

Tax Map/Block/Parcel  
No. 47-10-26

Building Permit/Zoning  
Certificate No. 03-1590

Case 4811

**OFFICIAL DECISION  
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS  
CARROLL COUNTY, MARYLAND**

**APPLICANT:** Wayne Columbia  
135 Hanover Pike  
Hampstead, MD 21074

**ATTORNEY:** Clark R. Shaffer

**REQUEST:** An application for a conditional use for a commercial recreational area, namely a paintball field.

**LOCATION:** The site is located on the East Side of Houck Road, on property zoned "A" Agricultural District in Election District 8.

**BASIS:** Code of Public Local Laws and Ordinances, Chapter 223-71 A (14)

**HEARINGS HELD:** June 23, July 30, and September 23, 2003

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION**

On June 23, July 30 and September 23, 2003, the Board of Zoning Appeals (the Board) convened to hear the request for a conditional use for a commercial recreational area, namely a paintball field. Based on the testimony and evidence presented, the Board made the following findings and conclusion:

The subject property is located in a lightly populated rural area, and is largely surrounded by stands of mature trees. The Applicant wishes to operate a paintball field on a portion of the site. Paintball is a recreation wherein participants hunt each other with toy guns capable of discharging harmless paint pellets. The property will be accessed from Houck Road by a right of way. The Applicant intends to upgrade the right of way to make it smoother and more passable. No buildings or permanent structures are to be located on the site. The "weapons" can be calibrated to raise or lower the velocity of the paint pellet, thereby increasing or decreasing the distance that the pellet travels. The business will consist of "4-hour" paintball sessions, with no more than 75 people at one time. During the week, sessions will be by appointment only. No lighting or public address system will be installed.

**OFFICIAL DECISION**

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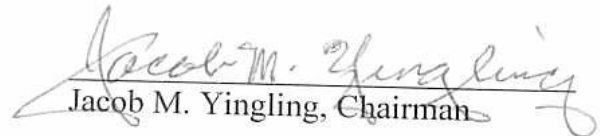
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The Board finds that the proposed use at this location will not generate adverse effects above and beyond those normally associated with such a use. Accordingly, the request for conditional use is granted. The following conditions are imposed to minimize any adverse effects:

1. A full site plan be required
2. No lighting and no outdoor PA system shall be installed
3. Hours of operation are limited to 9:00 to 6:00 Monday-Friday, 12:00 to 6:00 Sunday
4. One sign 8 x 18 shall be allowed at entrance to road
5. Weapon velocity at the muzzle shall be restricted to 280 feet per second or less such that the maximum distance a paintball shall travel will be 150 linear feet.
6. This use is not transferable. The use is approved solely for Applicant Wayne Columbia and his family to operate the paintball field.

Oct 20, 2003

Date

  
Jacob M. Yingling, Chairman