Chairman Willingham called the public hearing to order at 3:16 P.M. Members present were Willingham, Schneider, Mai, Taylor and Costello. Staff Present: CeCe Tesky and Monica Kenealy. The purpose of the hearing is a request to allow campground expansion on a parcel in Gov’t lot 7, Section 11, T33N, R7W, Town of Washington. Property owner: Casey Mincoff.

Tesky read the public hearing notice. Willingham asked for anyone present in favor of the request. Casey Mincoff was present. He said it takes a long time to expand. He has 17 seasonals now and wants to start next year to add additional sites.

Willingham asked for anyone present against the request: Mike Sanderson, who lives across the river was present. He would prefer Mincoff not to expand because of the noise especially at night. More people will bring more noise. He said he called Casey and talked to him about it, but is concerned about excessive noise that comes with an expansion. People have been seen on Pine Island, which is private property. If he would have known about the noise level, he would of opposed the campground when it was first requested. If the request is not denied, he would like to see what happens a year from now. He’s also concerned that only a few people received notices. Tesky explained that the zoning office mails a notice to property owners within 500 feet of the property, which is a courtesy provided for in the zoning ordinance, not in the statute.

Willingham asked for anyone present in favor: Dennis Hahn, who owns Rivers Edge was present. He’s in favor of the expansion. It will bring more business to his resort.

Willingham asked for anyone present against: Chris Ackerman, who owns property ¼ of a mile from the campground was present. He said that he bought the property 6 years ago because it was quiet. The river funnels noise from the campground to his property. An expansion will increase the amount of drinking, vulgar language and beer cans floating down the river.

Willingham asked for anyone present in favor: Casey Mincoff spoke. He said that he doesn’t want to get blamed for the beer cans, litter etc. He has tried to control the noise and litter. The additional 25 sites will not be close to the river.

Willingham asked for anyone present against: Kathleen Scherzer was present. She stated that she’s lived on the river a long time. She feels it should be more of a residential area. She also wanted to remind Mincoff’s that living on the water carries a lot of noise.

Willingham asked for anyone present in favor: None.

Willingham asked for anyone present against: Milton Snoeyenbos was present. He feels that it is the number of trailer parks within a close area that creates the problem and he
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thinks there are too many in this area. Willingham explained that the ordinance did have restrictions on density, but those restrictions were removed from the ordinance a couple of years ago.

Willingham asked for anyone present in favor: None.

Willingham asked for anyone present against: Sharon Sanderson was present. She lives across from the campground. If they put their property up for sale, the noise from the campground will be a factor. Will the noise from the campground devalue their property?

Willingham asked for anyone present in favor: Casey Mincoff spoke. He said he knows of a person who was opposed to the campground when it first started. That person sold his property after the campground was built and he was able to sell his property for more than he bought it for.

Willingham asked for anyone present against: Randy Croel, who lives ½ mile away from the campground was present. He said that there is a dramatic increase of buildings in the area. The campground will cause the loss of natural resources. He also thinks that it’s hard to control noise at a campground. They should have someone on site to control the noise. People come to Rusk County from Minnesota because of their lakes. He doesn’t want to lose our lakes in Rusk County.

Willingham asked for anyone present in favor: None.

Willingham asked for anyone present against: Susan Colehour, who lives a ½ mile from the campground was present. Her primary reason against the expansion is for the noise.

Willingham asked for anyone present in favor: Casey Mincoff spoke. He reiterated that the 25 addition campsites will not be on the river. He is working with his users to have the noise issues addressed. He needs the additional 25 sites to make the campground work. He will do what he can to make it better. He doesn’t want to destroy the river. He is very careful about not cutting down trees in order to maintain the natural features of the campground and he believes the shoreland should be preserved.

Willingham asked for anyone present against: Tesky read a letter from Madalyn Yezdauksi. She stated that she is a seasonal resident and in the last few years, they have seen an increase of traffic on the river. She is concerned about visitors who pollute the river with cans and waste. She is also concerned about the noise that has disturbed the wildlife. She is also concerned about the chain saw noise which has been coming from the east side of the Flambeau River.

Willingham asked for anyone present in favor: None.

Willingham asked for anyone present against: Mike Sanderson was present. He understands that noise travels both ways, but it should be a give and take. There are everyday noises to be aware of, but doesn’t want the excessive noise. He said there should be a noise ordinance enforced with or without the expansion.
Willingham asked for anyone present in favor: Dennis Hahn spoke. He said it’s unfair to say campgrounds will create all the problems on the river. Each person that has developed near the river over the years has made an impact.

Willingham asked for anyone present against: Randy Croel spoke. He said that everyone contributes to the development and he would be opposed to anyone building, not just the Mincoff’s.

Willingham asked 3 times for anyone in favor or against the request. No others present.

Willingham closed the public hearing and reconvened regular meeting at 3:57 P.M.

Monica Kenealy
Secretary/Bookkeeper