PERMIT

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The quarry and further away in Innsbrook Resort strongly opposed the CUP for Patriot Training Foundation, saying a shooting range would be a noise nuisance and safety risk, among other concerns. After the CUP was initially approved by county planning and zoning officials, opponents protested to the commission for an appeal.

Commissioners declined to rescind the CUP Monday, choosing instead to tighten restrictions on when Patriot Training Foundation will be allowed to shoot.

The total number of days per year the organization can shoot in the quarry was set at 40, down from a requested 60. That can only include five Saturdays, and never any Sundays or holidays.

Daily shooting hours were cut in half to 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., compared to the 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. hours on the initial CUP. Commissioners left in place an allowance for six late-night and two overnight shooting days per year.

Also carrying over from the initial CUP are a restriction on the size of ammunition allowed, prohibitions on automatic weapons and explosives, and a requirement that all trainees be associated with a military or law enforcement agency.

"Some people are going to be happy with our decision. Some are not going to be happy. That can't be helped," said Presiding Commissioner Roger Mauzy.

The three-person county commission was split in its support for the CUP. Mauzy and Southern District Commissioner Hubie Kluessner voted to approve, indicating they were satisfied with the restrictions placed on shooting operations. Northern District Commissioner Dan Hampson dissented, on the grounds that a shooting range could hurt the enjoyment or value of surrounding property.

Mauzy observed that anyone still dissatisfied with the commission's decision has a right to bring the issue to Warren County Circuit Court. There's a chance some will take that step.

"What about the rights of the Warren County citizens living around the quarry?" property owner Ed Anderson later commented to The Record. Anderson owns land nearby on Quarry Road and is a vocal critic of the CUP. He said some are concerned about the "two or three" trainees per day. Anderson pointed out that he has 100 people at his hearing in opposition to the shooting range. It's a shame, he said, because the commission is not property owners and citizens who consider personal money to own government.

Jeff Thomsen, president of Innsbrook of Trustees, said the county in solidarity with the opposition to the CUP.

"I thought the commissioners made some effort to fulfill our promise. They did that," Thomsen added. "But the restrictions somewhat satisfied, not. But the support feel there should be a range shooting at all."

Patriot Training Foundation has been running proposed a shooting range since 2011. The organization is required to operate a shooting range at the site, and is expected to begin training. Police and agencies might not have to use limited funds resources. The organization is required to operate a shooting range at the site, and is expected to begin training. Police and agencies might not have to use limited funds resources.