

Jones County Board of Adjustment

Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

Members present:

Cindy Hall, Chairperson
John Hinz
Paul Thomsen
Catherine Davies (via zoom)
Nicole Stecklein

Staff present:

Michele Lubben – Land Use Administrator

Visitors present:

Megan O'Connor - 14441 Buffalo Rd., Anamosa – owner/applicant
Darrel and Sherry Child – 14431 Buffalo Rd., Anamosa
Wilma and Barry Anderson – 14269 Buffalo Rd., Anamosa
Matt Sams – 14580 Hill Ct., Anamosa
Kyle Cruse – dog owner, via zoom

Introductions of the Board of Adjustment, staff and visitors took place.

A quorum of members of the Jones County Board of Adjustment was achieved at 4:00 p.m. and Chairperson Cindy Hall called the meeting to order.

Motion by Stecklein seconded by Thomsen to approve the agenda for the meeting. All aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Thomsen seconded by Stecklein to approve the September 22, 2020 and September 24, 2020 special meeting minutes. All aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Thomsen seconded by Hinz to open the public hearing at 4:01 p.m. for owners Megan O'Connor and Mary O'Connor who have applied for a Special Permitted Use under Article XVII Kennel and Animal Shelter Requirements within the A-Agricultural District for property legally described as Parcel 2000-04 and Parcel 2000-10 generally located at 14441 Buffalo Rd., Anamosa in Section 29 of Cass Township (parcel ID 05-29-400-027 and 05-29-200-008). More specifically, the request is to house up to eight hobby conformation show dogs. All aye. Motion carried.

The Land Use Administrator noted that the Board and applicant received copies of the application, aerial map, and written report. All adjoining landowner letters were sent and received. No verbal comments were received on the application. One anonymous written letter was received on the application which

was included with the board's packet and emailed to the applicant/owner prior to the meeting. The red zoning sign was posted as required.

The owner clarified she currently owns one pet (one recently passed away). Application states to co-own no more than 6-7 dogs. There is no boarding of dogs. There is no profit or business with the dogs. Just a hobby. Most dogs are kept for showing and then go back to their owners when their career is done. No expansion in the future to house or co-own more dogs. The Land Use Administrator explained the definition of a kennel within the zoning ordinance is four or more dogs which are kept for breeding, boarding, grooming, selling, hunting, other organized sports and recreation, or training services. The Board discussed the neighboring Coonhunter's Club next door. The owner found the property this way by attending shows at the property. They have approximately seven shows a year in which approximately 10 dogs participate. The Board discussed the size requirements and setbacks for the definition of a kennel as it pertains to this property. The Land Use Administrator discussed the difference between a Special Use Permit and a Variance as it pertains to this property. The owner reviewed the requirements from Environmental Health. The Board asked the neighbors if noise or barking was an issue. The closest neighbors in proximity to the property were in attendance and indicated they did not have any complaints regarding barking or noise. The owner explained bark collars are used and a security system that is noise activated is also used. The Land Use Administrator noted that the Sheriff's office also did not receive any complaints for dogs at-large, barking or violating Chapter 9 Animal Protection and Control ordinance. The owner discussed the improvements to be made to the property. The Chairperson addressed Kyle Cruse on zoom if he had any concerns. He is the co-owner of several dogs and did not voice any concerns.

Motion by Stecklein seconded by Thomsen to close the public hearing at 4:24 p.m. All aye. Motion carried.

Discussion by the Board of Adjustment took place. The Board discussed that the closest neighbors present did not have any complaints regarding noise or barking dogs. The Board discussed being deliberate with their motion to limit the number of dogs on the property and the "use" of the property. This application fits into the personal organized sports and recreation area of the definition, it does not need as much space as a boarding, grooming, breeding, selling, or hunting type operations.

Motion by Stecklein seconded by Hinz to approve the Special Permitted Use for owners Megan O'Connor and Mary O'Connor to allow up to eight hobby conformation show dogs located at 14441 Buffalo Rd., Anamosa (parcel ID 05-29-400-027 and 05-29-200-008) for only the specific purpose of other organized sports and recreational activities. Any future changes in use or the number of animals must be approved by the Board of Adjustment with a new application.

Roll call vote:

Thomsen – Aye

Stecklein – Aye

Davies – Aye

Hinz – Aye

Hall - Aye

All aye. Motion carried.

The application is approved. The Land Use Administrator will issue the written decision to the owners by regular mail and email. The red zoning sign was returned.

The Land Use Administrator updated the Board on the repeal and replacement of the zoning ordinance which will have a public hearing on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

The Land Use Administrator distributed the meeting schedule for 2021.

Motion by Stecklein seconded by Thomsen to adjourn at 4:35 p.m. All aye. Motion carried.