

## Planners to hold hearing on snow tube ride

by Mary Grow

China Planning Board members will hold a public hearing on an application for a snow tube ride on Alder Park Road, probably on September 28.

At their September 14 meeting, board members reviewed an application from Kevin Gower and Daniel Ouellette to build the recreational facility on a hill on Gower's land. Gower's landscaping business already occupies part of the lot. Plans involve reshaping the bottom of the hill; installing a cable lift, a ticket booth and lights; and providing a refreshment cart.

Since the site is already in commercial use, planners considered skipping the public hearing, but the lights made them change their mind. Codes Enforcement Officer Scott Pierz reminded them there is still controversy in town over the floodlights at the town ball fields that were installed years ago.

Gower and Ouellette did not intend to add any buildings this year. They talked of creating and testing the business this winter and opening in the winter of 2011-12. However, after discussion with the board Gower said he might want an addition to his existing building where snow tubers could warm up. If he and Ouellette submit an amended application, the hearing might be postponed to October.

The two entrepreneurs have talked with the operator of a similar facility in Hermon. They said there appear to be no state regulations or licenses for snow tube

businesses, just insurance company requirements. The Alder Park Road project requires a state environmental permit because wetlands will be affected.

Gower said he talked with all his neighbors and heard "no bad comments." Board member Milton Dudley therefore made a motion not to hold a public hearing, pointing out that it is an expense to the applicant.

Pierz estimated the cost at \$250 for legal notices and mailings to abutters. The hearing does cost money, he said, but it reduces the grounds for after-the-fact complaints. The other four board members voted against Dudley's motion, and he joined them in voting to hold the hearing.

Two other decisions were made September 14.

Having reviewed town attorney Alton Stevens' redraft of the board's proposed amendments to the Land Development Code, board members voted 4-1 not to ask selectmen to hold a special meeting to put amendments on a November 2 local ballot. They will now aim to have changes ready for June 2011. Dudley opposed the motion because, with elections coming up November 2, he objected to committing a future board to work on amendments.

Hearing from Pierz that the \$499 laptop computers sitting by their table had no software whatsoever and would need another \$300 apiece to make them useful, board members voted unanimously to send them back and look for a better deal.

## FairPoint donates to WHS athletics for volunteer coaching



FairPoint employee network engineer Jesse Beckwith, left, presents a check for \$750 to Waterville High School Athletic Director Doug Frame, center, with head baseball coach Don Sawyer, right, also a FairPoint employee. Contributed photo

Waterville High School recently received a check totaling \$750 from FairPoint Communications for Jesse Beckwith's volunteer coaching efforts. Beckwith, who works as a network planner for FairPoint, served as volunteer coach during last season's baseball season. Beckwith assisted head coach Don Sawyer, who also works for FairPoint as an outside plant engineer, on the Waterville High baseball team that won the 2010 State Class B Championship. The team went 19-1 over the course of the season and won the school's first baseball title. Beckwith has worked as a volunteer coach on the baseball team for three years.

Beckwith secured the donation through the FairPoint Communications Volunteer Incentive Program that recognizes employee's voluntary contribution of time and talent to nonprofit organizations where

they live and work. Under the program, FairPoint employees can apply for a grant for the qualified organization when they have volunteered at least 50 hours during the year. FairPoint rewards them each with a \$750 check for the designated organization.

Waterville High School Athletic Director, Doug Frame, accepted the check from FairPoint. "This program not only benefits the athletic department by way of the cash donation, but also through the many volunteer hours Jesse contributed to the baseball program," said Frame. "It's great that FairPoint encourages employees to get involved in their communities. Jesse's enthusiasm for the game and the kids is very apparent. We are very fortunate to have Don and Jesse as coaches at Waterville High School."

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China residents will receive detailed information as an insert in the Town Line SEPTEMBER 30 publication

**Notice of Public Hearing**

A public hearing will be held on **Monday, September 27, 2010** at **6:30 pm** at the **China Town Office** for the purpose of receiving public opinion on the new proposed ordinance entitled "**Town of China Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Ordinance**" that will be proposed for adoption at the November 2, 2010 General Election.

Copies of this ordinance are available at the Town Office and on the Town's website: [www.china.govoffice.com](http://www.china.govoffice.com)

**Notice of Public Hearing**

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