The Penfield Town Board held an Informal Discussion on Thursday, April 5, 2012 at 7:30 PM at the Penfield Town Hall, 3100 Atlantic Avenue, Penfield, New York.

Present: R. Anthony LaFountain       Supervisor
         Linda Kohl             Councilwoman
         Andrew Moore          Councilman
         Robert Quinn         Councilman

Also Present: Lisa Grosser         Deputy Town Clerk
              Richard Horwitz    Town Attorney

Absent: Paula Metzler              Councilwoman

The following members of the Penfield Valley Association met with the Board to discuss their concerns regarding the Genesee Conservation League (GCL): Fred Glaser, Joyce Howard, Sandy Wurzer, Peter Crerand, Diane Bahr and Carlos Bahr.

Supervisor LaFountain reviewed that the Genesee Conservation League was established in 1948, and is located on approximately 32 acres. At that time there was no Zoning Ordinance in place. The establishment falls under a pre-existing, non-conforming use and no variance for the operation is required. Previous Supervisor’s have met with residents regarding noise as residential development has occurred near the establishment. Inquiries and concerns have been raised over the years. The Town met with the Genesee Conservation League regarding noise and hours of operation, and general operations.

The Penfield Valley Association members brought up their concerns stating that the league’s membership numbers have increased significantly since the establishment began.

Supervisor LaFountain said that the Town Board will continue meeting with the Genesee Valley Conservation League annually to review overall operations.

Penfield Valley Association members expressed their additional concerns regarding noise, odor and the fact that they are operating 14 hours a day for 7 days a week.
LaFountain stated that when new residential development, such as Ellison Heights was submitted to the Board, developers were advised that the Genesee Conservation League was located nearby and that existing residents have had concerns regarding noise over the years.

LaFountain stated that as a result of prior meetings with the Genesee Conservation League, a consulting firm had been hired by GCL and suggestions were given such as adding baffles to reduce noise.

Penfield Valley Association members voiced their opinion, that they have not had a follow up briefing on the recommended improvements and that the noise has gotten worse. The residents want a representative from the Genesee Conservation League to come to their homes and listen to the noise. They do not feel the Genesee Conservation League realizes how bad the noise is. When a person is shooting at the Genesee Conservation League, they are wearing ear protection and only shooting for an hour or so. The residents can hear the noise all day long. The residents have sent a list of suggestions for improvement to the Genesee Conservation League and have not received a response. The residents feel as development in the area continues, the complaints will increase.

LaFountain said we need to obtain the results from the noise study, both before and after recent changes were made. We will schedule a discussion with the Penfield Valley Association, the Genesee Conservation League Board of Directors, and Town Board members. We will discuss all aspects of the operation and try to find a reasonable balance.

Attorney Horwitz suggested that residents document the type of noise they are experiencing and keep a daily log that can be shared with the Genesee Conservation League.

LaFountain said he would work on an agenda of next steps. He will call the Board of Directors at the Genesee Conservation League and schedule a meeting.

Adjournment

Supervisor LaFountain adjourned the meeting at 8:35 PM.

Lisa Grosser
Deputy Town Clerk