

Temporary Event Permit

Special Permits issued by the Zoning Board of Appeals are meant to allow activities that are on-going and significant in nature, such as a restaurant or motel. There is currently no way to consider events that are temporary in nature such as a concert, theater festival, motocross race, or parade. The proposed amendment would allow the select board to issue permits for such uses as long as they occurred less than 8 days in a year.

Even temporary events can be disruptive to abutters and to the town, and therefore the Planning Board recommends that the Select Board include the following requirements in their Event Permit application:

1. Applicants should address potential concerns around traffic, parking, public safety, noise, lighting, bathroom facilities, and insurance, at a minimum.
2. The Event Permit should include size tiers with differing levels of requirements. A 20 person event, for instance, will have different parking, public safety and board of health concerns than a 500 person event.
3. The application process should include a mechanism for abutters to express their concerns. This could take into account the scale of the event, and range from mailed notifications of Public Meetings to full Public Hearings with notices published in the newspaper.
4. The application review process should provide for input from town departments such as Fire, Public Safety and Board of Health.

As a reference, the Town of Northfield has developed a Special Event Permit Application that seems to address many, if not all, of our concerns and therefore would act as a good starting point. The application is available on our website, <https://worthington-ma.us/planning-board/>

The proposed amendment to our Protective Zoning By-Law is as follows:

Section 4.4 (Uses Authorized on Special Permits)

Insert Section 4.4(C):

- C. Use of property for sales or events such as fairs, entertainment, sporting events or carnivals which are not usual and customary under the primary use of the property shall be limited to eight (8) days or less per year and are governed by an Event Permit from the Select Board.