

Dover Township
Zoning Hearing Board
October 4, 2018

Chairman Jane Ginter called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Members present: Steve Barkdoll, Phillip Brown, Robert Wright, and alternate Richard Pope. Absent: Jeffrey Edmonds. Also present: Assistant Zoning Officer Maureen App, Solicitor Mike Craley, Stenographer Christine Myers, Recording Secretary, and eight citizens.

I. Minutes

Motion by Wright, second by Brown, to approve the minutes of the meeting of July 18, 2018. All members voted aye; motion carried.

Mr. Craley noted that in Mr. Edmonds' absence, Mr. Pope will take part in the discussion but will not be a voting member.

II. Zoning Case

A. ZHB 18-4 – Antonia Rotelle, 5551 North Salem Church Road; Request for Special Exception for kennel in Agricultural Zone

Antonia Rotelle was present on this application. She wants to buy the property in question at 5551 North Salem Church Road. She has more than three dogs, eight right now. She and her sons show agility dogs, and because there are more than three animals, the applicants are required by the Township's ordinance to apply for the Special Exception. The dogs are never outside by themselves, the yard will be fenced with 1000 feet of fence (not in the front of the house). There will be no kennel facility or runs outside. Yes, there will be an outdoor area for the dogs to go in and out of. There will be no breeding, no boarding, no dogs other than the applicant's. There will be a maximum of ten or eleven dogs on the property at any given time. The property will be her principal residence when she purchases it. She will store her RV in the barn and do training of her own dogs in the barn as well. Other than the fence, there will be no changes to the outside appearance. There will be no sign, as there's no business or need for any sign.

Ms. Rotelle testified that her written responses to questions attached to the application are the same today as when they were filed. The dog waste will be picked up, as it is now. No employees, no business. Driveway is about 800 feet (give or take) from Salem Church Road. Onsite well and onsite septic.

From the audience, Gary Poe, adjoining neighbor, was concerned about the maximum total number of dogs. If it goes above a certain number, and they're barking, that will certainly bother Mr. Poe. Ms. App noted that there is a Township nuisance ordinance which includes barking dogs. Noise above a certain level will be enforced by the police. If the noise is too much for Mr. Poe, he should report it. Ms. Rotelle noted that her dogs do wear bark collars, as she shares Mr. Poe's dislike of barking dogs. Mr. Poe shouldn't have any trouble, she said. Mr. Craley suggested that if he does have a problem, he should speak to Ms. Rotelle first.

Dave Wolverton, 5561 Harmony Grove Road, brought up the issue of road noise on Harmony Grove Road, as long as we're talking about noise ordinances. Who measures the noise for a nuisance complaint? Mr. Craley noted that dog barking is not typically measured by decibels, but by duration of the barking. Dog barking isn't comparable to road noise, motorcycle noise, etc. Mr. Wolverton should ask Mrs. Sprenkel when she returns from vacation. Will do.

The Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of this request. Hearing closed.

Ruling:

Motion by Brown, second by Wright, to approve the request by Antonio Rotelle for Special Exception for Kennel at 5551 North Salem Church Road as presented. All members voted aye; motion carried.

III. Other Business

Nothing at this time.

Motion by Barkdoll, second by Wright, to adjourn. All members voted aye; motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie B. Maher,
Recording Secretary