

Posted May 21, 2007

## Camping proposal pushed

By Andrew Hellpap

*Daily Tribune Staff*

The Rome Town Board has a compromise for the camping debate.

It might not please everyone, said Don Ystad, chairman of the Lake Camelot Property Owners Association, but this is a workable plan.

On April 21, the nine-member board proposed and passed the idea to draft a proposal to send to the Rome Town Board.

The compromise, a zoning ordinance change, would allow one permanent camper per lot and one guest camper on a permitted basis. Four permits would be allowed per year for no more than 10 days and would demand sanitary requirements, Ystad said. There also is a 10-day period required between permits.

Steve Nowicki, former town chairman, had proposed a meeting between camping supporters and opponents, and members of the Camelot Association Board to discuss a solution, but with Nowicki's defeat in the April 3 election, the meeting never took place, Ystad said. The association discussed a similar meeting, but it also never materialized. Then, after hearing sentiment from many of the association's 2,200 property owners, the board came up with its proposal, he said.

"An occasional camper with guest permit might make sense," he said.

The Rome Town Board approved the proposal at the May 10 board meeting, and the town's Planning Commission will hold public hearings. Then, the measure would go to the Adams County Board for approval, said Terri Anderson, Rome clerk, as all zoning ordinance changes would.

Anderson a lifelong Rome resident, was optimistic at the audience response to the idea at the May 10 meeting.

"We are farther than we were before," she said. "At least to those in attendance it seemed as though it was something we could agree on."