

2-14-2013 PUBLIC HEARING ON APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL USE PERMIT - CAT SHELTER

Present:

Councilman Cheryl L. Earl
Councilman David L. Montgomery
Councilman Douglas J. Morrell
Supervisor Mary L. Hannon

Absent:

Councilman Daniel L. Miller

Also Present:

Attorney for the Town Linda Joseph
Town Clerk Betsy A. Marsh
Approx. 20 guests

The Sardinia Town Board held a Public Hearing on February 14, 2013 at the Town Hall/Community Center, for the purpose of hearing comments on a Special Use Permit application by Dawn Place for the proposed construction of a building to house a cat rescue facility on Rt. 16 near Dutchtown Rd. on property she owns. The property will be operated by a not-for-profit organization named "A Place for Cats". The Supervisor called the hearing to order at 5:45 PM, with the Pledge to the Flag.

The Supervisor explained that this Special Use Permit has been recommended for approval by the Town Planning Board with the following conditions:

- Shall be operated as a cat rescue shelter and the maximum number of cats that may be kept on the premises at any one time shall not exceed 40 cats;
- The Special Use Permit shall not run with the land and upon the sale or transfer of title to the premises, the permits shall expire;
- The property owner obtaining all permits and approvals required under the Town's Zoning Ordinance and/or State law.

The Supervisor then opened the floor to comments from the public.

Tammy Ralph of South Protection Rd. asked where exactly the facility will be located. She was invited to the front table to look at the map of the area with the property in question outlined. The applicant explained that the property will front on Rt. 16 and there will be no access from South Protection Rd. Ms. Ralph then asked if it is true that they will also be selling pet supplies, and asked what the hours of operation will be. The applicant answered that they will be selling items such as cat pans, cat treats, and cat trees, etc., and have not yet set hours of operation. Ms. Ralph stated that she feels any business across the street from her house would effect her property value.

Roberta Murray of South Protection Rd. stated she butts up against the property. She asked if there would be inspections by the NYS State Dept. of Ag & Markets; if they would be providing veterinary care, and how they are going to handle waste disposal. She also asked if they would be totally enclosed, if the property is zoned commercial, and if the cats are all domestics or if there will be feral cats, also. The applicant stated this will be an adoption facility.

Sheila Vrenna of Savage Rd. stated she is in support of the shelter, stating that cats are continually being dropped off in her neighborhood and it would be nice to have a place to take them and not have to adopt them herself, or have to ask her neighbors to care for them.

The applicant, Dawn Place, stated she would like to answer Ms. Murray's questions. Attorney Joseph answered the commercial zoning question, stating that the special use permit is for that purpose. Ms. Place stated that they will be providing vet care for the cast, including spay and neutering, the 1st shots, feline leukemia testing after the animal is 12 weeks old, and flea and worm treatment. She stated the waste will be thrown in a dumpster or whatever is allowed, but will not be disposed of outside on the premises. She stated the facility will be monitored through NY State Ag & Markets and there are usually no set schedule of inspections, rather they just do unscheduled surprise inspections. Ms. Place stated they have an attorney that will be counseling them on legal matters. Ms. Place also stated that the organization has been helping older people who either don't drive or cannot afford veterinary care by driving them and their cats to a vet's offices, and helping to pay for the care if they cannot afford it.

The Clerk received 1 written letter of support of the permit approval, and had two verbal comments, both in support of the proposal.

The Supervisor then asked three times if there were any further questions from the floor. There were none. Therefore, on a motion by Earl, seconded by Montgomery, the hearing was adjourned at 5:55 PM. Carried, 4 ayes, 1 absent, 0 noes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Town Clerk