

Michelle Webb

From: Weishahn [weis@aptalaska.net]
Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2013 2:43 PM
To: George Campbell; Diana Lapham; Debra Schnabel; Jerry Lapp; Joanne Waterman; Dave Berry; Stephanie Scott; Julie Cozzi
Cc: Michelle Webb; weis@aptalaska.net
Subject: SEABA heli-ski allotment appeal, Alaska Heliskiing letter

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Categories: Agenda Business

Hello Assembly Members, Mayor, and Interim Borough Manager,

I notice that there is appeal from SEABA and a letter from Alaska Heliskiing regarding their 2014 skier day allotments in the packet for this assembly meeting.

I believe that fines levied for infractions and reduction in subsequent skier day allocations based on the 8 factors the manager considers when allocating the skier days are two separate issues. (see the 8 factors in borough code below) Levying fines for infractions and reducing subsequent skier day allocations based on 8 factors does not constitute a "double fine" as SEABA claims. The manager is required by code to consider the "past safety record of the permittee" among other factors when making allocations.

HBC 5.18.080(C)(2) lists the following factors to be considered when making allocation decisions:

- a. The quality of the operating and safety plans submitted by the permittee.
- b. The economic impact of the allocation on the permittee.
- c. The safety and well-being of the general public.
- d. Historic use of skier days by the permittee.
- e. The interests of the borough in the promotion of tourism.
- f. Past safety record of the permittee.
- g. The applicant's past record of compliance with borough ordinances related to commercial ski tours.
- h. The existence and terms of any voluntary agreement between the borough and the applicant pertaining to operational practices of the applicant.

In their Dec. 5 letter to the assembly, Alaska Heliskiing asks for increased skier days for 2014 if SEABA gets an increased allocation following appeal of their 2014 allotment.

Based on borough code and past actual skier days used, neither request holds any merit. According to the 2013 Heliski Activity Summary, neither company maxed out their allocations. In 2013, SEABA was allocated 1000 skier days and actually used only 868, well under the allocation for 2013 and under the 2014 allocation of 950. Alaska Heliskiing was allocated 1050 skier days in 2013, requested an additional 100 skier day transfer from Alaska Mountain Guides which was granted, but actually used 1103 of their skier days. AH's allocation for 2014 is 1400...well over their actual past use.

While the heli-ski companies may not like being held accountable for compliance with borough code and their past safety record, it is necessary that the borough assembly support the manager's current allocations for 2014.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Carolyn Weishahn, 767-5552