

Hearing on Ski Slope Expansion

Written by James Jestes
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Seven Devils Board of Adjustments held a public hearing yesterday to discuss a proposed conditional use permit for the Hawksnest ski resort.

The board opened the fact-finding hearing to investigate whether or not to allow the ski resort to build a new tubing run, parking lot for the new run, and a temporary snack bar and rest area.

Many of the concerns raised during the meeting involved changes in property values, water quality and drainage, lighting of the tube run, and traffic control.

Lenny Cottom presented the new proposed changes to the board, with the assistance of an attorney representing Ski Hawksnest, and fielded questions from the board and audience members in attendance.

Changes to the previous proposal include reductions of a beginners' area from 2,500 feet to 600 feet, a 2000 foot quad lift to a 600 foot conveyor lift, a 90 percent reduction on the 7,200 square foot lodge, and a decision not to build new ponds for snow making.

Residents of Seven Devils along with experts on water quality controls were called to give testimony through out the hearing.

The board will reconvene the hearing on Monday, August 6, at 5:30 p.m. where they will likely vote on the conditional use permit.