

The meeting was called to order at 6:28 p.m., by Chairman, Sherry Berger. Also in attendance were; member, Richard Desjardins; member, Al Holman and Asst. P.H.S., Diane Tiernan.

Chairman, Sherry Berger opened the public hearing at 6:34 p.m. Tonight's hearing was originally scheduled for October 11, 2012, but was cancelled and moved to this evening.

Cindy and Walter Ramsey requested the hearing to review a variance request for a large animal at 13 Grove Street.

Sherry stated that she is aware that our Animal Control Officer inspected the property and found no issues other than a concern that the owners comply with manure management.

Neighbor, Paula Foley, 11 Grove Street stated that she could vouch for the Ramsey's, they are great people and she is confident there will be no problems with the horse. Sherry asked what type of fence they would be installing for the pasture area. Walter stated that eventually they want to install a post and rail, but for now, they will do an electric fence. Board reviewed a plan showing the layout of the Ramsey's property.

Abutter, James Maloney, 10 North Main St., stated he is concerned with how much land will be available for the horse. He experienced a very negative issue with oxen that resided at 14 North Main Street and doesn't want to go through it again.

Walter showed the Board where the wetlands are on his property and where he will be building a roofed compost area for the manure. If there is any odor, he will lime it. James wants to know if the manure regulations will be enforced, he owns 5 buildings in town and doesn't want to deal with the smell and bugs. Walter stated he would keep the manure cleaned up daily, it is in their windows as well. James stated he expected a written plan of action and drawings and was surprised that none were submitted.

Neighbor, Al Fales of Grove Street, stated that the Ramsey's are outstanding people. Their property is kept up, you couldn't ask for better neighbors – they will play by the rules.

Al stated the Large Animal regulations were created because we had nothing, we did not want to be overbearing with regulations, but we needed something. Al stated with the lay of the Ramsey's property; it doesn't abut the stream, he is confident that they will keep it clean.

Sherry asked Walter and Cindy if they would include on the plan of land, the location of where the compost area will be, and to give us a written plan of what they will do with the composted manure; whether it's to put it on a local garden or deliver it somewhere. Cindy agreed.

Walter stated they would be getting the horse on November 10th.

James Maloney stated he was concerned with someone else moving to the property and having another large animal, such as an ox. Board stated the permit is not transferable. A new owner would have to apply for a variance as well.

Cindy submitted to the Board at this time, a written plan for manure management and an updated plan showing the manure compost area.

Motion one – Richard made a motion to grant a large animal permit to Cynthia and Walter Ramsey at 13 Grove Street, for one large animal, subject to bi-yearly inspections and compliance with the manure management as described within the large animal application. Because this property is under an acre, an inspection will be made twice a year of the property. Al seconded the motion, and Sherry made the motion unanimous.

Sherry informed Walter and Cindy that if things go awry, the permit could be revoked. Cindy and Walter stated they understood.

7:04 p.m., Sherry made a motion to close the hearing, Al seconded the motion, and Richard made the motion unanimous. Hearing was closed.

Vouchers were reviewed and signed.

7:24 p.m., Sherry made a motion to adjourn and Al seconded the motion. Richard made the motion unanimous. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Tiernan, Asst. PHS