JAMIE WHITEHOUSE, AICP DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & ZONING (302) 855-7878 T (302) 854-5079 F jamie.whitehouse@sussexcountyde.gov





PLEASE NOTE

This paperless packet is published on the County's website for convenience purposes, and only includes information received up to the close of business on the day before a public hearing. Documents received after this, or documents submitted during the public hearing are not uploaded to the Paperless Packet. The legal record is the paper record maintained in the Offices of the Planning & Zoning Department.



November 2, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

I hereby voice my opposition to the proposed Fiberglass Repair business on Dirickson Road.

It is my understanding that Dirickson Creek is one of the most important yet most highly impaired tributaries of the Inland Bays.

I lived on Dirickson Creek Rd from 1996-2019. I still own property there. On the premise of "a picture tells a thousand words," I am inserting the below photos for your consideration.

The property in question is subject to severe flooding. The current owner has brought in truck loads of sand, but the reason why that property was on the market for so long is due to its propensity to flood.

If it were to flood while someone was operating a fiberglass repair business, all the chemicals would go right into Dirickson Creek.

Many chemicals that make up fiberglass and associated processes are "forever chemicals" that are created specifically not to break down. These would be contaminants of high concern in Dirickson Creek, which is already highly impaired.

Dirickson Creek Rd still does not have County Sewer. That means that any wastewater from the property owner, which is waterfront on Dirickson Creek, would potentially leach into the Creek and into the very shallow groundwater reserves.

Please take a look at these photos taken in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, just about exactly 10 years ago today.

Then ask yourselves: do you really think this is a smart move, to re-zone this land in a sensitive environmental area with no public sewer? Common sense says "NO."

I am against the re-zoning of this land.

Sincerely,

Ann F Hobbs

11158 Signature Blvd Selbyville

hobbsnoon@hotmail.com



This is looking from the road (in hip waders) towards Dirickson Creek Rd on that parcel of land.



The red X is where I was standing when I took the first photo.



This shows how the flood actually came from the Creek, flooded that parcel, and continued across the road to the other side and the land on the other side.



This is the road. My family sheltered in place because I did not own a 4WD at the time. The water was so deep you needed hip waders to walk on the road.



A view from the road where the parcel is located facing due East, to the end of the road. It shows that there was no major flooding anywhere on the road but the flooding that overcame that parcel.



A view from the same spot looking due West



The view of that parcel. The entire parcel was submerged.



This shows all the debris left behind after the floodwaters receded. Anything on that land that flooded that could be considered "pollution" was spread everywhere, into multiple people's yards.

Jamie Whitehouse

From:

Jenifer Adams-Mitchell < jadatchell@gmail.com>

Sent:

Wednesday, October 26, 2022 8:45 PM

To:

Jamie Whitehouse

Subject:

Opposed to C/U 2329 Thomas Drgon Trustee

Attachments:

property proximity.jpg



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Regarding C/U 2329 Thomas Drgon Trustee, 37230 Dirickson Creek Road

Dear Mr. Whitehouse,

We are writing to express our deepest concerns with our neighbor's conditional use permit request and to ask that it be denied.

Our property located at 36187 Cookie Lane is adjacent to the property under consideration located at 37230 Dirickson Creek Road. While Mr. Drgon's property is 6.20 acres, he is constructing his 4000 square foot commercial steel building a mere 30 yards from our back deck.

He is requesting a conditional use permit to allow him to operate a commercial boat restoration business. "Boat restoration" is a nice term for fiberglass repair. Mr. Drgon currently runs a fiberglass boat repair business in a commercial area in Rehoboth: All-Ways Fiberglass Boat Works located at 37617 Row Boat Ln #1521, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971

A fiberglass boat repair business should not be allowed in a residential neighborhood for a number of reasons:

- *Noise—Repairing fiberglass requires the old, damaged fiberglass be removed. Old fiberglass can only be removed by grinding it off or cutting it out. Newly applied fiberglass must be sanded over, and over. Grinding, cutting, sanding, vaccuuming—this type of constant noise does not belong in a quiet residential neighborhood.
- *Toxic Byproducts—Grinding/sanding fiberglass creates toxic dust. Workers must wear protective gear, respirators, and the workspace must be properly ventilated. Safety protocols recommend wet-sweeping, as dry sweeping or any cleaning method that might disperse the dust is to be avoided.
- Silica is one component of fiberglass dust. A particle of silica dust is 100 times smaller than a grain of sand, making it easy to inhale, and difficult for the body's natural defense to prevent penetrating deep into the lungs and causing permanent damage. The long-term effects of the inhalation of fiberglass dust particles include breathing difficulties, asthma and decreased lung function.

Finally, fiberglass dust is flammable and is prone to ignite easily. A concentration of fiberglass dust can ignite so fast that it creates an explosion. In 2003, an explosion in a Kentucky fiberglass factory killed 7 workers and injured 26. Investigators found that the explosion was fueled by resin dust accumulated in a production area.

- *Odor—Repairing fiberglass requires the use of many toxic chemicals that smell horrible and are dangerous if inhaled. Workers again have to wear protective gear and work in a ventilated area.
- *Toxic Chemicals—Nearly every step of fiberglass repair requires the use of toxic chemicals. According to Fiberglass Supply Depot, exposure can cause shortness of breath, chest tightness, rash, headaches, dizziness, nausea, and damage to the lungs and nervous system. These chemicals should not be used in a

residential area in which all residents are on well-water systems. In addition, Mr. Drgon's property drains to Little Assawoman Bay.

These aspects of a boat repair business do not qualify it as "light commercial." Residents on this street purchased their properties because of the peacefulness of the area. Dirickson Creek Road is made up of single family homes. These are families with children, retired people, and a number of residents that work in the area. Although zoned agriculture, there is no actual agriculture on the street at this time. There is only one on-site business which is a bed & breakfast. The street is very quiet and most of the houses on the south side are on a tidal creek, while many of the houses on the north side back up to the Assawoman Wildlife Area.

If allowed, this business, with its ear shattering sounds and toxic fumes and dust located only 30 yards from our house, will most definitely drop the value of our property—substantially. Nobody wants to live next to a fiberglass repair business where they have to wear a ventilator while sitting on their back deck. And having an industrial type business on a quiet residential street will bring down all our neighbors' property values as well.

Dirickson Creek Road is not the place for this business. We strongly oppose this conditional use permit.

We appreciate your time and consideration. Sincerely,
Walter Mitchell
Jenifer Adams-Mitchell

PS - we've attached a photo which shows how close he is building his commercial building to our deck.

Jamie Whitehouse

From:

Theresa Stevens <terri.stevens@outlook.com>

Sent:

Monday, October 31, 2022 3:08 PM

To:

Jamie Whitehouse

Subject:

Letter in OPPOSITION to Application C/U 2329

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links, open attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Contact the IT Helpdesk if you need assistance.

RE: Letter in OPPOSITION to Application C/U 2329 submitted by Thomas Drgon Trustee For Boat Restoration Business at Property located at 37230 Dirickson Creek Road, Frankford DE: Tax Parcel 134-21.00-14.07

Dear members of the Planning and Zoning Commission,

I am a property owner within 200 feet of the subject site. Having received a notice of upcoming public hearing before the Planning and Zoning Commission (hereinafter the "Commission"), I wish to notify the Commission that I am OPPOSED to this conditional use. Such a Conditional Use will substantially and adversely impact the uses of all adjacent and neighboring properties. The requested Conditional Use lies far outside any uses, special uses, any conditional uses, or even accessory uses as contemplated by any of sections 115 of Article XXVIII of the Code regulating Administration and Enforcement of Permits.

Further, I herein request that the Commission recommend to the Sussex County Council that they DENY the application because the operation of this business WILL have a negative impact on the physical, economic and social environment of my property as well as all surrounding properties on Dirickson Creek Road – as further explained below.

1. Negative Social Environment Impact

Dirickson Creek Road is a secluded, quiet dead-end street with all developed land being residential properties - mostly single families with small children and/or pets, with 1 short-term rental residential property. I personally looked for a suitable property for more than 2 years before finding Dirickson Creek Road. I bought here particularly due to its quiet nature, with very large, spread out lots and the low traffic nature of a deadend street, so that my dogs and I could walk down the street without concern of high traffic. Additionally, the fact that Camp Barnes backs up to Dirickson Creek, with its vast undeveloped property brining wild birds and wild-life adds to the beauty of our street. Most of my neighbors enjoy walking up and down this street, alone or with their children and/or dogs for the same reasons. The properties that are not yet developed are small acreage lots that have no agricultural businesses currently operating on them, and will most likely be developed (if at all) for residential purposes. It is clear that the Dirickson Creek property owners, including myself, want to protect the quiet enjoyment of our property. As further evidence, I understand that certain Dirickson Creek owners have previously opposed applications for special exceptions even for uses as occasional wedding or party venues. Allowing a Boat Restoration Business will absolutely destroy and disrupt the quiet enjoyment and social environment of our properties. This business will bring significant traffic, endless loud noise and a total disruption of our quiet nature-filled street. The Conditional Use WILL alter the essential character of the neighborhood in which this property is located and WILL be detrimental to the public welfare.

2. Negative Physical Impact

Boat Restoration Businesses are known to use huge amounts of highly toxic chemicals spreading odors and high levels of dust containing known hazardous particulates. Some of the chemicals used by this type of business include, but is not limited to gas; diesel; motor oil; anti-freeze, cleaners, paints, Styrene monomer; organic peroxide - the most common is methyl ethyl ketone peroxide; Cobalt compounds; and Acetone. These chemicals are toxic, noxious, and several are carcinogens. Exposure to which causes damage to the skin, lungs, nervous systems, among others. Even workers at these businesses must wear full protective gear including respirators – yet as a neighbor I and my dogs would be exposed regularly, constantly to these same toxic chemicals without any protective gear.

Additionally, there would be a tremendous amount of water runoff from the power washing and cleaning operation that would send these chemicals to seep into the ground or runoff into Dirickson Creek. This property has routinely flooded during high water events and continues to do so in the areas on this property that were not recently backfilled. Such an operation would have a significant detrimental physical impact on the health of our residents.

3. Negative Economic Impact

A Boat Restoration Business will devastate our property values. AS stated above, we are a quiet residential street. It is unacceptable to have dust particles from a Boat Restoration Business settling on the exterior and interior of our homes and yards. It is equally unacceptable to have polluted water runoff spewing from such an operation penetrating our ground water and lands where wildlife and fowl currently abound. This is would immediately and permanently cause a reduced property value and may make it impossible for me to ever sell my property. Thus, such a business will have a significant economic impact, and would NOT be a great selling point for our community nor a safe, healthy and tranquil environment for our residents.

Lastly, this Boat Restoration Business is NOT desirable nor essential for the general convenience and welfare of the public and therefore does not rise to the level of requiring allowance by the Commission or County Council. Thus, for the reasons stated above, I hereby OPPOSE this application and REQUEST that the Commission recommend DENIAL by the County Council.

Respectfully submitted, Theresa M Stevens 37292 Dirickson Creek Road Frankford DE 19945

Lauren DeVore

From:

Planning and Zoning

Sent:

Monday, October 31, 2022 2:15 PM

To:

Lauren DeVore

Subject:

FW: Rezoning - Boat Restoration on Dirickson Creek located at 37230 Dirickson Creek

Rd.

Below email has been added to the paper file but has not been scanned in to the electronic file.

Thank you,

Christin Scott

Planner II
Department of Planning & Zoning
2 the Circle

Georgetown, DE 19947

Christin Scott

(302) 855-7878 8:30AM - 4:30PM

Much of the County's Planning and Zoning Information can be found online at: https://sussexcountyde.gov/sussex-county-mapping-applications

From: gloria222222@aol.com <gloria222222@aol.com>

Sent: Monday, October 31, 2022 2:04 PM

To: Planning and Zoning <pandz@sussexcountyde.gov>

Subject: Rezoning - Boat Restoration on Dirickson Creek located at 37230 Dirickson Creek Rd.

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My name is Gloria F. Merryman and back in the mid 1980's my late husband, John Merryman, III and I bought the property called Dirickson Cove. I still have 2 lots there. If you look at the aerial photos the area was undeveloped. It was our quest to be able to keep the area, quiet, a place where future homeowners would have an idyllic property to enjoy with family and friends; create memories.

With the explosion of over development in Sussex County these pockets of properties are very much appreciated by the residents. Dirickson Creek Rd. is a quiet residential road. It is a dead end street. This is how it should stay; we would like to preserve it that way.

We want our water to stay clean as well as the air. To change the zoning in this area would be for all the wrong reasons.

I will be at the meeting on Wednesday.

Thank you.

Gloria

Elliott Young

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From:

niceman512000 < niceman512000@yahoo.com>

Sent:

Thursday, October 27, 2022 10:01 AM

To:

Planning and Zoning

Subject:

Boat restoration business on dirickson creek road 19945

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I live at 37453 dirickson creek rd. My name is Henry Altevogt. I oppose the proposed boat restoration business on dirickson creek road. This business with its chemical use will destroy our wells and the air we breath. This business needs to be in an industrial zone. Also the owners of the property never, never cleaned the soil they brought for fill out of the street , not very responsible people.

RECEIVED

OCT 27 2022

SUSSEX COUNTY PLANNING & ZONING

> Opposition Exhibit

1

SWEET MEADOWS RIDING ACADEMY

CASE NO. CU 2331



OWNER:

SHELLY LYNN WRIGHT 37033 SWEET MEADOW LANE SELBYVILLE, DE 19975

DEVELOPER:

SHELLY LYNN WRIGHT 37033 SWEET MEADOW LANE SELBYVILLE, DE 19975

PENNONI

18072 DAVIDSON DRIVE MILTON, DE 19968 MARK H. DAVIDSON, PRINCIPAL LAND PLANNER ALAN DECKTOR, PE., ENV SP JOHN W. HAUPT, PLS

ENVIRONMENTAL:

PENNONI

MARC CHARTIER, PG, LSRP JOHN-THOMAS GRAUPENSPERGER, PWS

ACCENT ENVIRONMENTAL

WILLIAM J. GANGLOFF, PhD. PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTIST

THE VISION FOR SWEET MEADOW STABLES

Goal

1, Shelly Wright own Sweet Meadow Stable and am seeking a conditional use permit to add overnight accommodations to my current riding academy. The stable aims to provide small cabins and seasonal non-permanent structures to enable students to experience sleepaway horse camps, lessons, clinics and various other farm related activities to the public. The stable is 6.4 miles from Fenwick Island and our client base is made up of visiting tourists, local residents and various organizations seeking horse and farm related activities.

About

My passion is bringing animals and people together for an educational and unforgettable farm experience. We currently offer guided tours and explain the history of the farm not only as a riding academy but also as a horse rescue with over 30 horses saved from human consumption in the past 20 years. The stable uses "horse whispering" which is a non-traditional philosophy of working with horses based on the horse's natural instincts and methods of communication instead of traditional force. This niche has made our lesson program very popular with students and visitors alike who travel from all over the northeast to partake in these unique horse lessons. Being able to stay on-site adds to the unique opportunity to wake up and experience farm life as it's happening, partake in daily chores, offer overnight horse camps, host educational clinics or simply introduce farm life to ordinary people. Horse owners visiting the area will be able to "bring their horse to the beach" enabling them to utilize the farm's boarding, lessons and overnight accommodations in addition to exploring and riding at nearby state parks and trails.

Sweet Meadow Stable has also worked with the Developmental Disabilities of Worcester County in providing disabled, special needs and at-risk youth with horse lessons and farm experiences. We hope to expand our offerings to allow these types of organizations the opportunity to utilize our overnight accommodations for various enrichment programs.

Summary

Sweet Meadow Stable is seeking a conditional use permit to allow overnight accommodations and associated farm related activities so that I may continue to grow and serve our community. I believe this is an excellent way to allow persons of all backgrounds to experience the richness of agritourism and to provide them with lifelong memories and time spent in a thoughtful and meaningful way.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

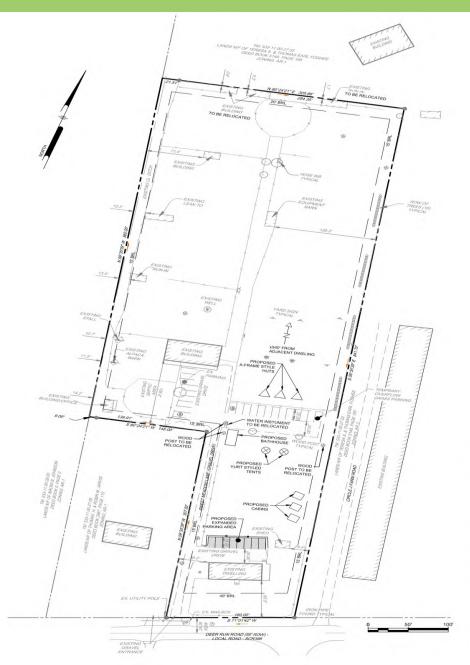
SWEET MEADOWS RIDING ACADEMY C/U #2331



2022 GOOGLE AERIAL



CONDITIONAL USE SITE PLAN



BEFORE THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT OF SUSSEX COUNTY

IN RE: SHELLEY WRIGHT

Case No. 8287 - 2003

A hearing was held after due notice on August 18, 2003. The Board members present were: Mr. Callaway, Mr. McCabe, Mr. Mills, Mr. Workman and Mr. Hudson.

Nature of the Proceedings

This is an application for a special use exception for a riding academy.

Finding of Facts

The Board found that the Applicant was seeking a special use exception to establish a riding academy on a parcel north of Road 388, 232 feet east of Road 390A. After a hearing, the Board made the following findings of fact:

- The Applicant wishes to establish a riding academy, and will board horses and teach equestrian skills
- The Applicant proposes to build a dwelling with an attached stable.
- The parcel contains more than 5 acres. One adjacent property is vacant and the other has a poultry house.
- No persons appeared in opposition.

The Board granted the special use exception for a period of five years, finding that it would not substantially affect adversely the uses of neighboring and surrounding properties.

Decision of the Board

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the application was granted. The Board members voting in favor were: Mr. Callaway, Mr. McCabe, Mr. Mills, Mr. Workman and Mr. Hudson; voting against - none.

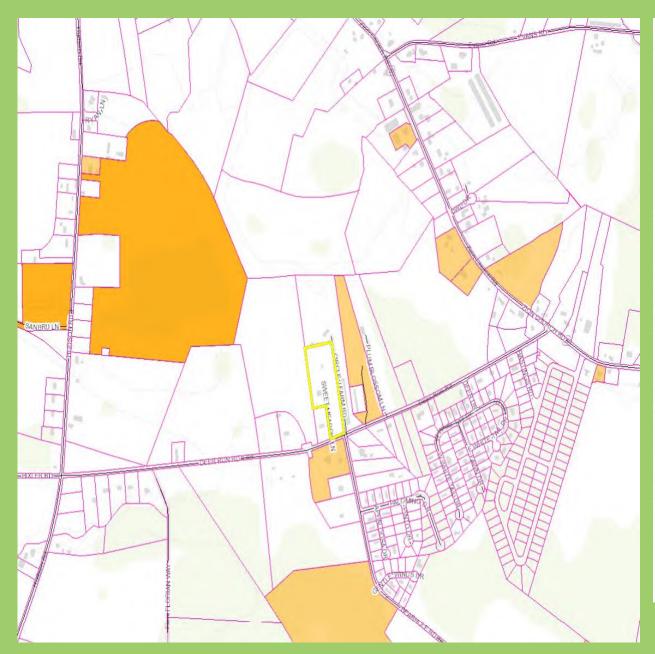
BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT OF SUSSEX COUNTY

Dale Callaway Chairman



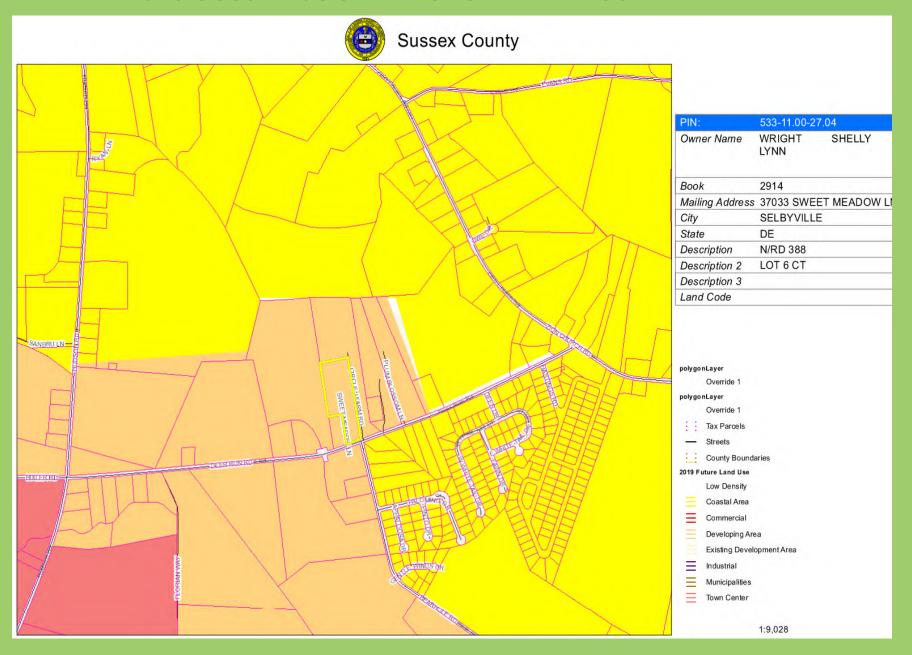
SUSSEX COUNTY CONDITIONAL USE MAP

SUSSEX COUNTY ZONING MAP





2019 SUSSEX COUNTY FUTURE LAND USE MAP





2020 STATE STRATEGIES MAP



TYPICAL OVERNIGHT ACCOMODATIONS — ILLUSTRATIVE ONLY















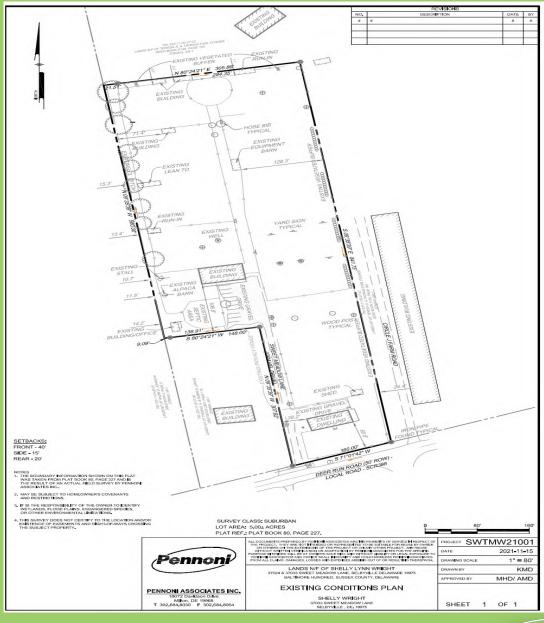












EXISITNG CONDITIONS SURVEY



NOV 1 2022

11-1-22

MEMBERS OF PLANNING AND ZONING

SUSSEX COUNTY PLANNING & ZONING

C/U 2331 Sweet Meadows Riding Academy

My name is Thomas Edward Cassat and I live at 37035 Bearhole Rd Selbyville Delaware, almost across from Sweet Meadows farm .

Planning and Zoning is well aware of the growth in Sussex county and the growth in southern Sussex county area. I am asking planning and zoning to table this matter for further study.

Dearrun Road is extremely busy for a small country road; putting more traffic stopping and turning one hundred feet within the intersection of Bearhole Road, creates concern.

I'am asking Planning and Zoning to commission a traffic impact study , to assess current and future impacts.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Respectfully Submitted Thomas E. Cassat.

There's a public hearing request in your area

Sussex County Planning and Zoning Commission Public Hearing

When: November 3, 2022, 5:00 p.m. Sussex County Council Public Hearing **When:** January 10, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

Where: County Council Chambers 2 The Circle, PO Box 417 Georgetown, DE

You're invited to a Public Hearing Learn more and share your opinion

Please note: Agendas may change due to unforeseen circumstances. Before attending the meeting, please review the agenda on our website at

www.sussexcountyde.gov. The agenda is available one week before the meeting. \$3509 R101





RECEIVED

SUSSEX COUNTY PLANNING & ZONING

CASSAT THOMAS E PATRICIA A CASSAT 37035 BEARHOLE RD SELBYVILLE, DE 19975

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE FOR PLANNING & ZOMNO COMMISSION

NOTICE: PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Sussex County-

This card is to notify all property owners within 200 feet of the subject site of an upcoming public hearing before the Planning and Zoning Commission for the following application:

C/U 2331 Sweet Meadows Riding Academy

AN ORDINANCE TO GRANT A CONDITIONAL USE OF LAND IN AN AR-1 (AGRICULTURAL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT) FOR A HORSE-RIDING ACADEMY WITH OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS AND ASSOCIATED AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES TO BE LOCATED ON A CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN BALTIMORE HUNDRED, SUSSEX COUNTY, CONTAINING 5.0 ACRES, MORE OR LESS. The property is lying on Sweet Meadow Lane on the north side of Deer Run Road (S.C.R. 388), approximately 0.5 mile southwest of Zion Church Road (Rt. 20). 911 Address: 37033 Sweet Meadow Lane, Selbyville. Tax Parcel: 533-11.00-27.04.

All persons interested shall have a reasonable opportunity to be heard. If unable to attend the public hearing, written comments will be accepted however they shall be received prior to the public hearing.

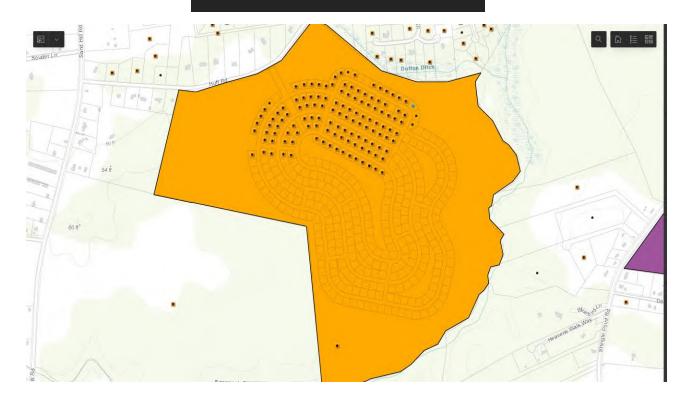
The above application is available for review in the Planning and Zoning Department, County Administrative Office Building, 2 The Circle Georgetown, DE 19947.



Planning Director: Jamie Whitehouse, AICP MRTPI | Phone: (302) 855-7878

Vines of Sandhill

Permit Status: Active Development Type: Subdivision





Developer Agreements

Building Permits 87.92% Allocated

Building Permits Issued (BP): 131

Permits w/Units: N/A
Permits w/o Units: 131

Units (U): N/A Net BP: 131

Net BP = U + Permits w/o Units

DelDOT BP Threshold: 149 Pending Applications: 1

CO's 82.55% Allocated

CO's Issued: 123

DelDOT CO Threshold: 149

DelDOT Comments: Phase 1: Must be accepted prior to the 1st CO. Phase 2: Prior to the issuance of the 150th BP the phase 2 improvements must be constructed, inspected, and accepted by DelDOT. Phase 3: Prior to the issuance of the 175th BP the phase 3 improvements shall begin. Prior to the issuance of the 225th BP the phase 3 improvements shall be constructed, inspected, and accepted by DelDOT. For phase 2 and 3 a construction agreement between the developer and the department shall be executed.

Agreement area edited on 10/28/2022, 2:00 PM by: DELDOT_OWNER

Created on: 2/9/2022, 1:50 PM

