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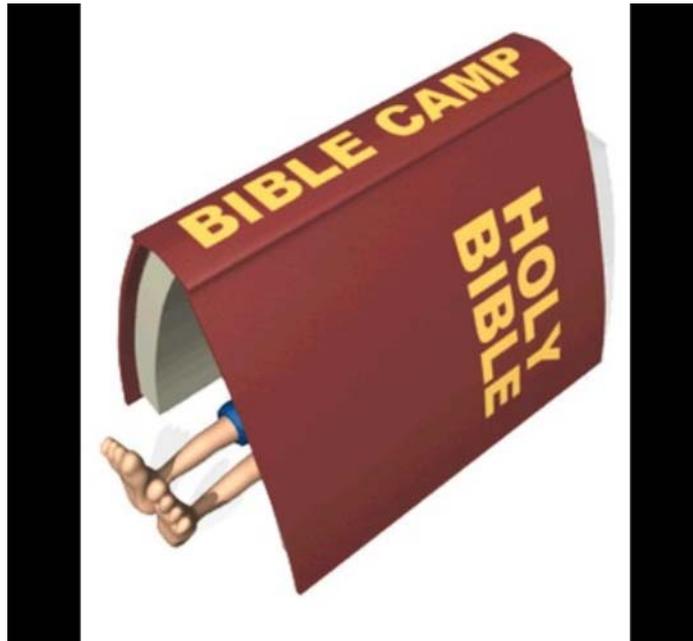
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HOME / NORTHWOODS

Bible camp word war heats up

Joe Costanza, NN.N Editor

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The war of words in the five-year-old Bible camp battle continues unabated with a flurry of new paperwork totaling over 100 pages by the plaintiffs asking the court to, among other things, dismantle the defendants' defenses and to deny the Town of Woodboro's motion to dismiss the case (*see links below to read documents*).

The plaintiffs – brothers Arthur, Randall and Wesley Jaros, who are principals of Eagle Cove Camp & Conference Center, Inc. – are suing the Town of Woodboro and Oneida County over denials of a permit to build a Bible camp on 34 acres of land on the western end of Squash Lake.

The Jaroses filed their lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Western District in Madison on March 10 challenging the town and county decisions to deny building permits. They charge the actions violated the family's right to religious freedom guaranteed by the federal Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA)

The county, the county Board of Adjustment and the town – the three named defendants – filed answers April 6 and 7 seeking to dismiss the case on various grounds including, according to the town, that the plaintiffs should have taken their case to state courts first and that the complaint "lacked ripeness."

On April 27, 2010, the Jaroses filed new documents including, respectively, a 10-page motion seeking to "strike certain affirmative defenses of all defendants," and a 54-page amended complaint that adds new allegations.

Among arguments in their new motion, the Jaroses asked the court to strike the town's defenses because they are "legally insufficient" and otherwise failed to address 12 separate counts specifically but instead were based on speculative "bare bones conclusory allegations."

The plaintiffs' April 28 response to the Town of Woodboro's motion to dismiss can be read [here](#)

The April 27 motion can be read [here](#)

The April 27 amended complaint can be read [here](#)

According to court procedures, the defendants have five business days to answer the motion and up to 14 days to answer the amended complaint unless the court orders otherwise.

The Jaroses are asking for a jury trial. The judge and lawyers for both sides are expected to talk about the status of the case in a conference call on May 5.

(Editor's note: Previous NN.N articles are referenced below and include links to legal documents relating to the case.)

Related Articles

[Proposed Squash Lake bible camp, conference center denied permit by county zoning](#)

[Bible Camp appeal before Board of Adjustment; ruling due Jan. 12](#)

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