

fsemnosk

From: Thomas O'Rourke <torourke@milexpmuseum.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 8:09 PM
To: mgiusti; Joan Veley
Cc: cedge; Brian Rogan; fsemnosk; Thomas O'Rourke
Subject: Military Experience Museum Special Permit application extension

Dear Maureen,

I am unable to attend the Sept 17, 2020 Town of Berlin P&Z meeting and I am requesting that the Town utilize available extension time to keep the public hearing open in regards to the Military Experience Museum's Special Permit Application.

Ideally we would like to be put onto the next available meeting of October 1, 2020.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Tom

--

Thomas O'Rourke
President
Military Experience Museum Inc.
203-641-1943



fsemnosk

From: mgiusti
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 6:29 PM
To: fsemnosk
Subject: FW: Planning and Zoning Dept- Military Experience Museum

From: PAQUETTE, DENISE <DPaquette@allstate.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 11:30 AM
To: mgiusti <mgiusti@town.berlin.ct.us>
Subject: Planning and Zoning Dept- Military Experience Museum

My name is Denise Paquette and I reside at 2360 Chamberlain Hwy in Berlin. I have some concerns regarding the proposed Military Experience Museum. My understanding is that this is a non-profit. What is the economic benefit to Berlin, to having this? I don't see it bringing business to the town of Berlin, as it is much closer to the town of Meriden and there are no shops or Berlin businesses in that area.

Another concern is the noise and traffic. Being that I live so close, I fear that "military simulations" will involve gun shots and other weapon discharge. As it is, there is already a gun club located on Edgewood road that contributes to noise every weekend.

If this area is to be kept a open space, where will the participants park?

I also have environmental concerns. Are these pellets, BBs, plastic bullets biodegradable? How will they be disposed of? Or will they be left on the ground for animals to ingest? How will other litter from participants be addressed? Plastic water bottles, trash etc. How can we be sure that guests of the museum don't inadvertently use the trails or conservation land?

I am concerned for the animals that may be in the area. I am sure they may be accidental shootings or injuries to the animals. Not only to the wildlife, but many people use that area to hike with their dogs. I think people may use conservation land and the trails as part of this experience and may unintentionally cross over into areas reserved for hiking etc.

Thank you for taking my concerns into consideration and I hope that the residents of Berlin will be informed of any updates.

Sincerely,

Denise Paquette

2360 Chamberlain Hwy

Berlin, CT 06037

Denise Paquette
1463 Berlin Turnpike
Berlin, CT 06037
860-829-0319
dpaquette@allstate.com

mgusti

From: GEORGE HOAG <toadz2@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 1:39 PM
To: mgusti
Subject: Proposed Military Experience Museum - P+Z Meeting 9/17/2020

Hello Ms Giusti,

I am unable to attend the meeting this evening but wanted to express my disappointment regarding the package before you for the "Military Experience Museum". Of the activities we should help promote in town, having a war games area should be last on the list, perhaps a Boy/Girl Scout campground would be of more use if we are going to support a non-profit group proposing use of this area. There have been Veteran's groups who are for and against this proposal and I cannot speak to that since I'm not a Vet and will not put words in anyone's mouth regarding PTSD issues but the fear is warranted. I am however an avid hiker along the Metacomet trail and the addition of this Museum to the area will not only detract but openly drive away citizens. There will likely be folks who will talk of militia groups and other arguments that will derail the real issues of supporting 50 -500 people entering the town, littering and destroying town property to the benefit of no one.

My vote to the zoning commission would be a no for any group such as this to use our property and would prefer that the land trust acquire this property so nothing like this in the future would be attempted.

Thanks for your time,

Best Regards

George Hoag
1047 Norton Rd.
Berlin, CT 06037



Berlin Land Trust, Inc.

Town of Berlin
Received

SEP 17 2020

Planning & Zoning Department
Berlin, Connecticut

September 17, 2020

Joan Veley, Chairwoman
Members of the Berlin Planning and Zoning Commission
Berlin Town Hall
240 Kensington Road
Berlin, CT 06037

Re: Special Permit Application of Military Experience Museum, Inc. dated May 20, 2020

Dear Ms. Veley and Members of the Berlin Planning and Zoning Commission:

The Berlin Land Trust, Inc. ("BLT") has an additional concern about the proposed Military Museum. It has come to our attention through comments made at the public hearing on September 3rd that the use of military vehicles and tanks to transport members and guests (for a fee) is contemplated. Also, battlefields would be re-created. A village type setting and examples of bases would be established. These types of outdoor activities and displays are not mentioned in the Application for a Special Permit. They are potentially destructive to the environment.

Movements of jeeps, military vehicles and tanks are inherently damaging especially if they are allowed to go off-trail. Villages, bases, and battlefields must be planned properly in order to avoid environmental damage. For example, these "structures" and battlefields might fit into a field but not be appropriate environmentally in a wooded area.

Therefore, the present Application for a special permit is insufficient because important activities and displays are not mentioned. The submitted Application does not refer to possible bases, villages and battlefields nor are they shown on the plan.

It is not shown on the plan where the vehicles/tanks would be parked and where they would be used.

The Application for a Special Permit therefore is insufficient. It is impossible to protect the environment if these matters are not sufficiently described on the plans.

Accordingly the Application for a Special Permit should also be denied because it is not complete.

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September 17, 2020

If such an Application could be granted the stated conditions should be as follows:

1. All military type vehicles – jeeps, troop carriers, tanks - should be prohibited;
2. The sites for outdoor “villages”, bases, battlefields should be specified on the plan be located in fields and should be prohibited in any other location.

BLT is also opposed to this Application for the reasons slated in its letter to you dated September 1, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Dennis L. Kern". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail.

Dennis L. Kern
Its President
Copy: Directors of the Berlin Land Trust, Inc.

Town of Berlin
Received

SEP 17 2020

Planning & Zoning Department
Berlin, Connecticut

mgjusti

From: Aleksandra Kaminska <aleksandra.kamins@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 11:43 AM
To: fsemnosk; mgjusti
Subject: Military Experience Museum Hearing

Good morning,
I hope you are doing well.

I am the resident that lives in the house attached to that land in question and I am very concerned about the logistics of this organization, the disturbance it will cause to the people of a quiet neighborhood, and quite frankly the safety issues being that this is a residential area.

I'm hoping that the zoning board of the town of Berlin understands that this is not an appropriate place for such activities and that you won't allow for this to go through.

That being said, I'm wondering when the next hearing about the Military Experience Museum will be taking place as I want to be there.

Thank you for your time.
Aleksandra Kaminska

fsemnosk

From: mgiusti
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 9:24 AM
To: fsemnosk; Adam Levitus
Subject: FW: Military Experience Museum

From: Renata Bertotti <rbertotti@meridenct.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 1:16 PM
To: mgiusti <mgiusti@town.berlin.ct.us>
Cc: Timothy Coon <tcoon@meridenct.gov>; Chris Bourdon <cbourdon@meridenct.gov>; Paul Dickson <pdickson@meridenct.gov>; Howard Weissberg <hweissberg@meridenct.gov>
Subject: Military Experience Museum

Maureen,

Thank you for meeting with us last week. Please share this email with your Planning and Zoning Commission either before or at their next meeting regarding the pending application for the proposed Military Experience Museum.

The City of Meriden respectfully requests that a buffer is established between activities generating noise and disruption, such as ATV operation and other simulated war/training activities, and the abutting City-owned passive recreation and forested open space. The buffer will help preserve an area identified as habitat for State and Federal Listed Species on the State of CT Natural Diversity Data Base Map.

The City further asks that the eastern farm road connecting to City-owned property be discontinued and re-forested as a vegetated portion of the requested buffer.

Sincerely,

Renata Bertotti, AICP
Director of Planning, Development & Enforcement
City of Meriden
(203) 630-4083
rbertotti@meridenct.gov

Note: The information contained in this email message is confidential and may contain privileged information and material. Any review or use of the information contained in this email message by persons other than the intended recipient(s) is prohibited.

Adam Levitus

From: Bob Luce <racenut5@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 6:32 PM
To: Adam Levitus
Subject: Re: Town of Berlin - Military Experience Museum Comments

Adam,

Thank you for your time on the phone.

I live at 2590 Chamberlain Hwy. which is directly across from the property they are trying to put this Military reenactment camp. I can't stress strongly enough how bad the effects of this will be. I am trying to imagine how adversely this will affect the quality of life for all the neighboring property owners. A few years back a group was trying to put a gun range on this same property and during the time they were applying they were also using it to shoot large caliber guns, machine guns, and there were several loud explosions I'm guess were grenades. This went on on the weekends for part of one summer. So we know what an affect this will have on the area. Now there is this group with this new plan to have mock battles with mock guns and mock grenades, tanks and I'm sure all kinds of mock military armaments. Well putting the word mock in front of these does not make them anymore appealing for a residential area. The idea that we would have to listen to mock battles on the weekends and holidays and then deal with the traffic that would come with 50-500 people trying to access the dirt road the allows access to that property is very very concerning. Now we move on to the direct affect this will have on the areas property values. Who would want to buy a property that is even remotely close to these kinds of events. The effect of this on our quality of life will be felt in many other way also. We have owned our property for 19 years and the main reason we purchased it was for the peacefulness of this area. We have had several dogs over the years and most of them to include the one we have now are very scared of loud noises to the point of having to give them a mild sedative during Fourth of July holiday due to all the fire works being set off and thats just for a short time. Now this operation would be nonstop so this would mean we would have to keep our dog sedated on a regular basis. I am sure there are even more effects that I haven't even considered. This is a quiet and peaceful area and we should not all have to be exposed to this. Please consider all these effects on the property owners that have been here for many years before you allow this to move forward and destroy our property values and our quality of life!!!!!!

On Sep 21, 2020, at 12:07 PM, Adam Levitus <alevitus@town.berlin.ct.us> wrote:

Robert,

Sending you this email per our phone call so you can reply with any comments you have regarding the proposed Military Experience Museum on the Chamberlain Highway.

Adam Levitus, P.E.
Zoning Enforcement Officer
Town of Berlin – Planning and Zoning
alevitus@town.berlin.ct.us
860-828-7008

Adam Levitus

From: Clare Cain <ccain@ctwoodlands.org>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2020 2:48 PM
To: mgiusti
Subject: CFPA- Metacomet Trail Relocation

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Maureen,

I want to advise you of CFPA's decision to relocate approximately 0.6 miles of the Metacomet section of the New England Trail from the Carabetta property in Berlin to adjoining City of Meriden property.

It has long been our plan to relocate the trail onto municipal property. Not only will this provide long-term protection for the trail from development, but also it will maintain trail continuity and public access. While we appreciate and value private landowners who willingly allow Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails to cross their lands, it does make sense to locate the trail on adjacent/ nearby public lands whenever possible.

We have recently received permission from the City of Meriden for our trail relocation. Our goal is to open the new trail route (and fully close the old trail route on the Carabetta property) by the end of the year or early in 2021. We will achieve this through a series of small volunteer work parties.

In regards to the proposal by the Military Experience Museum (MEM), we would encourage the Town of Berlin to require closure and revegetation of the dirt road on the eastern boundary of the property. This will provide an important buffer between any MEM activities and the trail on adjoining City of Meriden property.

Thank you for your support of the trail. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Clare

Clare Cain
Trails Stewardship Director
Connecticut Forest & Park Association
16 Meriden Rd Rockfall, CT 06481
860-346-TREE
ccain@ctwoodlands.org
www.ctwoodlands.org