments or distribute materials to the relevant departments.*

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Building Official

No comment

Berlin Water Control

No comment

Fire Marshal

No comment

Inland Wetlands

No comment

Health District

All food vendors must submit a temporary event food application to the Central Connecticut Health District with a fee. Completed applications must be received two weeks prior to the event; otherwise, late fees will be implemented.

Police Chief

Comments (2 pages) attached

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*Emailed to Applicant: March 11, 2020*

March 2, 2020

**PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT  
PROJECT REVIEW SHEET**

**SUBJECT:** Berlin Lions Agricultural Fair, Inc.  
2020 Fairgrounds Events

**APPLICANT:** Joseph Dornfried  
On behalf of the Berlin Lions Agricultural Fair, Inc.

**LOCATION:** Berlin Fairgrounds

**AGENDA DATE:** March 19, 2020


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Department/District:

<input type="checkbox"/> Town Planner	<input type="checkbox"/> Building Official
<input type="checkbox"/> Assistant Town Planner/ZEO	<input type="checkbox"/> Berlin Water Control
<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Health District
<input type="checkbox"/> Kensington Fire District	<input type="checkbox"/> Fire Marshal
<input type="checkbox"/> Worthington Fire District	<input type="checkbox"/> Board of Police Commissioners
<input type="checkbox"/> Board of Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Inland Wetlands
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> Police Chief

☐ No Comment

☒ Comments:

  
Signature/Date 3/19/20 See Chiefs comments



# BERLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Lieutenant Drew Gallupe · Support Services Division Commander*



To: Chief John Klett

From: Lieutenant Drew Gallupe *DC-107*

Date: March 6, 2020

Subject: Demolition Derby Berlin Fairgrounds

In the past the Demolition Derby has been in conjunction with the Berlin Fair but this request is to have a standalone event on July 25<sup>th</sup>. The last Fair (2019) the event was held on Sunday during the Fair and was well attended. The year prior (2018) the event was held on Thursday night prior to the Berlin Fair with large crowds packed into a small area. With the standalone event in July it is difficult to estimate but based on the past I would say the event will again be well attended. The beer booth will be open during this event.

In 2018 there were 5 Officers hired to work the event and there were concerns due to the crowd size and the small area where the attendees were crowded into to see the event. There were concerns about getting to an area within these dense crowds to deal with any issues. There were some alterations made to the stands to improve the situation but even in 2019 there were densely packed crowds near the event.

I would recommend staying with the five officers (1 Supervisor and 4 Officers) for the event. This will allow for two officers to monitor the beer booth area and three to disperse and handle any issues with the crowd around the demolition derby rink. I would recommend having the supervisor do an after action report and reassess the manpower needs for future events to see if five officers are needed or if the number can be reduced.

The following is a list of events at the Fairgrounds in which no officers are hired:

- Nutmeg Cart Racing
- CT Horse Council/4H Horse Advisory
- Other Horse Shows
- BPA Peer Support Picnic
- Troop 24 Event
- Lions Summer Shootout
- Eversource Retiree's Picnic
- Cardiac Rhab Picnic
- Plainville Stadium Reunion
- Berlin UPBEAT Sleep-over

I would recommend no changes as these events do not seem to meet the criteria for police coverage.

The following is a list of additional events in which police are hired to provide security:

Wine Tasting- 4 Officers  
Summer Nights Car Show-2 Officers  
UPBEAT Town Picnic- 2 Officers (on SA for last event)  
Demolition Derby- 5 Officer recommended  
Berlin Fair

I would recommend these staffing levels are adequate for these events.