

The following members attended the public meeting:

Doreen Prouty - Chairperson
James Marmo – Vice Chairperson
Richard Maggi- Clerk
Jennifer Bonfiglio - Secretary

Chairperson Prouty opened the meeting at 6:30PM.

1. Case # 1779: Alan and Suzanne Griffin:

Chairperson Prouty opened this public hearing by reading the legal notice and introducing the members of the board. Sitting on this case were Doreen Prouty, Richard Maggi and James Marmo. Chairperson Prouty explained the procedures of the meeting.

Representing the petitioner is Attorney Frank Saia who is not present. Motion by Chairperson Prouty to go out of order to approve minutes of April 26, 2010.

Motion to approve minutes of April 26, 2010 as corrected by Chairperson Prouty. Second by Richard Maggi. Vote: Unanimous.

Attorney Frank Saia arrived and indicated that he also represented petitioner in Land Court. He referred to a decision in Land Court which remanded the petitioner to the ZBA. Attorney Saia states that the property is half residential and half agricultural. The goats will be kept on the Agricultural portion. Attorney Saia read from the court order. He stated that the petitioner is not trying to use the whole parcel to keep goats.

Boundaries and sq. footage were questioned by Member Marmo. There is approximately one acre total land split in half equally between agricultural and Residential A2. Goats were removed from property due to Housing Court order, but will be moved to the agricultural portion if returned.

Chairperson Prouty asked if the structure had been moved yet. The petitioner stated yes. They stated they currently have 10 goats. 5 adults and 4 kids. He stated the kids will be sold. Chairperson Prouty also asked gender of goats and milk yielded. The petitioner indicated 1 male, 5 female. All are vaccinated. 3 are certified. 3 are currently producing milk. The petitioners drink the milk and make cheese.

Chairperson Prouty asked for the size and location of structure as asked by the judge. The pen is 40x40. Mark DelNegro indicated he had seen the shed before and stated it appeared to be about 8x8. The pen is approx. 30' from the neighbors to the left and right.

Member Maggi asked if the petitioner is withdrawing the contention that the milk is necessary for colitis for the purpose of this petition. Attorney Saia stated the petitioner gave up that argument because of the order by the judge remanding them back to ZBA.

Chairperson Prouty opened the meeting to the public.

Mr. Mark DelNegro, 28 Losito Ln. spoke in favor. He stated that if goats and shed are moved to the agricultural section he is in favor. He visited the property in Sept. 2009. He did not smell or hear the goats. He saw two adults at that time.

Paul Cook, 13 Fairview St. East Longmeadow; Mass office of Discrimination spoke in favor.

He stated the original complaint specified noise and smell. He also visited the site and did not notice either. He feels the petitioner should get to keep goats.

Richard Fontaine, 107 Blaine St. Springfield, spoke in favor. He has been to the property and never noticed goats.

Peter Beaudry, 108 Line Street spoke in favor. He stated goats do not smell nor make any noise.

David Morin, 437 S. Westfield Street, spoke in favor.

Crystal McNamee, 21 Kingman Ave, E. Longmeadow visited in October 2008. Has never heard the goats and is in favor of the petitioner keeping the goats.

Gary Croteau, 112 North Street, stated that the pen has not been moved as indicated by the petitioner. It is still located in the same location as 3 years ago. The shed is 8x4. The goats are currently not on site. The pen is 8' away from his property line. There is an odor from the fecal matter. He states that Mr. Griffin uses lime in excess to try to control odor. The fecal matter is mixed with hay and the petitioner plows it on occasion which increases odor. He states his quality of life diminishes because of the odor. He also stated he believed 5 acres were needed in an agricultural zone to have a farm. Chairperson Prouty stated that 5 acres are needed to be exempt from any zone not designated as agricultural. He is already zoned agricultural.

Joy Ruggeri, 111 North Street agrees with Gary Croteau. In the summer on a hot day, there is a strong odor from the fecal matter, not the goats. She offered an alternative site for the goats and Mr. Griffin refused that. She feels that he is not being responsible in the care of the goats. She believes there are too many goats and asked how 7 goats do not fit in a 8x4 shed. Mr. Croteau states Mr. Griffin has refused in the past to move the shed to the agricultural portion of the property.

Fred. Ruggeri, 111 North Street stated that before the last court appearance, the petitioner never used to clean and now only applies lime. Mr. Ruggeri stated that he has spoken with Mr. Griffin on several occasions and Mr. Griffin has told him that in the past he has filled a barrel with fecal matter and water placed on the neighbors property line.

Mr. DelNegro suggests the Griffins build a pen on the agricultural portion so long as it is in compliance he can have goats.

Mrs. Ruggeri is still concerned over the cleanliness and would like conditions placed on any permit given.

The Board is not ready to discuss the matter any further and motions to continue the hearing until 5/24/10 at the conclusion of the second hearing.

2. Motion to adjourn at 8:00 PM by Chairperson Prouty, seconded by Member Marmo. All were in favor.