# ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT <br> 268B MAMMOTH ROAD <br> LONDONDERRY, NH 03053 

DATE:
DECEMBER 18, 2013

CASE NO.:
12/18/2013-1
APPLICANT: JESSICA DUPERE
LEONARD \& LINDA DUPERE
7 HARVEY ROAD
LONDONDERRY, NH 03053
LOCATION: 7 HARVEY ROAD; 11-96; AR-I
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: JIM SMITH, CHAIR
LARRY O'SULLIVAN, VOTING MEMBER
JACQUELINE BENARD, VOTING ALTERNATE
NEIL DUNN, CLERK
REQUEST: SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO ALLOW A DOG FOSTERING AND SITTING SERVICE AS A HOME OCCUPATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 3.12.

PRESENTATION: Case No. 12/18/2013-1 was read into the record with no previous cases listed.
Chair Smith gave the applicant the opportunity to continue their case until a full five member Board is present. The applicant chose to proceed with the Board members present.

Clerk Dunn read Exhibit " $A$ " into the record; a letter from an abutter in opposition to the request. Chair Smith read into the record a portion of Exhibit "B," an email from Senior Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Richard Canuel noting an objection from a separate abutter.

JIM SMITH: Who's going to make the presentation?
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: I'd like to make a comment before...before we get too far along. Home occupation, under 3:12:1.2...definition that we have, part of the requirements are that "the home occupation shall be carried on by the occupant, only within a dwelling and/or garage and shall be incidental and secondary to the use of the properties and dwelling purposes and shall not change the residential character thereof. A garage should be defined as a detached accessory building or portion of a principle building used or occupied for the parking or temporary storage of household goods and/or motor vehicles of the occupants". Okay, so... with that in mind I'm wondering if....this is the portion of our Ordinances...that needs...a...the special exception...because...from my understanding of this.... potential business, a great deal of it will be done outdoors...and I'm specifically pointing out that....the home occupation shall be carried on by the occupant only within a dwelling and/or garage...so...that said...

JAYE TROTTIER: Well, we do have daycares that have some things outdoors. Just throwing that out there. LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Right, but...

JAYE TROTTIER: But they're not restricted just to inside the house.
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Agreed. I think a different section though for home occupations with children...

JAYE TROTTIER: More...yeah, more specific.
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: That is very specific so...but we're not talking about children, so that would be my issue here, is that we need to make sure we are talking about the correct section of our Ordinances that they're asking relief from, because this may not be the only applicable section that they need relief from...you see where I'm going with this?

JIM SMITH: Yeah.

## [Long pause]

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: So I would assume without Richard being here, that when they spoke to Richard, they got the impression that...this was the section that they needed to get a special exception for. Ok...so....so we make any assumptions since Richard isn't here, that...that is specifically what this type of a business would be applying for.

JAYE TROTTIER: Yes. He would have directed them to seek a special exception.
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: For the 3.1...3...was it 3.12.1.3?

JAYE TROTTIER: Yeah..
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Or 1.2? Yeah...Okay.
[Long pause]
JAYE TROTTIER: I would think you would want to hear the...
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: We would want to hear the presentation to see...
JIM SMITH: Yeah, well I'm...I'm just kind of reading this over here just to....
[Long pause]
JAMES SMITH: Well, I'm just comparing the...how it's worked in the child care...essentially says the same thing on the....3.12.2.2; "Child care facility occupations shall be carried out by the occupant only within, then in the next one it says, "A fence for an outdoor play area may be required." So.... 2 doesn't really....

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: 2.3, you mean?
JAMES SMITH: Yeah.
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: 3.12.2.3
JAMES SMITH: It doesn't say anything about having it outside the area...

## LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Right

JAMES SMITH: Outside the building...
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Mm-hmm.
JAMES SMITH: But then they specifically...so....
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Gotcha.
JAMES SMITH: And again, when you write these things you kind of anticipate every possible...
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Understood.
JAMES SMITH: ...barrier. Okay, with that...
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: I would suspect that we're as close as we're going to get with this....
JIM SMITH: Yea....You have the floor.
JESSICA DUPERE: Okay. Thank you. My name is Jessica Dupere and I live at 7 Harvey Rd. and...we are applying for a special exception for dog fostering and in home dog sitting for...1-3 dogs...I have had this business for almost 4 years now and we've always done in home dog sitting. We usually have one or two dogs. We lived in a three family in Derry before with a nice big fenced in yard and never had problem or complaint with any of our neighbors and we are just looking to help out fostering here or there. There would definitely not be a lot of traffic, sometimes we go weeks without having any dogs there and we know that there are quite a few people around that own three or four dogs...we have one dog. We make sure that he is always very quiet, he's never left outside and the dogs that stay with us. They get two walks per day. Any of my neighbors know, they'll always see me out there walking. Dogs are never left outside on their own...and I think we ran into the problems when we first moved in. I turned the room above the garage into my office and...we had our dog and some family dogs playing up there. We let them stay up there a few nights, and this was after we took the rug out and put a tile floor in, so I think there was quite a bit of echo...and I think that's where the noise complaint may have come from. Where it was very unfortunate if any of our neighbors had let us know about that, we would have made sure to take care of the problem. The dogs would never be left up there unattended. Our house is extremely well insulated because we are right by the airport. So....new windows and insulation and...so now the dogs...are never left up in that room where I think
is where they were hearing them, unattended or overnight...so...in the photos I gave you, you can see where the office is and that's where I work during the day and my dog plays and if I have a dog or two there...they'll also be up there with me and whenever I leave I take the dogs with me, they love going for car rides and then at night you can see we just have three crates set up in the guest room, right next to our bedroom so that way....

JIM SMITH: Let me distribute the pictures [See Exhibits " $C$ " through " $G$ "].
JESSICA DUPERE: And then we just wanted to show we do have a fenced in area. It's probably about a quarter of the size of our whole yard. But again, the dogs aren't left out there and it's really not an outside business. We do more walking...the dogs are with me...they're just never left out alone to make noise, to disturb people. They're never loose. They're all really good dogs. A lot of these dogs are elderly or the fosters dogs we get had just had surgery's, neutered or spade and are not recovering, so we take them in because they just couldn't go to a kennel so they need to have the in home care. And if our neighbors had come to us and let us know that they were hearing the dogs up there we would have immediately put a stop to it. And we know since we got that complaint there has just been silence from our house. We know that for sure. And the other thing we did want to bring up is, quite a few of our neighbors have dogs, and there are two dogs located behind us, one to the side, kind of a diagonal one, so they're all around so we're wondering if perhaps sometimes our one dog, or maybe the two dogs we have is...they're thinking it's the noise from our house when it's not. We're defiantly not a kennel or a daycare. There isn't going to be people coming and going. When the dogs stay with us it is usually for a few weeks at a time. So there may be one person coming every week or two. And like I said, sometimes we have no dogs for a few weeks. The main...the biggest part of my business is I have seven employees and they do dog walking and pet sitting in other people's homes and we service about 15 towns. So this is just something I started to offer for my best clients who have really well behaved dogs and also dogs that are just of a, you know, have no other place to go. People are trying...they have to get rid of them and they just need a place for a week or two in between. So I think that is it in a nutshell.

JIM SMITH: Okay. Questions from the Board?
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Jessica, do you own 7 Harvey?

JESSICA DUPERE: Yes I do.
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Okay, and...Leonard and Linda?
JESSICA DUPERE: They are my co-signers. They do not live there but I was told they, because they're on the deed, they had to be a part of this.

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Okay, so this is a one family house?

JESSICA DUPERE: Yes it is.
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: And is the garage...or how long have you owned it?
JESSICA DUPERE: Since August $7^{\text {th }} \ldots$

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Is the garage permitted? Did you have any issues with your mortgage?
JESSICA DUPERE: Is the garage what?
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Permitted. Was it part of the deed?
JESSICA DUPRE: Yes...I'm sorry. I don't really know what that...I mean the garage is part of the property...I...yeah...

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Right. Good. The floor above the garage...
JESSICA DUPERE: Yes

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: ...is your office? Your home office for a dog walking business that you conduct out of your home?

JESSICA DUPERE: That is just my office where I have...I do all of my bookkeeping. I don't have clients or any, that's just...that's just my space I work out of.

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Is that the picture we see with the checkerboard floor?
JESSICA DUPERE: Yes...yup.
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: And so you won't be keeping animals, any dogs in that facility?
JESSICA DUPERE: No, and we have not since we got that noise complaint.
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Okay. Do you own any of your own dogs?
JESSICA DUPERE: Yes, we have one dog, Lincoln.... and he's very well trained. He did a year of training, he is a rescue as well. Before we got him he was scheduled to be put down and he had two days to live and...we got him and rehabbed him and he is just wonderful now.

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Can you tell me what the difference between dog fostering and doggy daycare is...
JESSICA DUPERE: A fostering is when a dog is in a shelter or going to be euthanized. Well, a doggy daycare for one, you're paid for that so...a daycare service would be, like children's daycare. Clients would come drop their dogs off for the day and the dogs would play all day and then they would pick them up in the evening. I do not offer that and I will not offer that. Fostering is...I know a lot of people from being in the business for years so if they have a dog that needs a home until he goes to a 'forever home' they call it...just for a few weeks normally, or just until he can heal up after his surgery. So it's just a temporary placement.

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: And how many dogs do you feel you will have in a year?

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JESSICA DUPERE: Well, it's difficult to say if....of course some months are a little bit busier, you know...

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: How many would you feel would be the most you'd have in a month?
JESSICA DUPERE: So let's see...in November we had....I think 4 total, throughout the whole month and they did not overlap so...throughout the month of November there were only two dogs at a time there.

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Your dog and one of the others?
JESSICA DUPERE: Yes.

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: I wanted to ask those questions because I took a stop by there and I saw where they had fenced in area and had the impression that there are quite a few dogs in the neighborhood because I heard them while I was there. So I don't know, you know, other than they're already dogs in their neighborhood....

JESSICA DUPERE: Yeah, and we would....

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: And you would have no dogs left outside on their own at all?
JESSICA DUPERE: No, never and the reason...well, obviously to be considerate of our neighbors but it is way too dangerous, a dog could escape. Dogs are amazing, they can go over fences, under fences so if you're not out there with them, you just don't know what could happen. So l've always assured my clients and the fosters that I take in, that they would never be left unattended outside. And we just...we feel that, you know, somebody...there are quite a few people that have three dogs, four dogs even so we're...we have two or three quiet dogs, sometimes. Usually it's just one, sometimes two...so...we're not looking for traffic, high volume, no daycare, no kenneling...

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Did you need to get a special exception for a license?
JESSICA DUPERE: My business name is registered. There's no license.
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Can I ask then; why are you here?
JESSICA DUPERE: Pardon me?
JIM SMITH: Can I ask why you are here?

JESSICA DUPERE: Why I'm here?
JIM SMITH: What prompted you to apply for the special exception?
JESSICA DUPERE: Oh...well what prompted me is, I didn't realize that I needed one until we got the complaint and the dog officer came by, so that was our first knowledge of this. He said for fostering, in home pet sitting, which had never ever occurred to us, we always had one or two dogs so we figured if people can own up to
five dogs then it wouldn't be a problem, so when he let us know that, we immediately took action and I called and spoke with Richard and then he sent me to Jaye and we started the process.

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Very good. Thanks.

NEIL DUNN: If I may Mr. Chairman? You said one to three dogs a week is...would be the most?
JESSICA DUPERE: Yes, that would be the most. I mean that would be at a time so....and you know including our dog we may have one or two dogs staying there. Normally it's just one other dog. It's just easier that way because they are...this isn't our home, it's a lot of work and I do run the majority of my business is, again, seven employees and we have hundreds of clients all around, so I'm quite busy and I just...I can't take on more than that nor would I want to.

NEIL DUNN: I'm just trying to figure out how we would regulate one to three. How we would know...It was just a thought so I was trying to get clarification....

JESSICA DUPERE: Yeah....
NEIL DUNN: Clarification on the number. And you're right, several people have lots of dogs, but anyways that was my question.

JACKIE BENARD: Let me ask you this...your fostering and your sitting.
JESSICA DUPERE: Yes.

JACKIE BENARD: You have expressed that you have a business and you have seven employees that go outside and provide a service at customers' homes or wherever that may be. So what you're offering in your home is not part of your service, is something that you do...?

JESSICA DUPERE: No...what...how it worked out was that I had clients that started to ask me, you know I don't want to put my dog in a kennel, can he stay with you, so that is how it started and that is how we continued as that was just the casual part of our business for our clients that we have known for years and we know their dogs were great and weren't going to rip up our house and make a lot of noise and then with the fostering that's just all of my clients and all of the people they know, if they know a dog that you know just needs a place for a week or two than I take them in and that's of course if I don't have another dog or two already staying there.

JACKIE BENARD: So the ones that are sick or in recovery...
JESSICA DUPERE: Yup.
JACKIE BENARD: You're volunteering your time...

JESSICA DUPERE: Yes and not always because some of my clients dogs as well if they're elderly that they can't stay in kennels and a lot of dogs, that's just too stressful for them, so they want the in-home treatment and it is a lot less stressful for a dog and a lot of my employees will stay with the dogs at their home.

JACKIE BENARD: Okay or sometimes they'll come to your home
JESSICA DUPERE: Yes.

JACKIE BENARD: As I guess... a paid service...and I think where I was going with it, if I decided that I'm going to let my friends dog stay over or two, it's just something that you do within the confines of your home, so if this was a type of service that is just something that you're providing to help animals on an occasional basis, I guess I was just trying to dig in to that versus part of the actual business so that I could get clarification on the one to three dog whether it's just something very nice that you're doing for...

JESSICA DUPERE: Yes...no some of them do pay me so..
[Laughter]
JACKIE BENARD: Okay, well that's why...
JESSICA DUPERE: Out of the goodness...but of course I love them and I...I've had these clients for four years and their dogs are like my dogs and I have watched quite a few of them grow old and pass away so...yeah there....

JACKIE BENARD: Okay so it's...it's an extension of your business...
JESSICA DUPERE: Yes. Yes.
JACKIE BENARD: Ok. A small percentage.
JESSICA DUPERE: Yes
JACKIE BENARD: A small part.
JESSICA DUPERE: Yes...and very small compared to the....
JACKIE BENARD: Okay, to the seven employees who...
JESSICA DUPRE: Yes...

JIM SMITH: You were questioning the...the edge of the garage...
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: I wondered how long it was there for, whether it was permitted so if they had no problem with their mortgage...I would assume that it was permanent...

JIM SMITH: Oh yeah. It was built a good number of years ago and replaced a garage where the roof had collapsed. The only thing that keeps popping up in your comments is that you have seven employees. Had you discussed that part of the....of your...business with Richard?

JESSICA DUPERE: My Employees? No.
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Do they ever show up this address?

JESSICA DUPERE: No. They have no need to. They work on their own so I have one woman that services Salem, Pelham, a few of the towns down there so all they do is go to the clients houses and meet with the clients there. So they...there's no need for them to come....they don't work at my place so....

JIM SMITH: And how do you communicate with them?

JESSICA DUPERE: Oh, mostly text and email.
JACKIE BENARD: You stated on your application that the days of operation will be Monday through Sunday from 8 AM until 7 PM but some dogs do stay over.

JESSICA DUPERE: Oh, what I meant by that was if somebody were picking up or dropping off on that day, it just wouldn't be any earlier or any later than that.

## JACKIE BENARD: Okay.

JESSICA DUPERE: So it's not technically operating hours that dogs will be staying over, they're not just there for the day.

JACKIE BENARD: Okay.
[Long pause]
JIM SMITH: Where exactly would you be keeping the dogs now?
JESSICA DUPERE: It's in the picture where you can see the three crates, they're in the guest room right next to our bedroom.

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: You're looking for...
JIM SMITH: So that would be the area that's labeled "the study"
JESSICA DUPERE: I believe....yes, labeled "the study"
JIM SMITH: Now this is where you keep....

JESSICA DUPERE: That is where they would sleep and if I ever left and they did not go with me they would be crated in there.

JIM SMITH: So this picture with the crates is that...

JESSICA DUPERE: Ah...Yes...yup with the three crates in there and yes that is the study. It's right next to the master bedroom.
[Long pause]
JIM SMITH: Okay.
JIM SMITH: Any other questions? Okay is there anyone who would like to speak in support of this? Seeing none, anyone who has any questions or an opposition? Okay, would you approach one of the mics and state your name for the record...

JOANN PETERSEN: Hi. Joann Petersen, I live on 7 Harvey Rd...no, 5 Harvey Road, [laughter]...and we have been there for eight years. We do have two dogs. We have a two family, our mother-in-law downstairs has a cocker spaniel and we have a spaniel. We have them in the yard, they are never left unattended. None of our neighbors have their dogs unattended. None of them. We are all just dog loving people, but....they're our dogs. They are not a business. We have had excessive traffic in the area since they did move in and when they did come, I've done a little research because we didn't know why they had put the big fence in, I was able to find that, Mrs. Dupree, she does have a business and it's called 'Hot Dog Business', 'Top Dog Pet Sitting' and there is little said about any fostering and she seems to emphasize a lot on fostering but in all of her wonderful website, there is not anything about fostering and I am concerned about how this is going to be monitored. There have been, when the animal control officer went, there were five dogs on the property at that time, not three. That's when the animal control...that's what he said. So we kind of resent, we've been in the area, it's a very small street. There are five houses on this street. We are very family oriented, we have grandchildren, we have a beautiful spread of land and I just don't want a business near me. I don't want a business....I....I have a dog but I have a dog because it's my dog and we take care of them, we don't make money off it. We don't have traffic coming; we don't have people coming to the house. There's all kinds of different traffic coming since they moved in in August and when they did have their place in Derry, that was at her parents' house, so of course no one is going to complain because parents own the building. I just feel strongly that when she moved in, she knew that she had a business, an established business and that she came in here and didn't even care about it. Why should we complain about noise when we don't even know there's a business? Now, we didn't get the respect of saying, we are going to have a business next door to you so, I just am quite confused at some of the things she has said that contradict. But I do respect her. I mean I love...we love animals but not as a business, not on our street. It takes away the beauty of Londonderry and the beauty that we have of five houses....that's all I have to say....

JIM SMITH: Okay...Okay, just for clarification; the special exception for a home occupation has been a part of our zoning regulations from just about day one. So this idea that someone cannot have a limited business in a residential area is something that this town has accepted on going for many, many years. So while some people may not like the idea, it's been part of our zoning ordinance. However, there are some limits to what it can encompass and how big it can be, how much of the building can be used for it, but it is part of our
ordinance. So when someone comes in and says that they are...they strongly object to any kind of a business, it doesn't fit our zoning regs the way that they're written at the present moment. So just for your clarification.

JOANN PETERSEN: Okay...I mean if it is granted, how is it going to be monitored, who's going to police it?
JIM SMITH: Well, that's between the Town Zoning Officer and the individual. A lot of the times the way that works, the people in the neighborhood, if they see stuff that are violations or going beyond what is supposed to...a home occupation is supposed to encompass, it's up to them to make a complaint to the zoning officer, then he's in the position where he can investigate and make a determination and go through the procedure because we have had home occupations, where they have come in, said one thing and done something else. There has been an investigation and there is usually some sort of resolution to the whole thing, whether it is shutting them down completely or making them go to a more commercial zone or whatever, but there is that mechanism.

JOANN PETERSEN: Right.
JIM SMITH: The idea that the Zoning Officer is going to come by there every day is not going to happen. They don't have the resources for that.

JOANN PETERSEN: No. Right....
JIM SMITH: They don't have the resources for that.
JOANN PETERSEN: Right and I don't want to live like that.
JIM SMITH: But it's really up to the neighborhood, up to....if you're aware of it. And this is part of why we have the hearing...

JOANN PETERSEN: Right.
JIM SMITH: ...is to allow the people in the neighborhood to be aware of what's going on.
JOANN PETERSEN: Mm-hmm.

JAMES SMITH: So that they can see and understand...voice their opinion and if it's granted, there in a position where they can monitor it and if there's a violations or it exceeds what they presented, then you can make a complaint to the zoning officer and he can go from there.

JOANN PETERSEN: Why would I want to continue to live like that though? I wouldn't want to continue to have to monitor how someone else lives, you know, I just feel like it's....

JIM SMITH: Well, again....
JOANN PETERSEN: I just feel like it's not up front to begin with and if it's not up front to begin with than how is it going to be up front going on...

JIM SMITH: Well, I think part of what we run into...the mindset of people is they think they can do pretty much whatever they want with their property. A lot of times if they come from one town to another town, the zoning regulation in one town is totally different than the zoning regulations in another town, so what they may have done in one town, nobody says anything about and there's no rules to address it. They move to another town and suddenly they can't do that particular thing. And most people don't go looking for regulations, you know, just don't....

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: You mean when they're looking for a home...
JIM SMITH: Well, yeah, sure....
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: The Town has been promoting home occupations for a long time, as long as I have been on the Zoning Board.

JOANN PETERSEN: I respect that.

JIM SMITH: Well, you know....
JOANN PETERSEN: Well, you know when you have a dog and you have someone come in and say well, there are all kinds of dogs in the neighborhood. Absolutely, there are. Our neighbors have two, we have two in our building behind her there are two, but we are not doing it for money. We don't' have any foot traffic. To me, that's a difference. To me there are kids, they come in our home, they are a part of us but you know, with seven employees you're not going to tell me that that doesn't at times bring in extra traffic, it does and it has.

JIM SMITH: Well, that's getting to another point and I haven't gotten to that yet. There is another gentleman in the back who had wanted to say something.

JASON COULTER: Hello my name is Jason Coulter and I live at 10 Maureen Circle, which is directly behind their house. I just basically have two concerns. One is noise...as far as if there are going to be...I know she said there were going to be one to three dogs, which you know I guess that would be okay if that was the circumstances, but I think my mindset there will be more than that so as far as noise level...I have two small dogs myself that just stay indoors and they go outside once and a while to exercise or whatever but for the most part the stay indoors. My concern is if they hear other dogs barking, which obviously like they said earlier, there are plenty of dogs in the neighborhood, which there are, so occasionally the dogs do bark when they hear other dogs but it is not constant but whereas you have so many other dogs behind you, directly, I think...I'm worried about my dogs always hearing them and basically barking all the time, from hearing the other dogs. That is my first concern. My second concern is having a business there, especially like a dog watching business, for if I was to ever sell my home in the future I don't plan to, but if I was I would be concerned about people looking at the house, looking out the backyard, obviously they can see the huge square fence that is outback, which is fine that really doesn't bother me but it will bring up questioning for people looking at my house, you know, what is that fence or, and obviously I either have to lie to them or tell them the truth, and if I tell them that the girl watches dogs occasionally, they will probably not believe me so...those are my two concerns that I have so I am against it.

JIM SMITH: Okay. Any other comments? Okay. We will give the applicant an opportunity to reply.
JESSICA DUPERE: Well, what Joann said, that fostering isn't on my website, it's not on my website because website deals with business. My fostering has nothing to do with my business. And she had mentioned seven employees. Again those seven employees work in different towns. There is no need for them to ever come to my home...they...there is just no need. Their paychecks are deducted...put into their accounts every week electronically and they just work at clients homes. And as for the five dogs with...I believe Michael is the dog catcher, when he was over that day there were no dogs. He stood there and spoke with us for half an hour, forty-five minutes, he was so nice and I know that he could tell you that, he didn't see one dog nor did he hear one dog. So I just wanted to clarify that. As for everyone saying that they are assuming that it's going to be more dogs, I can understand that concern. All I can say is that if I am able to get the exception, than they can watch and see and I am giving my word that it would be one to three dogs, usually one sometimes two...rare, three....and again, we could go out and adopt five dogs. There are a lot of people that have five loud dogs. Even four, even three can make a lot of noise. I think that we, more than any other neighbor take extra special care to make sure that we are keeping them quiet after we found our up in that room that the neighbors could hear them. As for traffic that is just ridiculous and so not true. We...there are so few people that come in and out of there...you know, when you have one dog come, that stays for a week so you have one person come that week, and then pick the dog up a week later...there is just not...that's is just incorrect. There is not a lot of daily foot traffic. It is not a daycare, it's not a kennel and we just want to care for less dogs than we can own. She also keeps referring to it like I'm taking money and I am doing a bad thing. My clients love me and I give these dogs the best care that they can get anywhere. They live in our home just as they do in their own...in our home with us. They are exercised twice a day, we go for long walks, so I'm doing a service. It's not a negative thing, me taking money. I am a business owner, small business owner, and I am employing seven people so I think I am doing a pretty good thing.

JIM SMITH: Okay. Any additional rebuttal from the opposition?
SHAWN GODING: I'll say something. I'm Shawn Goding. I live at 3 Harvey Road. I have been there two years, actually this next week. It was new construction. I live next to Joann and Will. I am here tonight because obviously I was informed by the town, this...I grew up in Londonderry my whole life and it was a dream to live in Londonderry and that is why we just built a house there. And it's a very small and quiet neighborhood. It's unfortunate that it is a through street you know a lot of cars do fly down there. As for dogs, I'm hearing a lot about dogs today...I don't....I know Will and Joann said that they have two dogs but I never hear dogs, maybe it's because of where I am at the end of the road there but I see...in...I don't know the neighbors, they just moved in and they seem very nice and the house looks very nice. I didn't realize they were starting a business or running a business until I received a letter, but I lived in Manchester in a townhouse by the Yard Restaurant, right behind a doggy daycare and I did have a hard time selling my townhouse because of it. It's not why I am here tonight but I'm just throwing that out there because the gentleman did mention it. You know, I just hear....I'm excited to have neighbors move in because the house had been empty for a while and the place looks really great and they seem very nice, but it's just unfortunate to hear that they want to run a dog fostering business, whatever it is, out of the house, because common sense just tells you there's probably going to be dogs and barking and then possible smells, you know. Again, I dealt with that at my last place so I kind of know what to expect, you know what it can become. I know it's not that now, but it just concerns me. It is a small quiet neighborhood and, you know...it just...I hear that what they want to do and I just...it kind of rubs me a little bit the wrong way. But...and that's why I am here tonight. I just wanted to put my two cents

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in. I understand you're allowed to run...operate your own business and apparently you're allowed to operate a small business out of your home in Londonderry. You know, I don't know all of the rules but I feel bad because you don't want to stop anyone form running their own business but at the same time I want to think about the neighborhood, my neighbors, you know in support of Will and Joanna who have to live right next doors to them. I just...like I said I don't hear and see it if there is cars and dogs coming and going. I guess I am just far enough away fortunately. But in support of Will and Joanna and anyone else that is around it...that's why I am here tonight, so that's all I have to say.

JIM SMITH: Okay. Thank you. Any further questions from the board?
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: No other comments from the audience? No? Because I am going to start....
JIM SMITH: Neil?

NEIL DUNN: I'm good.
JAMES SMITH: Okay, having said that...
NEIL DUNN: Did you have a question?

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: No questions.

NEIL DUNN: Oh. Oh, okay.
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: No, I'll save it for deliberation.
JAMES SMITH: Deliberation. Okay. The public hearing is now closed on the...we are going into deliberation for this case and hopefully at the end we will vote and come up with a conclusion.

## DELIBERATIONS:

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Okay...so, what we have are no additional employees are going to be there. There are none right? What we have are any changes to the outside building...

JIM SMITH: None....
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: They're not asking for a sign, we're not asking for a sign.
JIM SMITH: No

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: They're asking in effect....the business opportunity to have two more dogs from time to time. Now how is that going to change the character of a neighborhood? So you don't have any more traffic, you may have the noise that more dogs could bring, but that's what its boiled down too. I don't know about where you guys lives but three of my neighbors have two dogs. I don't smell them, I rarely hear them. I can't
see how this is going to have any disruption in that nice quiet neighborhood. So I am in favor of granting this special exception.

JIM SMITH: Neil?

NEIL DUNN: I...there are always...they seem so tough...I guess it should be that tough, though. The only thing is noise and smells and all that and I don't think it's anything exceptional or noisier than being that close to what's around the neighbor, the airport and all that. I think we all live in pretty nice residential neighborhoods here in town and I hear dogs barking all the time. My neighbor's my best friend so, I mean that's part of the residential life and the character of the residential areas, having dogs barking and kids playing and running around so I think we would want to make sure that we limit it to one to three dogs per week.

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: No, at a time.

NEIL DUNN: At a time...at a time. I'm sorry. And then let the neighbors monitor it. If it gets out of control than it's there duty as a neighbor, as it would be mine as a neighbor to the guy next to me to speak up and say something, so I'm...I think we want them as a....Larry just said...no on street parking and they meet all the criteria of our check-off sheet and the procedural end of it, so l'm fine.

JIM SMITH: Jackie?
JACKIE BENARD: I'm torn because....they own one dog. They want a special exception for two dogs.
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Two more dogs.
JACKIE BENARD: Two more dogs.
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Up to three dogs.
JACKIE BENARD: Up to three, which will include their own?

JAMES SMITH: Yeah.
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: That's the way I understood it.
JAMES SMITH: Yes. That's the way she...

JACKIE BENARD: Okay, because...I...our standard of definition as soon as we hit the forth dog, becomes a kennel, so I just want...I guess that's why I want to make sure I don't...that I understand because I...

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Mm-hmm.
JACKIE BENARD: ...I don't want to overlook Jessica owning her own dog, which is a great thing but the business side of her home....her business is coming into her home, which is fine but if we have three additional dogs, plus hers and then I start...l...that line becomes blurred for me a little bit because than it becomes...

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JESSICA DUPERE: Excuse me...

JIM SMITH: No...it...it's strictly the Board at this point.

JESSICA DUPERE: Oh.

JACKIE BENARD: So...that's why I just...I want to be clear so that maybe I don't overlook some of the impact with more than the three dogs because there are...which is great that people own...l know several neighbors even around myself that I have two dogs or three dogs and they own them and love them and treat them like their family members, but the business side of me...I just want to make sure that maybe...that's...the lines are really not blurred there.

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Well, having grown up with three dogs for almost my whole life in New York, in the city, dogs can be trained to do just about anything and being quiet is one of the toughest ones, but it's totally possible. My neighbors do it. I don't own a dog now but I know that my neighbors do it, keep their dogs well controlled. Now I don't see any point in...I would make a restriction that it would be...

JACKIE BENARD: Okay

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: ...on this approval...that it be limited to no more than three dogs on the premises at a time.

JIM SMITH: Neil, did you figure how many...how much acreage is on this house?
NEIL DUNN: Acreage?
JAMES SMITH: Yeah.

NEIL DUNN: No, I did not.
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: I was wondering that myself. Is it two acres? Did they want horses instead?
JIM SMITH: No, you need two acres to have a kennel.
[Indistinct]

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: You know, it may be easier to ask the applicant if they know...how...what size their lot is...

GENTLEMAN WITH JACKIE BENARD: 1.2.
JAMES SMITH: Okay.

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Thank you.

JIM SMITH: So for our regulations, they could not have a kennel on this lot.

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Per our regulations also...not this particular one...they could have five dogs in their house. JIM SMITH: No.

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Sure they can...if...if they own them.

JAMES SMITH: No, if...if you have four dogs or more it's considered a kennel.
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Wait a minute....Okay....kennel being what,a professional...?
JIM SMITH: Just as a kennel.

JACKIE BENARD: Yeah.....

JAMES SMITH: "Kennel: The use of a structure for a containment of four or more dogs, that are more than six months old."

NEIL DUNN: Regardless of whether they're pets?
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Regardless of whether they're pets or not....right.

JACKIE BENARD: That's why I...I just want to...

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Okay, so four.
JACKIE BENARD: Yeah.

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: You can have four dogs in your home and it would be fine.

JIM SMITH: No, three....four or more.
JACKIE BENARD: Because as soon as you have that forth one it becomes accounted for...
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Right, that's what...that's what I just said.

JACKIE BENARD: So you can have...only have three.
JIM SMITH: No, they can't.
JACKIE BENARD: Three. You can own three.
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: I see....I see. Gotcha.

JACKIE BENARD: Okay.

JIM SMITH: So a kennel couldn't be...you couldn't have a kennel on this piece of property.

## LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Mm-hmm

JIM SMITH: Which means the most you can have is three dogs... unless they're less than six months old. Obviously if you have a litter...

JACKIE BENARD: A litter, yeah.

JIM SMITH: So three is built right into the regulations as far as the limit...
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Before you have a kennel.
JIM SMITH: Right.

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Okay.
JIM SMITH: But they need two acres to have a kennel. If you have less than two acres...
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: They'll never get a kennel.

JAMES SMITH: Right. Without a variance.
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: There's always an exception.
JIM SMITH: Yeah.
[Laughter]

JIM SMITH: Okay, having said that....
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: What is your take on it? You have heard the rest of us. See I'm thinking restrictions, no unattended dogs outside...that's huge I think.

JIM SMITH: Okay, well there's two parts to this. What she is asking for, I have no real problem with. The seven employees tells me that she's running a business in her office...I don't know. And when I questioned her she said she didn't discuss this with Richard. I think they should probably have a special exception for that office to run the business, as separate from this case.

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Why? The employees never show up. There's no sign...

JAYE TROTTIER: I know that Richard does not consider and office to be...he doesn't distinguish between personal use for an office and a business use for an office.

JIM SMITH: Okay, good.

JAYE TROTTIER: If it's just an office...

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Yeah.
JAYE TROTTIER: Nobody coming to the house...
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: [indistinct]

JAYE TROTTIER: ...no deliveries...than it's...

JIM SMITH: Okay, that clarifies that one. Good. Okay now we are back to the basic case. Now I have no real objection to it. I...having three dogs there is typical of a residential neighborhood in this town. I know for a fact that my own neighborhood there's a woman that she's walking different dogs, I suspect that she's...something similar to what you're doing...

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Mm-hmm.

JAMES SMITH: Rescue dogs...takes them for a short time. Walks them. You see her walking them in the neighborhood, and nobody has raised any objection to that activity...so...

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: We have it in my neighborhood.

JIM SMITH: Yeah, so having said that, I will entertain a motion, if there's no other comments.
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Alright, how about...let's talk about the restrictions...okay.
JIM SMITH: Okay

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: One of the things that I would like to put in there...you're smiling at me....
[Laughter]
NEIL DUNN: It could be your last...it could be your last....
[Laughter]
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: It is, yeah, as a matter of fact....In this, Jackie's also open for discussion, that we have no unattended dogs outside. Now...what I see as an unattended dog is a dog that doesn't have a human being nearby, as opposed to a dog that's on a leash or on a rope or something along those lines, outside by itself. Ok? So, that means there has to be a human nearby. I'm making that definition clear because that's what I would like to put as a restriction; that there needs to be a human nearby, but we can't leave it unattended. Then we have a...

JIM SMITH: In other words, within that fenced in area the dog has to have a human being there...

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Whether it's inside the fenced area or not.
JIM SMITH: Yeah.
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: I don't think that fenced-in area is there just for the dogs.
JIM SMITH: Yeah, it's too elaborate.

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: But I think it's key for that neighbors that the dogs be attended, to be able to prevent what they are worried about. So if they saw the dogs outside by themselves, they'd be able to call their neighbors and say, 'are the dogs outside by themselves?' or to get off on the right foot I guess say, 'ok, we've got two dogs, would you be able to watch them from time to time or take them, you know when I go on vacation.' So as far as I'm concerned, this is a good services for that neighborhood too.

JIM SMITH: Well I don't think....I don't think it's that kind of a service.
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: In-home sitting...
JIM SMITH: Yeah, but she's saying she takes them for a weekend or...
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Are you going on vacation? I could drop the the dogs off for $\$ 48$ a day or whatever it was...
[Chuckling]
JIM SMITH: Okay.
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: No more than three dogs on the property at a time.
JIM SMITH: Okay.
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: So I have those two restrictions, if you have any others that you'd want, now's the time.
NEIL DUNN: Help me with the 'unattended.' I have a dog and I let it go outside to go do whatever it needs to do and I would have to go outside with it on a cold, eleven o'clock at night in my pajamas? Is that what you're asking?

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: You probably do what I do when I'm watching the grand puppy...you stand there at the door and you watch him.
[Chuckling]

NEIL DUNN: Okay, I'm getting back to the unattended and it sounded like they had to be out in the yard and if they have a big fenced in area, is being in the house being attended, I guess. Or do they....or are the neighbors going to say hey they weren't physically out there and we are going to have....again, just because you were being so descriptive about the 'unattended'...I agree someone needs to be on the property at all times if they are fostering or siting...I mean my dog stays home alone...

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: You let your dog outside and close your door and let him freeze his own legs off so...

NEIL DUNN: He barks when he wants to come back in...
[Laughter]
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: He barks when he's ready...right?

NEIL DUNN: Well...all I was saying was that you were referring to someone...the dog being attended. It sounded like you wanted somebody physically in the back yard with them and I...I'm looking for clarification because for me, that's a little bit more of a stretch than....someone needing to be home if the dogs are out.

JIM SMITH: Well....well...

NEIL DUNN: If you have a big fenced in yard it's a summer day and you want to let them outdoors in the yard...
JIM SMITH: I think what we're talking about, you're talking about your dog, which is the family pet whose familiar with the thing, you know dog is going to stay within the area...

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: It's kind of routine.
JIM SMITH: We....we're....you're talking about various dogs, which are not normally housed at that location. Yes, I think the person needs to be out there with them.

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: There's a responsibility...
JIM SMITH: Because it's a different scenario...

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: It's also much...I think...more serious and more responsibility since it's a profession. You're watching the dog, you know...

JIM SMITH: Yeah, and see the, other problem that you have; if it's not within a fenced area and they run someplace else, where is the dog going to end up?

NEIL DUNN: No, no...

JIM SMITH: It could take off.

NEIL DUNN: But because of the fenced in area, is the reason I'm saying that. I mean otherwise yes you...it should be leashed....

JIM SMITH: Yeah.

NEIL DUNN: Or someone out there with them, but because it is so well fenced in, I don't know l....I'm just looking for clarification.

JAMES SMITH: I think somebody needs to be out there with the dog, in this scenario, versus your personal pet who you know. Where that dog will go and how far it will go and it's, you know, I know neighbors that have those invisible fence type things, and the dogs train with those collars and so forth. You understand the dog is restricted by that fence.

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Yeah, but these are just visiting puppies so...
JIM SMITH: These are dogs that are there for anywhere from a few days to a week....it....

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Or a few.

JIM SMITH: Also, one of the things...one of the things she described was a lot of these dogs potentially could be elderly or...so they probably need to be supervised more from a physical point of view as far as their own wellbeing.

NEIL DUNN: Okay, so will her own pet get her in trouble...them in trouble? I don't mean to...if they let that happen. Again, only because we are trying to be so focused and I appreciate that...

JIM SMITH: I think that's going to be...an unattended consequence.

NEIL DUNN: Okay, again...again...
JIM SMITH: Because how is the neighbor going to differentiate between her dog and another dog?
NEIL DUNN: That's why I was wondering if we were looking at that fenced in area as someone being home, but again I'm just bringing that for part of the discussion for your motion so I wasn't...

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Okay, how you clarify it then?

NEIL DUNN: My thought is if someone is home and...
JIM SMITH: Yeah, I don't think that's enough.
NEIL DUNN: I mean, I don't know. If there are dogs there and they have a great fenced in area and there...there looking after them because it is a business or they're...they need some kind of special care, they will be keeping an eye on them. It's a beautiful summer day and you have your windows open and your cooking or something and you let the dogs run out in the back fenced in area...l...

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JACKIE BENARD: Well, she did mention that when she goes that's what the crates are for.
NEIL DUNN: No, right....exactly.

JACKIE BENARD: And she does not leave them unattended.
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: I wrote down 'Not left outside on their own.'

JACKIE BENARD: Yeah. So...

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: That's exactly what she said.
NEIL DUNN: Okay.
JACKIE BENARD: Yeah.

JIM SMITH: So our interpretation is the restriction would be that someone who physically has to be out with the dog if they're outside.

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: So no unattended dogs outside is not sufficient, or is it?
JIM SMITH: Yeah, I think so.
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Okay.
JAMES SMITH: That's the way I would...
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: You alright with that now, too?
NEIL DUNN: I'm just saying...to me...I was just looking for...
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Okay, so you're...

JAMES SMITH: That's the trouble with the English language, and you're trying to put it down on paper. What you intend and what somebody reads on the other end may or may not be the same thing.

LARRY O'SULLIVAN: You all set with that too, Jackie?
JACKIE BENARD: I'm okay with that.
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: Those restrictions that...

JACKIE BENARD: I'm okay with that.

JAMES SMITH: Yeah.
LARRY O'SULLIVAN: I make a motion to approve special exception 12/18/2013-1 with the following restrictions: that no more than three dogs be on the property at a time, and that no unattended dogs will be left outside. And yes, it is up to the neighbors. You know, we have a.... probably 15 special exceptions a year that we do here on this Board and it is people who want to have small businesses in their houses that, because we don't have the manpower to, as a town, to monitor...and we require the responsibility of the property owners that are nearby be increased. It's the cost of vigilance and the cost of the way the town wants to be. Our Master Plan promotes small business' and home offices, home businesses, how daycare and...

NEIL DUNN: Did you get a second Mr. Chairman?

JAMES SMITH: What?
NEIL DUNN: Did you get a second?
JACKIE BENARD: I'll second.

NEIL DUNN: Oh, you did. Okay I just wanted to make sure.
JIM SMITH: Just for everybody's...information...Jackie is a voting alternate because we don't have anybody else at this point.
[Laughter]
Clerk Dunn read the voting results into the record. The request was granted with restrictions.
RESULT: THE MOTION TO GRANT CASE NO. 12/18/2013-1 WITH RESTRICITONS WAS APPROVED, 4-0-0.
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,


NEIL DUNN, CLERK
TYPED AND TRANSCRIBED BY KIRBY WADE, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

APPROVED MARCH 19, 2014 WITH A MOTION MADE BY NEIL DUNN, SECONDED BY JACKIE BENARD AND APPROVED, 3-0-1 WITH DAVID PAQUETTE ABSTAINING AS HE DID NOT ATTEND THE MEETING.

