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Trashy Idea?

BY JIM KANE
News Staff Reporter

SALEM — Skiing down a hill of trash? Believe it or not, it may be possible in Salem Township within the next eight years or so — if everything goes well.

The Township Board and Holloway Sand & Gravel Trucking, Inc. of Wixom have co-signed an application requesting that the Township Zoning Board of Appeals approve a conditional use permit to build a ski slope and a recreation area.

The appeals board is currently reviewing the request. A hearing on the proposal will be held Oct. 25.

The ski slope and recreation area are proposed to be constructed on a 77-acre landfill site and an adjoining 130 acres at the southwest corner of Napier and Six Mile Road. The location is just west of the Wayne County line in the eastern part of the township. The company also

operates a sand and gravel pit on the north side of Six Mile Road.

Philip Brandon, township supervisor, said an engineer has looked at the plans and said the idea is a feasible one.

Brandon said it will take from five to eight years to cover the landfill. As it is covered, the ski slope will be built. Plans call for a hill with a maximum height of 200 feet and slopes running from 1,200 to 1,500 feet long.

The landfill has been in operation five years. The township plans to ask for an extension of the conditional use permit for another three years to allow for covering the landfill.

"The township will benefit from this arrangement. Residents will continue to have free dumping privileges and we will also receive revenue from the landfill as it is filled and the hill is built," Brandon said. He projected the township will earn from \$40,000 to \$50,000 annually

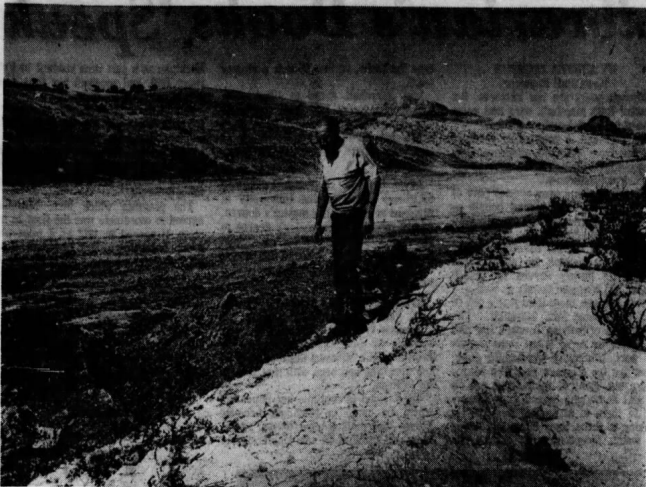
while the hill is being built.

The supervisor explained that taxpayers' money will not be used for development of the ski slope and recreation area. He said when the work is completed, the township will seek private funds to finance the facilities and equipment. The property will be owned by the township but will be leased to private interests for operation and maintenance.

Brandon envisions the ski slope as similar to Mount Brighton. It will be open to the public.

"I hope the project will be found to be feasible by the appeals board. It has the unanimous backing of the township board," he said.

Fred Verran, the township's chief inspector, explained the landfill, which was formerly a gravel pit, is used by people from Detroit, Plymouth and Livonia.



News Photo by Jim Kane

Salem Township Chief Inspector Fred Verran Looks Over Landfill

