

Shooting rules topic of Bedford hearing

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP — Should Bedford Township restrict where firearms can be fired in the community?

That question will be grist for a public hearing at 7 tonight in the Bedford Township Hall, 8100 Jackman Rd.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources will hear residents' concerns about target-shooting in the township to gain background on whether to recommend that the township adopt new firearms restrictions, said Peggy Ruby, a DNR conservation officer who will

hold the hearing.

She said complaints were registered with the township last year and township officials asked the DNR to hold the hearing.

Restrictions already exist under Michigan law regarding where hunting can occur. Most limit how close to buildings, schools or occupied residence a firearm can be discharged for hunting purposes. But the rules do not apply to random shooting or target-shooting, Ms. Ruby explained.

She said she will gather comments at the hearing

and then a 30-day period will begin for accepting written comments. After the comment period expires, the DNR will recommend whether restrictions should be applied.

But, she said, the township will determine whether to accept that recommendation.

Written comments during the 30-day period may be sent to the Department of Natural Resources, Law Enforcement Division, ATTN: Specialist Peggy Ruby, P.O. Box 30031, Lansing, MI 48909.