

Council granted intervenor status

Lime Rock track's plans face new hurdle

BY RUTH EPSTEIN
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

SALISBURY — The Lime Rock Citizens Council, which is fighting the proposed expansion of operations at Lime Rock Park race track, has been granted intervenor status in the court case between the Planning and Zoning Commission and the park.

The commission amended its regulations pertaining to the park last fall, among them the incorporation of the 50-year court injunction that

calls for some restrictions, including the ban of Sunday racing. Park officials claim the move was unfair and filed an appeal. Owner Skip Barber has said he needs to increase offerings to remain competitive.

In his ruling, Judge John David Moore said the council has standing in the case since at least three of its members, Trinity Episcopal Church of Lime Rock, the Lime Rock Cemetery Improvement Association and resident Peter Wolf, are statutorily aggrieved, while other members "would be classically aggrieved by increased traffic if the track's appeal were to be successful."

Judge Moore noted that the reason for the council's exis-

tence is "to protect, promote and develop property rights and interests of residents, business owners and neighbors of the hamlet of Lime Rock ... That purpose is germane to the zoning issues of this matter."

He said the council members have specific, personal and legal interests that are different from all the other town residents and these interests may possibly adversely affect the outcome of the case. The traffic impacts of the increased use sought by the track could negatively affect the council members.

In his ruling, Moore said there was no evidence to show that the council's involvement would delay or prejudice the other parties'

ability to settle the case. There has been no display of settlement talks beginning, much less progressing to such a point that including the council as an intervenor would "sabotage" a settlement. In fact, he said, it would be abundantly unfair to the council members not to give them a seat at the negotiating table. Their presence would likely provide value to the court in its attempt to resolve the matter, he said.

The fact that some members of the council have long been involved in the matter could be beneficial, the judge said. They carry years worth of insight and experience.

Contact Ruth Epstein
at kcsrute@aol.com.