

Hull Times September 10, 2010 edition

By Susan Ovans  
• Thu, Sep 09, 2010

A Hull man is jailed on kidnapping and assault charges after police said he held a woman against her will in a locked RV on a sparsely populated road early Sunday, then hurt her when she tried to flee.

Judge Ronald F. Moynahan set bail at \$15,000 cash on Tuesday morning when a shackled Francis Zamperini, seemingly dressed in the same black shirt and pants he was wearing when he was arrested, stood for his arraignment in Hingham District Court. A not guilty plea was entered on Zamperini's behalf on the Commonwealth's charges of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and kidnapping.

Zamperini, 49, gave police a 19 Packard Ave. address, but police believe he was living in a trailer that was parked on Eastman Rd. which, according to Hull assessors' records, has only two homes built on it, with the balance of the land at the far end used to store construction equipment.



Francis Zamperini  
[Hull Police photo]



This sign is posted on Eastman Rd. near where Francis Zamperini's trailer is parked. [Lucy Wightman photo]

Police believe Zamperini was leasing the land where the trailer was parked from property owner Paul Gratta, a local contractor.

According to the police narrative filed with the court by Hull Police Officer Richard J. McKenna, Hingham police at 3:56 a.m. Sunday took the original call from a woman who said she was at the West Corner Tedeschi's and that she had managed to flee from a male who held her against her will in a locked RV [recreational vehicle] on Eastman Rd.

When McKenna got to the scene, a woman identified as Kellie Ann Hennessey told him that she had met the man she knew

only as Frank the day before, having been introduced by a mutual friend. When she told him she had no place to stay, she said he invited her to spend the night at his trailer.

Later, she told police that she wanted to leave. When she told Zamperini that, he said “No way,” and locked the trailer door. When she was able to unlock the door, he allegedly slammed it into her, striking her on the nose and knocking her to the ground.

She told police that she got up and ran, making her way to West Corner, where she phoned police.

According to McKenna’s narrative, the Hingham officer who responded to the call saw that Hennessey had a bloody nose and she was later taken to the hospital, after complaining of sore ribs.

When police arrived at the trailer, Zamperini was inside. He stepped out and was identified by Hennessey, then arrested. Because Zamperini has a pending assault charge for a December incident, bail was set at \$540. He failed to make bail and was held pending his arraignment Tuesday morning, when Judge Moynahan set his bail at \$15,000 cash.

Zamperini, who is single, self-employed, and qualified for the appointment of a public defender, is scheduled for a pretrial conference on Oct.1.

Contacted today, Hull Building Commissioner Peter Lombardo said local bylaws prohibit people from living in trailers in Hull other than by a special permission from selectmen, where the property owner may be rebuilding after a house fire.

Lombardo said he was not aware Zamperini’s RV was parked at the isolated construction storage site or that the man may have been living in it in apparent violation of local statutes.