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Noise is very emotional, and very personal for each person

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MILLVILLE - The city planning department on Tuesday presented some of the findings from an outside company hired to review existing noise reports regarding decibel levels emanating from the New Jersey Motorsports Park.

Millville Planning Director Kim Ayres, speaking before the city commission, stated Massachusetts-based Miller, Miller and Hanson Inc. examined noise studies by both the municipal government, as well as the motorsports park.

In addition, the firm commented on how people who reside of the same street reported varying disturbance levels, as well, as how best to keep noise from the track from creeping into residential areas.

According to the preliminary report submitted to the city from the private company on Monday, the NJMP noise report contained two inconsistencies within their assumptions.

"However, they seemed to offset each other; one assumption was overly positive and one was overly negative," said Ayres.

As for the city's report, the private study found no violations in the standard used.

"The city's study also took measurements of the ambient noise, which they said was the preferred method," said Ayres. "That way, it measures the impact of the noise on the area."

Both the city and the track last year conducted noise surveys throughout residential areas around the NJMP.

Both studies produced readings ranging from 40 to 70 decibels - within the city-imposed 80-decibel limit.

According to Ayres, some of the solutions offered in the preliminary report to help residents who are bothered by noise include mailed notices prior to exceptionally loud races, as well as large, earthen sound barriers.

City officials inquired about the differences in resident reaction to noise from the NJMP.

"Many of the city workers were spending quite a bit of time reacting to many different reactions to the noise, and the commissioners have also spent quite a bit of time responding to different reactions," said Ayres. "Even with people who are on the same street, reactions were varied."

"So we asked them how that was possible."

Ayres stated the report said the issue of noise is "very emotional, and very personal for each person."

The planning director added that "some people may have just a tolerance for the noise in their make-up."

Millville Public Works Commissioner Dale Finch stated he and other city officials are still conducting meetings with representatives from the NJMP, discussing how to best address the noise issue.

"We've been negotiating with the park, in several meetings, going back and forth, and we are close to resolving those issues," said Finch.

"We should have something soon."

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